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Developing and Implementing Statewide Prevention/Early Intervention

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Developing and Implementing Statewide Prevention/Early Intervention

Victor Nossar, Pam Linke (Australia)

<p>Over the last decade it has been clearer that improvements in population health require different strategies, beyond the application of larger scale clinical interventions. Experience teaches that more focus needs to be given to the determinants of health and of health problems and to strategies that build systems to make a measurable difference in the outcomes for children. South Australia is in a relatively unique position, in Australia, of having a State wide child and family health service. This offers both opportunity and challenge to the development of a population based early intervention across metropolitan, regional and remote areas. The implementation of this program is based on extensive research of evidence based programs from around the world, on evidence based parent support programs in Australia and on experience in developing policy and practice in a large regional health area. The South Australian program is multi-level from universal to responsive, or targeted interventions and from provision of information to parenting education for specific issues. A keystone of the program is a Statewide universal nurse home visiting program, as part of a multidisciplinary approach during which staff, in partnership with parents, assist parents to identify and choose appropriate pathways for their families and children. This presentation explores the challenges and opportunities and look at some preliminary outcomes of the program.</p>
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