

Comprehensive Interdisciplinary Developmental Services (CIDS): Partnering with Chemung County to Improve Outcomes



CASE STUDY: Focusing on Outcomes, from Healthy Birth Weight to School Readiness

The mission of Comprehensive Interdisciplinary Developmental Services (CIDS) is to enable each child to reach his/her developmental potential in the most cost-effective way. The agency is dedicated to creating and implementing an integrated system of identification, referral, and single source access to child development services.

“Our work is with families but what we want to do is provide a child-centric solution that responds to basic needs and sets children up to be successful.”

David Andreine, MPS, CSA
Executive Director
Comprehensive Interdisciplinary
Developmental Services (CIDS)



Executive Summary

Working with Chemung County, CIDS is piloting a foundational approach to developing and maintaining a county-wide database, starting at birth, to serve children and promote their healthy development.

With COMET, they have access to a longitudinal database that can store and track all the data related to individual children, their families, and support network, from birth weight and maternal depression screening, to pre-k program attendance and kindergarten readiness.

Performance metrics include:

- 20% increase in school readiness over 5 years
- Over 3,000 children registered in the system
- 5,300 assessment responses collected

Two primary components of their work are the home visitation programs: Healthy Families and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Additional programs include the Infant Registry and the School Readiness Project (SRP). Changes in funding over the years made cross-county collaboration possible and today, with a yearly birth cohort of about 1,000 babies, they're on their way to tracking all County children.

Their focus / goals include:

- Ages 0 to 6 to begin with, possibly extended to teenagers until adulthood
- With basic information for each child
- Longitudinal data sets; through adulthood
- Standardized use of instruments & assessments

"Working with the COMET team has been one of the best professional experiences I've ever had. It's a genuine give and take and they really understood what I was trying to do."

Challenges

Before COMET, CIDS was using a custom system developed specially for them - but it never really worked. They had issues with the system not saving data, it wasn't relational and it didn't have the types of reports they needed to meet what was asked of them. Eventually, enough developers told them to start over and they went out looking for a new solution - enter COMET.

COMET was already being used for data collection within Chemung County for their School Readiness Project (SRP) so David reached out to see if COMET could also be used with their home visitation programs and a great partnership was born.

How COMET Helped

The size and demographic makeup of Chemung County is a factor that makes this all possible, with both urban and rural populations, and, at project onset, only one hospital. Engaging families at birth happens right in that hospital, and during home visits nurses collect data directly on tablets or on paper for data entry at CIDS. The COMET team worked with CIDS to understand their process from the beginning and connect it to the work already being done with the School Readiness Project.

Key Features

Rich Child profile

- Over 150 fields, complemented by user-defined fields (UDF)
- Multiple modules (Consent, Vaccination, School of Origin)
- Smart queries and filtering, flex grid reports (like Excel)
- Duplicate record merging w/o loss of data

Assessments (+200)

- Standardized Assessments (ASQ, ASQ/SE, Brigance, TCRS, ...)
- Surveys
- Pre/post reporting
- Group reports (leading to program evaluation)

Communication Module

- Email, text, phone
- Reminders, specific actions, etc.

Individualized Services & Case Management Module

- Service transactions
- Case and referral creation and tracking

Results and Future Plans

This work in Chemung began with SRP but it became clear they needed to start working with children and families even earlier, so the home visitation and parent education pieces were added on. For now, CIDS' work with COMET focuses on the birth to six age range. In the future they hope to add programs for kids up to 3rd grade and then through high school, targeting serving 15,000 kids and integrating operations with a new hospital.

CIDS is very interested in the sustainability of their work and partnering with the County and other community organizations helps them reach as many children and families as possible and maximize the reach and impact of their programs.

"For me, a 'data system' means a case management tool, a program evaluation tool and a tool to support continuous improvement and COMET does them all."

For more information

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