



Smart Start ABCD Project Begins

Goal to improve quality of child development services in primary care medical practices

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Smart Start of New Hanover County and Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear (CCLCF) will implement Smart Start Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) to improve the quality of child development services in primary care medical practices. Operating within CCLCF's six county service region, the goal of the project is to increase the number of children ages birth to five who receive high quality developmental screenings in the context of their "medical home," identifying children with developmental or behavioral concerns, and making referrals to early intervention and other appropriate community resources.

A CCLCF Health Check Coordinator will work directly with up to 14 select medical practices that agree to participate. The coordinator will assess current processes, provide training and on-site technical assistance to physicians and their staff in integrating developmental screening and referral activities into well-child visits. In addition, the coordinator will ensure that these practices provide accurate and timely information and education to families regarding their child's development.

Led by Smart Start of New Hanover County, the ABCD project is implemented in collaboration with Community Care of Lower Cape Fear and is supported by the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant.

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Smart Start of New Hanover County is part of Smart Start, North Carolina's Early childhood Initiative. Smart Start of New Hanover County acts as a local leader in development a comprehensive, collaborative approach to serve the needs of all children, birth to 5, in New Hanover County.

About Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear (CCLCF)

Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear (CCLCF) is charged with improving health outcomes for nearly 98,000 public and privately-insured enrollees in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender counties. CCLCF works in collaboration with primary care providers, local hospitals, departments of social services, departments of health, and other healthcare organizations, and is one of 14 similar networks participating in the statewide award-winning Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) program. To learn more, visit www.carelcf.org.

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