

Analysis of Low Utilization Rates in System of Care of Ensuring Every Baby is a Healthy Baby

One of the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County's priorities is ensuring every baby is a healthy baby. The Children's Services Council has created a system of care through its network of funded programs for all newborns in the county. Part of the system of care is the Newborn Home Visitation program. Offered at all three local hospitals, the Children's Services Council contracts with Cleveland Clinic Tradition and Healthy Start (St. Lucie Medical Center and Lawnwood Regional Medical Center) to provide a voluntary nurse home visit to all families within one week of the family returning home from the hospital. The home visit includes a physical check on the baby and the mother as well as an opportunity for the family to ask questions they may have. The nurse also addresses the importance of breast feeding, safe sleep and establishing a medical home. Last year, 76% of all St. Lucie County births took advantage of the home visit. Additionally, as part of the system of care, at approximately month two, families are eligible for a B.R.A.I.N (Building Readiness Among Infants Now) program visit through Helping People Succeed. The B.R.A.I.N. specialists meet with families in their home and provide information on brain development and the importance of nurturing during the first years of life. Additionally, the program introduces the Ages and Stages monitoring questionnaire and educates families about community resources for parent(s) and their baby.

In reviewing the historical utilization data of this system of care, the Children's Services Council has determined that Lawnwood Regional Medical Center (through a contract with Healthy Start Coalition) is providing home nurse visits to approximately 62% of all eligible newborns – significantly lower than rates at other local hospitals – Cleveland Clinic Tradition at 85% and St. Lucie Medical Center at 92%.

As the only hospital located in Fort Pierce, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center typically serves mothers from the surrounding neighborhoods, which also represents the areas in our community with the highest infant mortality rates. Additionally, the Children's Services Council has identified a drop off in utilization from the families receiving the newborn home visit to those that accept and receive the B.R.A.I.N. visit. Therefore, the Children's Services Council is looking to conduct an analysis of this system of care to identify reasons for low utilization rates at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and the subsequent referrals to the B.R.A.I.N. program with recommendations on how to increase utilization of both programs.

In order to conduct this analysis, the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County is requesting qualified consultants/researchers to submit bids to analyze the described system of care, identify causes of low utilization and make recommendations that will lead to increased participation. Interested parties should address the following in writing:

- Design of Analysis – how will the analysis be approached to determine the low utilization rates and build toward recommendations

- Execution of Survey – how will the analysis be conducted; what information or access will be needed of all impacted parties; timeline of analysis
- Final Product – description of components of the final report, including a presentation of the findings
- Cost for the survey including payment structure
- Description of similar analysis conducted by consultant/researcher
- Familiarity of St. Lucie County and/or Children’s Services Councils

Please submit responses electronically by email to sboyle@cscslc.org by 5:00 pm on December 20, 2021. Any questions can be submitted to the same address.