



# **Medical Homes, Young Children, and Community Utilities**

## **Fitting the Pieces Together**

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# Medical Home: a definition

- Medical home definition: “Practitioner/office who takes a partnership approach with families to provide care that is accessible, family-centered, coordinated, comprehensive, continuous, compassionate, and culturally effective”
- Goal for **medical home**: *every child has a medical home providing continuous health care over time*

# Community Utility: a definition

- Community utility: a service available in the community for medical homes/health practitioners to address child and family needs beyond the medical encounter
- Goal for **community utility**: *all medical homes (and other practitioners) access the community utility when required to secure needed services and supports for the child's healthy development*

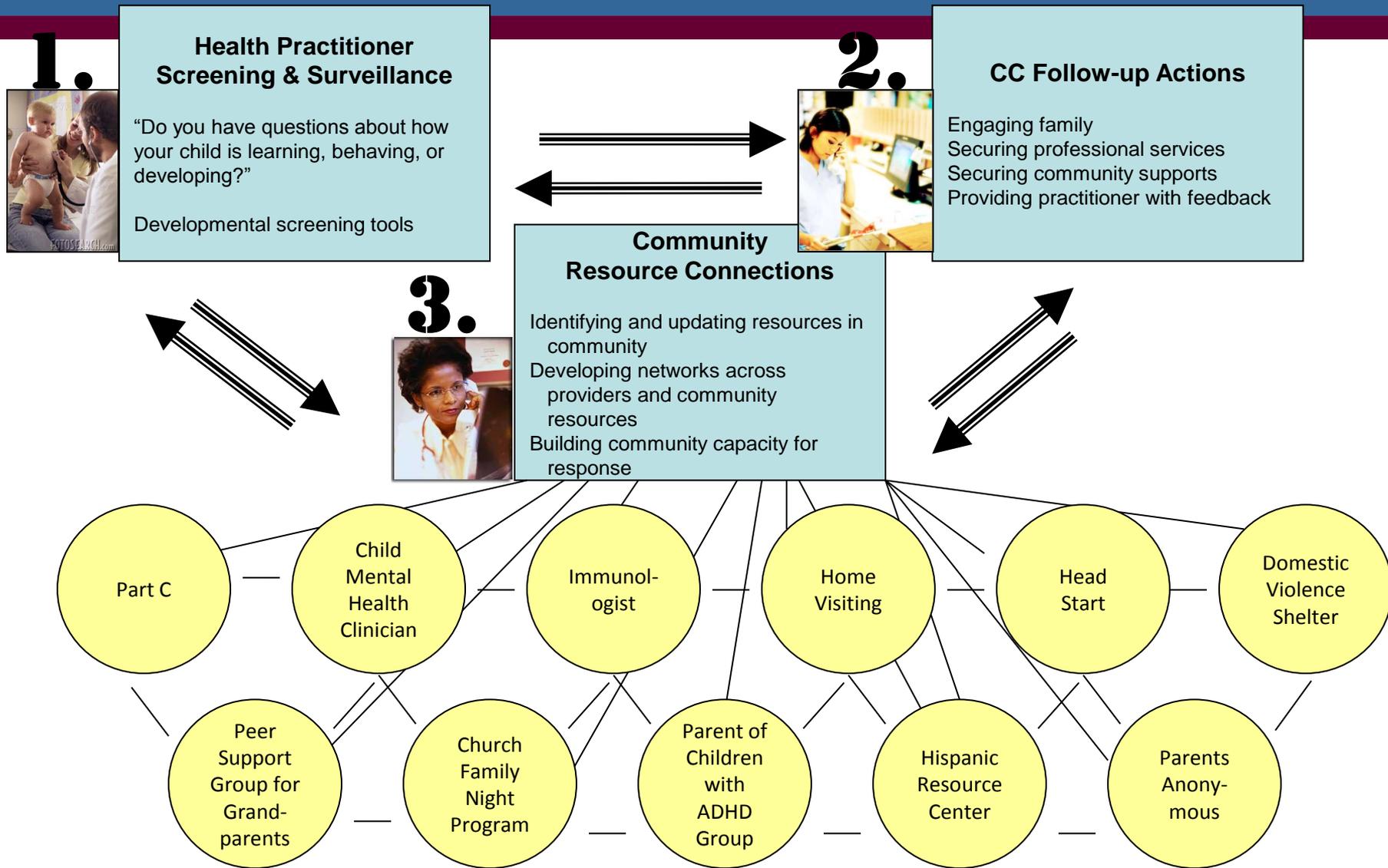
# Medical Homes and Community Utilities

- Primary Role of Medical Home:
  - patient-centered care
  - anticipatory guidance
  - developmental screening/surveillance
  - First responder to social determinants
- Primary Role of Community Utility
  - further exploration of family and child needs
  - care coordination to link to social as well as clinical services and supports
  - networking across community programs and providers to provide continuity and coordination of care

# From the Conceptual to Real World

- *A mother brings her one-year-old in for a check-up and it's clear that the mom is stressed, if not depressed, and shows little sign of responding to the child's cues for attention. While the child isn't "diagnosable" today, if things proceed as the medical home practitioner expects, in two years there will be significant indicators of development delay and likely social and emotional problems, including a DSM-IV diagnosis. The medical home does not want to wait two years to take action and the mom seems receptive to receiving help. At the same time, pointing out problems without offering help could be considered malpractice.*

# Representation of Community Utility Aspects of an Effective Medical Home



# From Conception to Practice: Developing Community Utilities

- Developing and diffusing exemplary practices
  - First Five
  - Project LAUNCH
- Documenting/estimating Impact
  - Establishing evidence of achieving “triple aim”
- Financing as core part of medical system
  - Financing medical homes and their responsibilities
  - Financing the community utility that leads to effective referrals and consulting
  - Financing under Medicaid/Extension to private insurance

# Effective Medical Homes in an ECE System: the results of the work

- *The mother comes in with her child for the 36-month well-child visit. Her daughter is looking forward to coming, knowing she will receive a free book and excited to tell the nurse she will be going to Head Start next month with her best friend from the Hispanic family center. The mother has an ASQ form, completed at her family day-care home, and a set of questions for the practitioner about her daughter, who's already starting to read but mixing up letters, and is wondering if there might be dyslexia. The mother is in a mutual assistance group with other parents and wants help from the practitioner in getting more dentists who will serve children in their community.*

for more information ...

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**Publications:**

*The Healthy Child Storybook*

*Clinical Care and Community-Building*  
*(with Ed Schor)*

*Medical Homes and Early Childhood*  
*Systems Building*

*Improving Young Child Health:*  
*Addressing Social Determinants*



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