



## Fast Facts

# A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS-BUILDING Hartford, Ct

## ORIGIN

Since its establishment in 1996, Connecticut Children's Medical Center has played a leading role in efforts to enhance child health services and address system gaps to ensure optimal healthy development for children in the Greater Hartford region. Driven by the Medical Center's vision of making Connecticut's children the healthiest in the country, OCCH serves as a coordinating entity for the Medical Center's 13 community-oriented programs and as an incubator for innovative models that forge partnerships between the child health sector and other sectors that are critical to meeting the needs of young children and their families.

OCCH works closely with key partners, including local, state and federal agencies, as well as private funders. In 2015, in close collaboration with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Hartford Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation, and the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services, OCCH led the development of the Hartford Blueprint for Women's and Children's Health. The Blueprint provides a roadmap for addressing the specific health needs of Hartford's women and children. The newly-elected mayor of Hartford is now vetting the Blueprint and OCCH anticipates the City's continued leadership in implementing the Blueprint recommendations.

## GOALS

OCCH's efforts in the Greater Hartford region have two main goals:

- Promote the optimal healthy development of children in the region through continued dissemination of existing innovative programs
- Enhance the health and wellbeing of women of childbearing age, pregnant women, parents and children by facilitating the implementation of the citywide Blueprint for Women's and Children's Health

## KEY STRATEGIES

1. Enhancing the effectiveness of existing programs
2. Promoting synergies among programs
3. Identifying and nurturing innovations in response to critical contemporary issues in community child health

In addition, the strategies outlined in the Blueprint include:

- Establishing a public-private Leadership Team to guide and oversee Blueprint implementation
- Establishing within the City a structured women's and children's health system that ensures women of child-bearing age, children and families have timely access to services
- Collecting and disseminating data on the health of women, the health and developmental status of children and the status of programs and services to public officials, providers, community-based organizations and residents to inform prioritization and decision making
- Engaging all city providers in the continuous monitoring of the quality of women's and children's health care services
- Supporting the ongoing professional development of women's and children's health providers, trainees and staff

## LEAD AGENCY

The Office for Community Child Health (OCCH) at Connecticut Children's Medical Center

## MISSION

To serve as a critical community resource by developing, supporting, evaluating and disseminating effective innovations that promote children's optimal healthy development at the local, state and national levels.

## INITIATIVE BUDGET    START DATE

\$7 million    2013

## GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

City of Hartford, CT, and the Greater Hartford region

## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population  
125,211 (2014 ACS)

Population Under 5  
8,412 (2014 ACS)

Percent of Children in Poverty  
46.3% (2014 ACS)

Percent of Newborns at Low Birth Weight  
11% (2012, CT Dept. of Public Health)

Percent of Children in Food-Insecure Households  
18.8% (2013, Feeding America, data for Hartford County)

## CONTACT

Eminet Abebe Gurganus, Program Manager, Innovation at the Office for Community Child Health

☎ (860) 837-5712

✉ [egurganus@connecticutchildrens.org](mailto:egurganus@connecticutchildrens.org)

🌐 <http://www.connecticutchildrens.org/community-child-health/>



## INNOVATION OF NOTE

OCCH has developed and tested a “central utility, shared resource” model of care coordination. The model, developed in response to the observation that a child may have multiple care coordinators from different agencies simultaneously managing his/her care without integration across sectors, “coordinates” the care coordinators to improve the fragmented system. OCCH secured funding from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Connecticut Health Foundation to expand the implementation of the care coordination model (i.e., the Care Coordination Collaborative or CCC). The CCC in the Greater Hartford region has convened previously disconnected care coordinators from a variety of organizations to facilitate information sharing and mutual learning about resources available for children and families and troubleshoot system-wide gaps identified through case presentations. With support from DPH, OCCH is serving as the technical assistance center for the replication of the model throughout the state. OCCH is also disseminating the innovation nationally through the Help Me Grow® affiliate network.

### + EARLY CHILDHOOD-LINC

An initiative of the Center for the Study of Social Policy, **Early Childhood-LINC** (Learning and Innovation Network for Communities) is developed by and for communities. Our mission is to support families and improve results for young children in communities across the country with a focus on accelerating the development of effective, integrated, local early childhood systems.

## MEASURES OF PROGRESS

### APPROACH

OCCH has adopted a multi-faceted approach to measuring progress that focuses on a variety of outcomes, including proximate factors or mediating influences, process measures, direct outcomes and return-on-investment (ROI) or cost savings. Some of the indicators OCCH uses are listed below.

OCCH has deferred the development of indicators for the Blueprint work until the Blueprint Leadership Team establishes priorities for implementation in collaboration with community members.

### INDICATORS

- Strengthening of family-level protective factors (parental resilience, social connections, etc.)
- Rates of developmental screening and surveillance
- Linkage of children and families to community-based services and programs
- Family satisfaction with services
- Number of child health providers and primary care practices receiving training or interventions on a range of topics (e.g., developmental surveillance and screening, care coordination, management of chronic conditions)
- Number of outreach events to practices, schools and other partners
- Number of housing units made lead-safe
- Number of children/families receiving interventions (e.g., number of teens receiving education on HIV/sexually transmitted diseases)

## STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP

OCCH is led by the Executive Vice President for Community Child Health at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. The EVP is a member of the organization’s Executive Management Team and reports to the President and CEO of the Medical Center. An Advisory Board of Medical Center and community leaders oversees and supports OCCH leadership.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Informed by the Hartford Foundation’s success in utilizing community cafes to engage parents in discussions of data from the Early Development Instrument (EDI), OCCH plans to utilize community cafes to solicit parents’ input into Blueprint implementation.

## FINANCING

In addition to investment from the Medical Center, OCCH has garnered private philanthropic support from local, state and national foundations, as well as local and state-level public dollars.