9 Weeks Recap

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Presentation to: DHS Board Members

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Topics

- Facets of DHS
- Psychotropic Drug Utilization Progress so far
- Background Points to Consider and Follow-up



Facets of DHS



DFCS



Division of Aging



Division of Residential Child Care

 Screening process of Venereal disease for prospective Foster Parents



Inter Department Collaboration

- Grant Application with DCH
- Common Reports
 Initiative
- Optimize Services

- Psychotropic Drug Use Monitoring
- Child Deaths
- Streamlining of Consultation Process
- Review child abuse and neglect & serious incident reports
- Develop policies
- Implement best practices

- Medical Procedure Consent
- Medical Consultation Process
- Medical decisions for wards
- Review Cases involving medical neglect

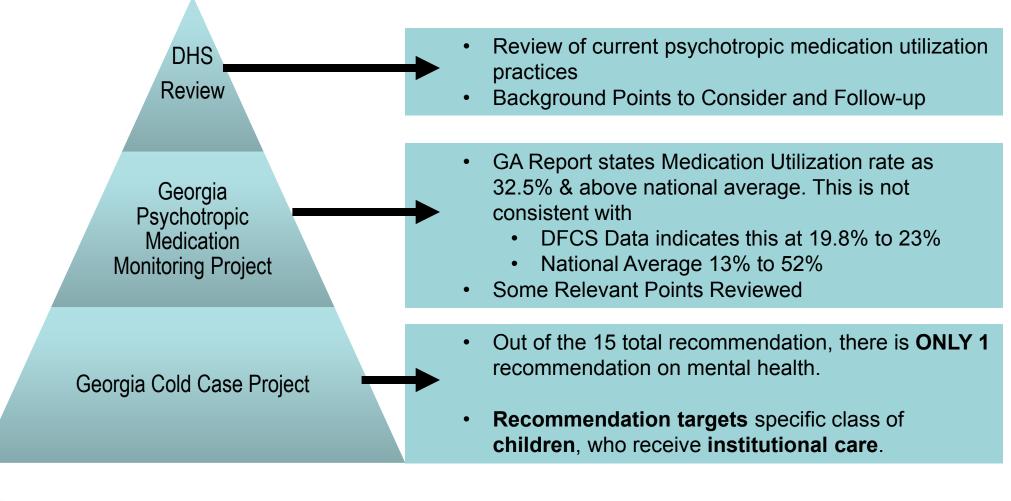


National Psychotropic Drug Use Monitoring

- Estimated Rates of Utilization of Psychotropic Medication in Foster Care population ranges from 13% to 52%, compared to 4% in general youth population
 - (dosReis S, Zito JM, Safer DJ, Soeken KL. Mental health services for youths in foster care and disabled youths.
 American Journal of Public Health 2001; 91(7):1094-1099).
- US Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released a report recommending Health and Human Services (HHS) issue guidance to States on Best Practices on Psychotropic Medication Use
 - (US Govt. Accountability Office, GAO 12-27OT, HHS Guidance could help states improve oversight of Psychotropic Prescriptions, 2011)



Psychotropic Monitoring - Georgia





Cold Case Project

Overview:

- The vast majority of children studied, (85%) had some type of identified disability.
- The group averaged nine placements per child.
- 25% of the children had a dozen or more placements.
- 51% had multiple DSM-IV Axis I disorders or both Axis I and Axis II disorders.
- 19% had chronic, serious, treatment resistant mental illness and/or cognitive issues.

Salient Points:

- Out of the 15 total recommendation, there is ONLY 1 recommendation on mental health.
- Recommendation targets specific class of children, who receive institutional care.
- Report on the Cold Case does not state that there is overutilization or misuse of psychotropic medications.



Georgia Psychotropic Medication Monitoring Project

Salient Points:

- GA Report states Medication Utilization rate as 32.5% & above national average. This is not consistent with
 - DFCS and DCH Data indicates this at 19.8% to 23%
 - National Average 13% to 52%
- Potential misuse of Anti-Psychotic drugs
 - Several **case reports**, **open label studies**, retrospective analysis studies **suggest benefits** of antipsychotic medications **in controlling aggression** in children.
 - (Treatment Recommendations for the Use of Antipsychotics for Aggressive Youth (TRAAY), Part I: A Review http://focus.psychiatryonline.org/article.aspx?articleid=49909)
- Valid Prior Authorization concerns: 10 state study of Medicaid patients, including GA, shows
 - 73% more emergency department visits
 - 72% more acute hospital stays



Background Points to Consider

- There are **limited studies** for Population based effectiveness Research in the area of psychotropic medication **use in children** and adolescents.
- Most psychotropic medications are approved based on Clinical trial data from studies of adults.
- FDA "off label" use is more common for these medications in children.
- Multiple medication/combinations are commonly used for complex symptoms, comorbid conditions for foster care children.



Background Points to Consider

There are no studies in foster care children that determine how these
medications impact various aspects of their lives like achieving permanency
in living situation, social interactions, academic performance, reduction in
hostility and criminality and overall safety.



Follow-up

- Consider Non-pharmacological interventions as part of the comprehensive treatment for foster care children along with Pharmacological treatment.
- Set up and use a tracking system like health passport to measure and improve quality of care while optimizing cost.
- Track any negative effects on these foster care children from the changes introduced. For example, increase in gap days, emergency care, hospital visits and changes to quality of life as described above.
- Determine if there is any overuse of medications in foster care children using the above tracking process.



Follow-up

- Children in Foster Care who are less than 6 years old on Psychotropic medications, seem to be the primary concern, of most of the articles.
 - As a first step towards understanding if there is any problem with medication overuse, DHS Medical Director would personally like to review some of these cases.
- Consider formal process for implementing Informed consent in DFCS.
- Implement merged reports from DFCS and DCH.



The End

