Overview

• Why screening is important
• Who we are and what we do
• Screening information
• Best Practice Framework
• Financial resources and information for families
Why is Vision Screening Important?

• A majority of learning, from birth, is visual
• Untreated vision problems can cause
  o Permanent vision loss
  o Learning difficulties
  o Delayed sensory, motor, cognitive or social-emotional development
Video
Why is Vision Screening Important?

(continued)

• 1 in 20 preschoolers experience a vision problem. And higher numbers for head start programs (1 in 5 children).

• Early detection of amblyopia especially important (found in 1-2% of children 6 months to 6 years old):
  o Can prevent permanent vision loss
  o Best results when treated by age 7

*(according to the National Center for Children’s Vision & Eye Health at Prevent Blindness)*
Wyoming Vision Collaborative

WHO ARE WE?
The Wyoming Vision Collaborative works to improve children’s eye health. We are an initiative of the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities serving at the University of Wyoming.

The Wyoming Vision Collaborative serves over 30 key Wyoming stakeholders and professionals in an ongoing process to establish a coordinated system of education, training, referral, and family support around childhood vision. Our collaborative group includes representatives from the Wyoming Optometric Association, Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Family Services, State of Wyoming Foundation, and various non-profit organizations.

WHAT DO WE DO?
Our goal is to build an effective statewide system for vision screening using the most up-to-date research and evidence-based practices. The Wyoming Vision Collaborative focuses on coordination, training, education, referral, surveillance, and family support.

To build a cost-effective system, we are using the nine essential elements for a statewide vision system:

- Health policy planning
- Accreditation
- Coordination and collaboration
- Screening Infrastructure
- Training for professionals
- Technical advisory processes
- Laws and regulations
- Public and professional education and awareness
- Access and funding

WHY IS VISION SCREENING IMPORTANT?
A majority of learning, beginning at birth, is visual. Vision problems left untreated can cause permanent vision loss, learning difficulties, and delayed sensory, motor, cognitive, or socio-emotional development.

One in 3 preschoolers experience a vision problem. For children in Head Start programs, the number grows to 1 in 5 children. Missing vision problems early may delay children and families. It is especially important in detection of amblyopia, a preventable vision problem that can cause permanent vision loss if not treated by the age of seven.

WHEN SHOULD CHILDREN RECEIVE AN EYE EXAM?
Proper eye care begins beyond seeing until a child starts school. Eye exams are recommended to occur at the 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades. If the child is not in school, you may want to see an eye doctor.

Screening at the ages of 6 months to 3 years old is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES DOES THE WYOMING VISION COLLABORATIVE HOST?
- Multi-stakeholder conferences and the Wyoming Vision Summit
- Announcements regarding statewide vision screening opportunities
- Vision screening trainings and workshops

WHAT IS THERE AN UPCOMING VISION SCREENING IN MY COMMUNITY?
Check in with your local Child Development Center or local club for their vision screening schedules. Screening are free for all children ages 0-3 years old. For more information visit the website at www.wyomingvision.org for additional vision resources.
Wyoming Vision Collaborative

Mission: The mission of the Wyoming Vision Collaborative is to establish and ensure cohesive, statewide system of education, training, referral, and family support.

Goal: Increase and expand access to children's vision and eye health services throughout Wyoming. This will be accomplished using statewide stakeholders and to re-evaluate our systematic approach based on newly published evidence based practices

- **Focus:**
  - improve training for screeners
  - increase the number of children screened
  - create a cohesive and consistent statewide program
  - increase public awareness about recommended regular eye exams
  - support families
  - improve follow-up care
About the Wyoming Vision Collaborative

History
- Evolved out of the Wyoming Lions Early Childhood Vision Project beginning in 2000
- Ensures continuity and access to evidenced-based screening services for all children under 6 years of age
- Held Statewide summit kick off and re-engage stakeholders in Casper in October 2014
- An initiative of the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)

Funding
- Currently funded primarily by the Wyoming Department of Health (Maternal and Child Health)
- Additional donors, including the Lions of Wyoming Foundation and Miracles in Sight
- Technical assistance and program support from National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health
Best Practice Framework

- Nine essential elements for statewide vision systems:
  - Uniform planning
  - Surveillance
  - Coordination and collaboration
  - Screening infrastructure
  - Training for professionals
  - Technical advisory processes
  - Laws and regulations
  - Public and professional education and awareness
  - Sustained funding

(National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health, 2010)
Stakeholders

- Approximately 35 stakeholders
- Representation from:
  - Wyoming Institute for Disabilities
  - Wyoming Department of Health
  - Wyoming Department of Family Services
  - Wyoming Department of Education
  - Wyoming Optometric Association
  - Various Community non-profit organizations
  - Lions of Wyoming Foundation
  - National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health, Prevent Blindness
  - Wyoming Early Hearing detection and Intervention
- Regular meetings held to discuss statewide vision screening program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Sheridan Sundowner Lions Club</td>
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<td>Cheyenne Sunrise Lions</td>
<td>Teller/ Lion Tamer</td>
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<td>Wyoming Council of the Blind</td>
<td>President</td>
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WVC Strategic Plan

2014-2017 Wyoming Vision Collaborative Logic Model

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities will employ an innovative program, the Wyoming Vision Collaborative, to build statewide coordination and improve the participation and professional practices surrounding vision screening.

**Inputs**

- Wyoming's Vision Collaborative
- Wyoming Institute for Disabilities
- Vision Collaborative Coordination
- Wyoming Department of Health
- Wyoming State Agency stakeholder
- Wyoming Department of Health (Material Child Health-MCH)
- Wyoming Department of Health (Early Intervention-WEHISS)
- Wyoming Early Hearing Detection Intervention (EHI) Program
- WOH-Public Health Nursing
- Health Care Professionals
- Wyoming Optometric Association (local club)
- Wyoming Optometric Association (local club)
- Wyoming Vision Collaborative Coordination
- Wyoming Optometric Association
- Wyoming Optometric Association
- Wyoming Childhood Council
- Wyoming Department of Family Services (Early childhood division)
- Wyoming Kids First
- Head Start
- Child Development Services of Wyoming (CDB)
- Wyoming Early Childhood Association
- Community and Family Partners
- State Lions Organization (local club representatives)
- Family Partner (work with Sibs)
- Department of Family Services
- Workforce Services
- Local libraries (children's story time)
- Community Centers
- Help Me Grow 211
- Parent groups

**Activities**

- Coordinate Vision Screening Stakeholders
  - Set up symposium and other group-oriented stakeholder meetings
  - Collaborate and plan next steps
  - Educate funders and support initiatives
  - Create a database of educational materials
  - Establish a set of guidelines to ensure all children are screened
- Training for Screeners
  - Create a training manual
  - Create an online course through UW for trainers to get certified
  - Require training to become a screener
- Screening
  - Create an inventory of current screens
  - Identify gaps and overlaps
  - Develop a comprehensive plan for who will conduct statewide screening (divide and conquer)
  - Clear communication between screeners
  - Include screening on vaccination records
- Screening Reporting and follow-up
  - Identify who is responsible for screening data reporting and follow-up
  - Use a database that all key stakeholders can access
  - Combine vision with other screenings (database and actual screening)
- Community education and parent assistance
  - Advertise upcoming vision screening
  - Share a comprehensive statewide message, especially for vision screening
  - Parent contact group to reach children not in day care
  - Provide information for families (i.e., workshops, details on eye diagnosis, recommended apps, program structures)
- Program reflection/adjustment
  - Stakeholders discuss strengths and weaknesses of program model
  - Stakeholders plan adjustments

**Outputs**

- A training manual for screeners is complete
- An online course is available for training
- A complete list of certified screeners is compiled
- A comprehensive vision screening program in place
- Clear communication channels established
- Higher rates of early intervention
- Increased capacity of Wyoming to identify and serve children
- Increased community education about vision screening
- Stakeholders coordinate and collaborate to avoid overlap and meet shared goals
- Establish an effective platform for early childhood screening and follow-up
- Improve state legislation based on better data and improved program efficiency
- Vision health funding

**Outcomes**

- All Wyoming stakeholders, including healthcare providers, have a consistent protocol for vision screening, as well as other screening types
- More children served
- Improved surveillance and reporting systems in place
- More accurate statewide data
- Continuous improvement with all stakeholders
- Collected information disseminated
- Improved community awareness of the WVC and other screening programs

**Long-term**

- Wyoming vision collaborative
- Wyoming Vision Collaborative
- Wyoming Department of Health
- Wyoming Early Childhood Association

**Impact**

- An efficient vision screening program monitors and services the needs of all children in Wyoming
Current Activities

- Research other states’ vision screening programs
  - Communicate with other program coordinators to gather new ideas and understand different program’s strengths and weaknesses
- Hold one-on-one meetings with various stakeholders to assess strengths and weaknesses of existing infrastructure
- Digest current national best-practice recommendations
- Strategically plan with key stakeholders in regular meetings
- Create and distribute Wyoming’s Screening Program Guideline documents
- Create and distribute Wyoming’s Vision Screening Protocol Handbook
Current Activities (Continued)

- Look at EHDI database, as well as other possible databases for future use that will fit evidence based practice recommendations
- Coordinate Plus Optix Technical Training
- Revise follow-up and referral documents
  - Provide current financial resource information, including information about the Affordable Care Act
  - Provide a current list of Wyoming Optometrist offices
- Pilot test revised follow-up documents and procedures (distributed at time of screening vs. mailing out after)
- New use of Language Line, a resource for communicating with Spanish (and other language) speaking families
- Set up Webinars on vision screening practices
- Create brochures and hand outs for community education
Screening vs. Eye Exam

Screenings DO NOT replace an eye exam!!!

- Still encourage parents of children that pass the screening to regularly see an eye care professional
- Screenings DO NOT catch all eye problems
- Yearly exams are recommended
Pre- Screenings

• Children should automatically be referred for an exam based on the following:
  ◦ diagnosis of any known neurodevelopmental disorder
    ▪ (e.g., hearing impairment, motor abnormalities such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, cognitive impairment, autism spectrum disorders, or speech delay)
  ◦ systemic disease requiring eye surveillance
  ◦ medication side effect profile
  ◦ prematurity <32 weeks gestation
  ◦ parent suspects eye or vision problem
  ◦ family history reveals an increased risk of eye abnormality
  ◦ parental request, prior eye examination requiring follow-up
  ◦ physical examination (observation) shows eye abnormality
Pre-Screenings (continued)

ABC’s of potential Vision/Eye Problems

• **Appearance** (crossed eye, watering eyes, red or drooping eyelids)

• **Behavior** (thrusting head forward or back while looking at objects, squinting, rubbing eyes)

• **Complaints** (headaches, nausea, itchy eyes, unusual sensitivity to light)
Pre-Screenings (Continued)

• Children that are ‘untestable’ or very difficult to test due to lack of cooperation or unreadable results should be automatically referred.

• Children already wearing corrective lenses should be automatically referred.
Best Practice Framework

In January 2015, the National Expert Panel from National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness published their evidence based recommendations in three separate articles. These articles are titled as follows:

1) **Vision Screening for Children 36 to <72 Months: Recommended Practices**

2) **Vision and Eye Health in Children 36 to <72 Months: Proposed Data System**

3) **Vision and Eye Health in Children 36 to <72 Months: Proposed Data Definitions**
Screening Recommendations

- Visual Acuity test/ Testing distance using the HOTV or LEA symbol chart (approximately 5 minutes)
- Stereopsis test using the Smile II test or Lang-Stereotest (approximately 5 minutes)
- Color vision testing (approximately 5 minutes)
- Extraocular eye movement testing (approximately 5 minutes)
- Instrument based photo screening using Plus Optix or Pedia Vision (approximately 5 minutes)

- Total time: Approximately 25 minutes total per child for tests, 30 minutes total with paperwork, introductions/ instructions, and observations
Follow-up

Active engagement of parents in the discussion of failed vision and feedback about a visit to an eye care provider to review the results and return these results to a central location.
Follow-up

1- Parent Letter
2- Financial Supports for Eye Care
3- List of Wyoming Optometrists (by city)
   (Packet for Eye Care Provider- stapled together separately)
4- Packet cover sheet (“Eye Care Professional Evaluation Packet”)
5- Eye Care Provider Letter
6- Eye Care Professional Evaluation Sheet
7- Parent Consent Form
8- Vision Screening Test Results Overview
9- Photoscreener Results
Follow-up (continued)

Why follow-up is important:

• Follow-up with families to ensure children get necessary care
• Evaluate performance of the system
  o Gaps of populations
  o Accuracy of screenings
  o Quality screening programs
• Ensure effective communication between families, childcare providers, eye care providers, and state advisors for evidence based practices
• Increase prevention and early intervention rates
Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Vision

- ACA compliant plans have vision coverage available for children (>19 years old)
  - Families must select plan ‘D’ (includes dental, vision and hearing coverage)
  - Healthcare.gov for enrollment and to see if you qualify for a subsidy
  - Subsidies (discounts) may apply to people that make from around 100% to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level

*Only short term plans do not need to be ACA compliant*
Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Vision (Continued)

• Various vision insurance plans available separately
  o Vision Services Plan (VSP)
  o Eye Med
  o Spectera
  o Davis Vision
  o Kid Care CHIP
Foundation and Public Support

- Lions Clubs
- Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute Foundation
- VSP Sight for Students Program
- Wyoming Medicaid
- Maternal and Child Health
- Wyoming Children’s Special Health Program (CSH)
- Vision USA - American Optometric Association
- InfantSee/Wyoming Optometric Association
- Wyoming Optometric Association’s “Give One Day” Program through the Wyoming Department of Family Services

*See Financial Supports for Eye Care flier for more details
FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR EYE CARE

There are options to help you pay for eye care for your child. This document will help you determine which options will work best for you. Please see our website at www.uwoyo.edu/wind/visions and go to Resources for more information.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

All Affordable Care Act (ACA) compliant plans have vision coverage available for children. But, families have to select the plan that is labeled “D.” This indicates that the plan includes dental, vision, and hearing. All different plans, regardless of its classification as a bronze, silver, or gold level insurance, have the “D” option. Within this plan, at the minimum it will cover a vision exam and one pair of glasses or contact lenses annually for children under age 19.

Health insurance plans for families purchased on the private market that are ACA compliant also have the plan “D” option. A private market plan is defined as any plan not enrolled in through healthcare.gov and/or does not qualify for a subsidy, which is what you can get money to help you pay for insurance. Please note, families can sign up both through healthcare.gov or through the private market to purchase a separate vision insurance plan.

All insurance companies have to be ACA compliant. However, there is one loophole to be aware of when signing up for insurance. Short term policies do not have to offer ACA compliance, and therefore they will not offer dental, vision, or hearing coverage. Furthermore, people who want a short term policy can only qualify if they do not have any pre-existing conditions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WYOMING VISION COLLABORATIVE
Department 4298, 1000 University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071
Phone: (307) 766-2441
Fax: (307) 766-2549
www.uwoyo.edu/wind/visions
wwwvisions.uwoyo.edu

VISION INSURANCE PLANS

Vision insurance plans may be a way to help pay for eye exams and care. The following is a short list of plans, but these are not the only vision insurance programs available. To find out more, visit the following organizations:

Vision Services Plan (VSP)
www.vspdirect.com | (800) 785-0609
Eye Med
www.eyemedvisioncare.com | (888) 439-3633
Spectra
www.spectracare.com | (800) 638-3120
Davis Vision
www.davisvision.com | (210) 524-7666
Kid Care CHIP
www.healthwy.gov/healthcare/chip/index.html | (955) 594-2127; a division of Blue Cross Blue Shield, www.bluecross.com, or (800) 442-2376. CHIP has income requirements for its vision coverage.

FOUNDRATION AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

Some foundations and public organizations may be able to help pay for eye exams and eye care. To determine if this is an option for you, contact the following organizations:

Lions Clubs
www.lionsclubsinternational.org | (307) 651-5423
Lion David Ora, Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute Foundation
www.colombum.edu/makkelindex.html | (720) 848-2020
VSP Sight for Students Program
www.sightforstudents.com | (888) 290-4964
Wyoming Medicaid
www.health.wyo.gov/default.aspx | (606) 517-0944
(307) 777-7056
Material and Child Health
www繁琐idiata.gov | (307) 438-5795
Wyoming Children’s Special Health Program (CHS)
Vision USA: American Optometric Association
www.aoa.org/visionusa | (800) 766-4466
InfantSight/Wyoming Optometric Association
www.infantsight.org | (800) 395-EYES (5957)

Wyoming Optometric Association’s “Give One Day” Program, through the Wyoming Department of Family Services
www.safefoundation.org/vision-usa/vision-usa-state-wide-program | (307) 777-6600
Next Steps of WVC

- Develop next steps:
  - Pilot newly recommended vision screening protocol
    - Child Development Centers
    - Outreach events with local Lions clubs
    - Optometrist community outreach
  - Establish possible incentives for vision screening
  - Ensure follow-up procedures are evidence-based
  - Second stakeholder summit in the Spring 2016
  - Create a formal training program and infrastructure for vision screener using new Vision Screening Protocol (STARs credit, others?)
Upcoming Webinar

WVC webinar: Why screen early?  
A free webinar with  
Dr. Nathan Edwards, O.D.  
Tuesday, August 18, 2015, 4-5 p.m.

Enjoy a free training from Wyoming’s very own Dr. Edwards, an Optometrist based in Casper and co-chair of the Pediatric Task Force, on why screening early for vision problems is important. This information is geared toward vision screeners and will be derived from evidence based practices. Be sure to bring any questions!

For more information and registration visit:
www.uwyo.edu/wind/vision/trainings.html
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Questions?

http://www.childandfamilyeyecare.com/symptoms-checklist.html