

CHOC-UCI Early Developmental Services  
Evaluation Report  
July 2017 through June 2018

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHOC-UCI Early Developmental Services (EDS) provide a continuum of developmental services for children and families, from when a parent first has concerns about their child's development or behavior to full diagnosis and intervention for those children with developmental delays. The four programs that make up EDS offer many services that are found nowhere else in Orange County.

- Parents or professionals with a concern can contact **Help Me Grow (HMG)** for connection to a variety of developmental and behavioral services. Help Me Grow also works with primary health care providers to promote and offer training in developmental surveillance and screening.
- **Child Behavior Pathways (CBP)** provides a preventive and “intervention before diagnosis” approach for behavioral disorders through the use of 9-week parent classes, social skills lessons for children, and teacher training services. CBP helps parents and teachers effectively manage challenging behaviors, improve family/classroom functioning, and encourage healthy relationships with infants, toddlers, and preschool age children.
- **The Early Developmental Assessment Center (EDAC)** provides comprehensive, multidisciplinary developmental and nutritional assessments, education, intervention strategies, care coordination and advocacy for high-risk infants and toddlers who have been referred from neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) and the community.
- When expert assessment and ongoing care are needed, **The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders (The Center)** provides comprehensive, multidisciplinary evaluations, diagnosis, treatment, and management of children of all ages who are suspected of having developmental, behavioral or learning problems. The Center also provides education and training for parents and professionals, participates in clinical research, and engages in community outreach and advocacy efforts.

EDS has grown and evolved since it was established in 2001 with funding from the Children and Families Commission of Orange County (CFCOC). The newest of the four programs, HMG, was added in 2005. In 2012, the CFCOC joined with the William and Nancy Thompson Family Foundation to make a catalytic funding award that led to the expansion of services and created an even stronger continuum of care among the four programs. From 2013/14 through 2015/16, HMG and CBP also provided services through the Child Signature Program, which was funded by First5 California.

The full evaluation report for 2017/18 describes the children and families served and the outcomes they experienced during the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. When past years' data is available, comparisons with previous years are provided. This executive summary presents highlights from the full report and combines data across all four programs when appropriate.

## Program Accomplishments

In 2017/18, EDS provided care and training to:

- 4150 children ages 0-5
- 6600 family members of children ages 0-5
- 3700 professionals who provide services to children ages 0-5 and their families

Among the many services provided by EDS were:

- 800 children ages 0-5 received developmental and/or behavioral screenings
- 1700 children ages 0-5 received comprehensive developmental evaluations leading to diagnosis and treatment
- 560 parents participated in a parenting class
- 5200 parents received education, resources, referrals, and support regarding their child’s development or behavioral health concerns, including care coordination
- 2050 calls/contacts were made to Help Me Grow from parents and service providers

### Who EDS serves

The conditions for which the children are seen are complex and challenging, with the primary concerns being behavior, emotional development, cognitive development, and communication.

More than two-thirds of the children served by EDS are boys and most are under age 6. 46% of the children are Hispanic and 28% live in a family where the primary language is Spanish (the same as in 2016/17 and down from 52% and 39% respectively in 2015/16). A majority of the children receiving services have some form of public insurance, such as Medi-Cal or California Children Services.

Client Description	Average across all 4 programs	HMG	CBP	EDAC	The Center
Boys	70.4%	64.6%	67.2%	53.1%	78.1%
Ages 0 to under age 3 years	*	44.2%	15.8%	99.5%	5.4%
Ages 3 to under age 6 years	*	34.0%	79.2%	<0.5%	19.2%
Ages 6 years or older	40.5%	22.0%	5.0%	0%	75.5%
Hispanic	45.6%	54.3%	68.4%	58.3%	36.7%
Primary Language is Spanish	27.8%	33.0%	63.9%	22.8%	21.5%
Have public insurance	*	70.7%	Unknown	>75%	52.8%

\*cannot calculate average for the four programs because data from one program is missing or dated (e.g., EDAC age data is from 2010/11)

## Outcomes

Each program collects data to measure whether their services are making a difference in the lives of the children and families they serve. Some of the key outcomes in 2015/16 are described below.

**Help Me Grow (HMG)** - connects families with a concern about their child's development to developmental screenings, assessments and services

- 2600 children were the focus of calls to HMG, leading to 6950 referrals (2.7 referrals per child)
- 77% of callers who agreed to receive a follow-up phone call were reached on follow-up.
- 76% of the families that were reached on follow-up said they had completed an appointment or had an appointment pending for at least one referral.

**Child Behavior Pathways (CBP)** – provides 9-week COPE parenting classes for parents who have concerns about their child's behavior; social skills classes for children; and teacher training.

- 67% of COPE parenting classes were offered in low-performing school districts.
- Parents who completed the COPE parenting class are significantly less likely to endorse using each of three dysfunctional discipline styles (laxness, over-reactivity, and hostility).
- At the end of the COPE classes, most parents reported that they had noticed improvements in their child's behavior and felt their relationship with their child had improved.
- All parents said their family benefited from the social skills class and would recommend it to others.

**Early Developmental Assessment Center (EDAC)** – infants are seen up to three times by EDAC – Visit 1 occurs at 6-8 months of age; Visit 2 at 14-16 months; and Visit 3 at 24 months or older.

- The percent of children with a normal neurologic exam rose from 79% at Visit 1 to 90% at Visit 3.
- By Visit 3, fewer children had been hospitalized, had surgery, were on medication or were using equipment as compared to Visit 1.
- The percent of babies using special services at Visit 1 was 80%; by Visit 3 it was 82%.
- By Visit 2, 50% of the children were receiving Early Start services from the Regional Center and another 21% were referred to Early Start.
- At Visit 3, 75% of the children were in the normal range for motor skills; up from 67% at Visit 1.
- At Visit 3, 51% of the children were screened for autism using the M-CHAT; 82% of children screened did not need further assessment.

**The Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (The Center)**– provides expert assessment and ongoing care for children who are suspected of having developmental, behavioral, or learning problems.

- Over 94% of parents said the services they received from The Center met their expectations and they were satisfied with the care they received from The Center
- 92% said their child's condition had improved since coming to The Center and 94% said The Center had contributed to the changes they saw in their child.
- Over 80% of parents attributed the care from The Center with improving their knowledge and effectiveness in working with their child and their feelings of hope for their child's future.

## Parent Praise and Success Stories

**Help Me Grow (HMG) - Robert's story:** At 16 months of age, Robert was aggressive – hitting, biting and pulling hair. He made eye contact only sporadically and his mother was concerned about his communication, behaviors, and social skills. HMG helped the mother complete a developmental screen, which indicated the need for further assessment. HMG then connected the mother to the Regional Center of Orange County, where Robert was found eligible for speech and physical therapy.

### **Child Behavior Pathways (CBP) – Parent praise for CBP**

“So helpful! It got our family on the same page and helped create a peaceful home.”

“We are eternally grateful for your positive support, resources, and spirit of hope during our 9-week course. Our son has truly blossomed over these last 2 months and we owe it to you. We are all so much happier as a family; especially watching him build his independence and just be a happy child.”

“I learned that I can reinforce good behavior in a gentle way that really is [more] powerful than being loud or mean. I can solve things with love and build a bigger bond.”

**Early Developmental Assessment Center (EDAC) – Ryan's story:** Ryan was extremely premature with extremely low birth weight. After birth, he had multiple surgeries due to hydrocephaly from an intracranial hemorrhage and G-tube placement. Because Ryan's parents had to work long hours, his grandmother became his primary caregiver. Ryan's fragile medical condition made it difficult for his grandmother to establish a medical home pediatrician for him and she also struggled to keep up with all of his specialty provider appointments.

Ryan was 20 months old (17-months adjusted age) old when he was seen in EDAC for the first time. His development was severely delayed and his neurological exam was abnormal. The EDAC HRIF coordinator and social worker explored resources for family support to help the grandmother cope with Ryan's many medical and therapy needs. Ultimately, a team of care coordinators was established from the various agencies and programs that were helping Ryan and his family. With regular communication, the care coordinators were able to help the family and Ryan now regularly attends therapy sessions, Regional Center services, and all of his specialty appointments.

### **The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders (The Center)– Parent praise for The Center:**

“The Center has helped our family tremendously. By providing us a diagnosis and parent training and initial therapies, our world has changed for the positive... Having such a great team of experts is hugely comforting.”

“Diagnosis to in house services. It is nice having a team for my child from ABA to IEP help, and a medical team.”

“The most important thing is feeling safe and understood. I get that from my providers at the center.”

“I feel they have the knowledge to work with my son. We feel hope!!! Thank you all!”