Vision For The Future: The NM Lions Operation KidSight Program

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2016 Head to Toe Conference

NM Lions Operation KidSight, Inc.
Topics

- NM Lions Operation KidSight Program Status
  - Overview of KidSight Program
  - NMLOKS Screening Team Locations
  - Screening Results to Date
- Reasons for Vision Screening
  - Why Conduct Vision Screenings of Children?
  - Children’s Vision Problems and Amblyopia
- The Vision Screening Process
  - Vision Screening for Amblyogenic Risk Factors with the Plusoptix S09 Autorefractor
  - Examples of Autorefractor Measurement Screen & Report
- Reasons to Use NMLOKS, Inc., Services
- New NMLOKS Initiatives
  - Parental Education Program
  - Spare Pair Program
  - Enhanced Screening For 3-7 Year Olds
Overview of NM Lions Operation KidSight Program

NMLOKS, Inc.
501c3 Organization
3 Executive Directors
9 Directors Sec./Treas.
Medical Advisors

 NMLOKS, Inc., Central Office
Program Manager – Ms. Brenda Dunn
Las Cruces, NM

24 Lions Screening Teams

Screen 3-7 year old children for amblyogenic risk factors

Provide eye exams/glasses for 3-7 year old students not covered by Medicaid or insurance

Currently servicing public schools, Head Starts, private/charter schools, child care centers, and health fairs across NM

Save Our Children’s Sight Fund

Provide eye exams/glasses for 8-19 year old students not covered by Medicaid or insurance
Note that the NMLOKS Program Manager can conduct screenings in rural communities not currently covered by Lions screening teams.
NMLOKS, Inc., Screening Results (8/1/15 - 3/31/16)

- # of 3-7 Year Old Students Screened & Referred -

Total Screened  33,593
Total Referred  6,151
Referral Rate  18.3%
Why Conduct Vision Screenings of Children?

- Children entering 1st grade:
  - 86% have never had an eye exam.
  - 20-25% will have vision problems.

- Children are unaware they have a vision problem (they think everyone sees like they do).

- Normal visual development proceeds only if the brain receives an EQUALLY CLEAR image from EACH EYE.

- 70% of school-age children with a learning disability have some form of visual impairment.

- 95% of children’s visions disorders can be corrected if detected early.

The best defense is early detection!
Children’s Vision Problems and Amblyopia

- What is Amblyopia? -

The brain favors one eye over the other. The weaker eye is ignored and it is not adequately stimulated resulting in the nerve pathways between the eye and brain not maturing normally.

Amblyopia is the most common cause of monocular blindness (i.e., partial or complete blindness in one eye).

While only 2 to 3% of children will actually develop amblyopia, the risk factors, which can cause amblyopia, are generally present in 12 to 15% of the 3 to 7 year old population.
Children’s Vision Problems and Amblyopia

- Conditions That Can Cause Amblyopia -

Strabismus → the eyes are crossed inward or turned outward

Farsightedness, nearsightedness, or astigmatism, especially if it is greater in one eye (Anisometropia).

Anything that prevents light from entering the eye, e.g., congenital cataract, drooping of one eyelid (ptosis), eye injury, etc.
Children’s Vision Problems and Amblyopia

- Treatment for Amblyopia -

Refractive error can be corrected by glasses, contact lenses or, if appropriate, lasik.

Wearing an eye patch over the stronger eye is a hallowed treatment for strabismus.

Another option is atropine eye drops to blur the vision temporarily in the stronger eye.

Treatment of strabismus may involve surgical correction of the eye muscle imbalance.
Vision Screening for Amblogenic Risk Factors with the Plusoptix S09 Autorefractor

- Both eyes are measured simultaneously.
- Very quick - acquisition time is 0.8 seconds.
- Can refract through glasses to check present prescriptions.
- Can facilitate vision screening in children who are difficult to deal with.
- Children who do not pass the screening are referred for a comprehensive eye examination.
Example of a Plusoptix S09 Measurement Screen

**Refractive Errors** – identifies possible hyperopia/farsightedness (+) and myopia/nearsightedness (-).

**Cylinder** – Indicates a corneal irregularity or astigmatism that causes blurriness.

**Corneal Reflexes** – Indicates the degree to which an eye deviates from the parallel eye position. If greater than 10 degrees, strabismus may be present.

**Pupil Size** – If the difference in the size of the pupils is greater than a designated threshold, it indicates anisocoria may be present.

**Anisometropia** – If the difference in refractive error or cylinder value of each eye is greater than a designated threshold, anisometropia may be present.

**Cataracts** – Can distinguish media opacities in the eye such as cataracts.

**Ptosis** – A drooping eyelid which partially covers the pupil.
Specically identifies possible vision problem(s) the child may have.

Provided to the school nurse after screening session.

Parents of the referred child are informed:
✓ Their child may have a vision problem.
✓ Their child should have a full eye examination.
✓ A voucher program exists for eye exams and glasses for referred children who are not covered by private insurance or Medicaid.

Referral follow up information provided to NMLOKS.
✓ Data necessary to determine that the screenings are not over-referring children.
✓ Data needed for NMDOH and grant provider reports.
Reasons to Consider Using KidSight Services in Vision Screening Programs For Pre-K, K, & 1st Grade Children

- Cost effective – no cost to school districts.
- Relatively quick procedure – 1 child per minute.
- May free up school nurses from time spent for required annual acuity screening – more time for referral follow up.
- Can detect amblyogenic risk factors not revealed with acuity screening.
- Can easily screen developmentally challenged and nonverbal children.
- KidSight Program is available across NM.
- Many studies have validated the efficacy of vision screening.

The ultimate goal of NMLOKS, Inc., is to provide every NM child ages 3-7 years old with the opportunity for a free vision screening to ensure there are no vision “roadblocks” to interfere with their ability to read and learn.
Save Our Children Sight Fund

- Began 1 Jan 2008 based on New Mexico Statute Authority 666.3. Save Our Children's Sight Fund (SOCSF) option.

- NM residents can donate $1 or $5 to the Fund when renewing vehicle registration.

- Money in the fund is appropriated to NMDOH, which shall administer the fund for the purpose of development and implementation of a vision screening program making vision screenings and follow-up comprehensive examinations available to New Mexico children regardless of family income.

- Contract between NMDOH and NMLOKS, Inc., initially signed January 2015 to administer the SOCSF. A follow up contract was issued for 2015-16 fiscal year. NMDOH will go out with an RFP for 2016-17 which will expenses to exceed $50K if needed.

- NMLOKS, Inc., Program Manager coordinates with school nurses to identify 3-18 year students who have been referred by nurse’s or KidSight screenings and who are not covered by Medicaid or other insurance.

- NMLOKS will cover 3-7 year old students while SOCSF will cover 8-19 year olds.

- NMLOKS, Inc., Program Manager will coordinate with school nurse to set up exam and provide glasses, if needed.

Please make a donation to the Save Our Children Sight Fund when paying for your vehicle registration renewals. Your $1 or $5 donation will help pay for an eye exam and glasses (if needed) for any student, age 3 – 19 years old, who is not covered by Medicaid or insurance.
NMLOKS/SOCSF Voucher Program Results
- 1 Jul 2015 → To Date -

Distribution of # of Students Serviced By Age Group

- 3-7 Years: 115
- 8-12 Years: 120
- 13-16 Years: 90
- 17-19 Years: 26
NMLOKS/SOCSF Voucher Program Results
- # of Students Who Received an Eye Exam and/or Glasses by Community -

Total # Students: 351
Covered by SOCSF: 236
Covered by KidSight: 115
# Vouchers Serviced for the Save Our Children Sight Program and KidSight (1 Jul 2015 – 29 February 2016)

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<th>Month</th>
<th>SOCSP</th>
<th>KidSight</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<th>Total # Vouchers Serviced</th>
<th>236</th>
<th>115</th>
<th>351</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Vouchers/Month</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projected # Vouchers to be Serviced for One Year</td>
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<td>527</td>
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<td>Projected $$ for Vouchers for One Year (@$175)</td>
<td>$61,950</td>
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New NMLOKS, Inc., Initiatives
- Parental Education Program -

- 25%+ of referred children never get a complete eye exam.

- School nurses contact parents of referred children numerous times (if needed) but some parents don’t feel their child’s vision is important.

- NMLOKS is going to develop a program (e.g., PSA’s, Newspaper ads, etc.) to inform/educate parents about the importance of good vision to their child’s ability to read and learn.

- Signs parents and teachers can observe that child may have a vision problem:
  - Constant eye rubbing
  - Poor focusing
  - Chronic redness of the eyes
  - Squinting
  - Difficulty reading
  - Abnormal alignment or movement of the eyes (after 6 months of age)
  - Having trouble reading the blackboard
  - Extreme light sensitivity
  - Poor visual tracking (following an object)
  - Chronic tearing of the eyes
  - Being unable to see objects at a distance
  - Sitting too close to the TV
New NMLOKS, Inc., Initiatives

- Spare Pair Program -

- Many times during a vision screening session, a student is referred who has glasses but never (or infrequently) brings them to school.

- Spare Pair Program would purchase a pair of glasses for these students that would remain at school.

- Spare Pair Program being funded by: GoFundMe Campaign
  https://www.gofundme.com/SPAREPAIRPROGRAM

- Spare Pair Program will help ensure that every student with glasses is able to see well to enhance their learning ability.
New NMLOKS, Inc., Initiatives
- Enhanced Screening for 3-7 Year Olds -

**MYOPIA / HYPEROPIA**

If student passes the screening but the myopia measurement is -1.25 to -1.75 diopters or the hyperopia measurement is +1.25 to +2.00 diopters, the student will be assessed as borderline and the school nurse will be asked to do the corresponding near or far acuity screening.

**ASTIGMATISM**

If student passes the screening but astigmatism measurement is ±1.75 to ±1.25 diopters, the student will be assessed as borderline and the school nurse will be asked to do the acuity screening.
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