

Factors Influencing Expansion of Targeted cCMV Screening

Robert Fifer, Ph.D.



Agenda: Programmatic Challenges



- Program / protocol preparation
 - Logistical / communication organization
 - Legislative challenges
 - Programmatic costs
-
- Primary intent to demonstrate cost relationships for various levels of CMV screening and highlight logistical considerations

Introduction: Program / Protocol Preparation



- Initial or 2nd test fail trigger for CMV screen
- May have separate protocols for NICU versus mother-baby nursery
- Identification of in-house screening team members
 - Hearing screener
 - Designated ward secretary for communication and coordination
 - Nursing staff
 - Attending physician

Logistical and Communication Organization



- Hearing screener (in-house or 3rd party company)
 - Electronic medical record
- Nursing staff
- Ward secretary
 - eReports (DOH)
- Laboratory (in-house or outside)
 - Orders
 - Documentation preparation
 - Specimen transport

Logistical and Communication Organization



- Notification of positive/negative CMV screen
 - Ward secretary
 - EMR documentation
 - eReports (DOH)
 - PCP and parents*
 - Early Steps (IDEA Part C Birth to Three Program)
- Audiologist for follow-up both of failed newborn hearing screening and positive CMV lab results.
 - Second screen (if not received before discharge)
 - Diagnostic evaluation
 - Follow-up interval

Logistical and Communication Challenges



- Medicaid patients.
 - Public health clinics and “physician du jour”
 - NO PCP
- Interdisciplinary examination if CMV positive
 - Symptomatic versus asymptomatic and probability of complicating diagnoses
 - Role of PCP

Disorder Domains => Need for Interprofessional Evaluation


Sensory and CNS

- Hearing loss (early and late onset)
- Vestibular disorders (with or without hearing loss)
- Visual impairment (Chorioretinitis, optic atrophy, optic nerve aplasia)
- Cerebral alterations (ventriculomegaly, microcephaly, calcifications, cortical atrophy)

Cognitive and Behavioral

- Intellectual impairment
- Specific learning disabilities
- Cerebral Palsy
- Developmental delays in language and learning
- ADHD
- ASD
- And there is more.....

Legislative Challenges: Who Will Pay for cCMV Screening?



The initial procedure for screening the hearing of the newborn or infant and any medically necessary follow-up reevaluations leading to diagnosis shall be a covered benefit for Medicaid patients covered by a fee-for-service program. For Medicaid patients enrolled in HMOs, providers shall be reimbursed directly by the Medicaid Program Office at the Medicaid rate.

F.S. 383.145(k)

Cost Estimate

Florida 2022 data



Background Information (based on Florida Data)

Florida Infant Demographics

- Live births (2022): 224,487
- Failed newborn hearing screen: 8,891
- Approximately 52% are Medicaid-eligible
 - 116,773 Medicaid births
- Children born between 23 and 32 weeks GA: 8.7% of births (i.e., 19,531) (Source: CDC)

Logistical Costs

- Outside lab analysis:
 - Average \$57 per screen
 - Range per test: \$189 to \$33 based on volume
- In-house lab analysis:
 - ~\$89 to ~\$12 volume dependent
 - Note: many Florida hospitals do not have in-house analysis capability for CMV

Background Information (based on Florida Data)

Targeted Screening Annualized Costs

- Estimated cost for targeted hearing screening failures: \$506,787
- Factors:
 - 8891 screening failures
 - \$57 per test average

Expanded Screening (NICU) Costs

- Estimated cost for expanded CMV screening: \$1,620,054
- 8.7% of births (19,531)
 - Very low birth weight, prematurity, Level III NICU admit, etc. (Note: Child must be 34 weeks CA to screen for hearing loss)
- ~4% well-baby (8891)
- \$57 per test average

Universal Screening Annualized Costs

- Estimated cost for CMV screening: \$12,795,759
- 100% of live births (224,487)
- \$57 per test average

Anticipated Yield for Positive CMV Through Incremental Expansion of Screening

- Total: 751
 - 44 from hearing screening failures
 - 707 from NICU and equivalent admissions
- Statistics used: 2.1% for NICU infants (Yamamoto et al., 2001)
- 0.5% for children who fail newborn hearing screenings (CDC.gov; CMV Foundation)
- Yamamoto AY, Mussi-Pinhata MM, Pinto PC, Figueiredo LT, Jorge SM. (2001). Congenital cytomegalovirus infection in preterm and full-term newborn infants from a population with a high seroprevalence rate. *The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal*, 20 (2), 188-192.

Additional Budget Considerations

Hospital

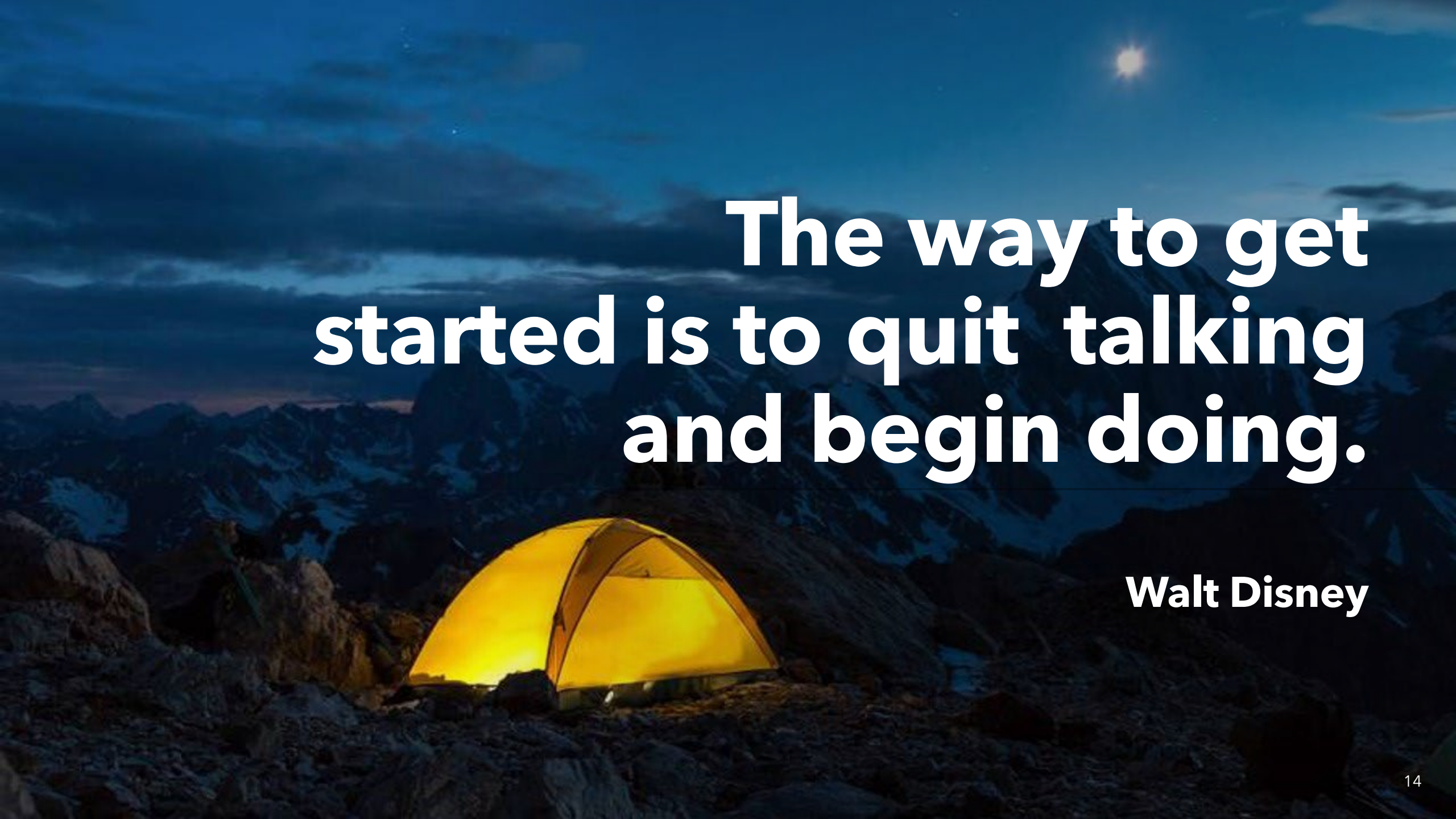
- FTE re-allocation for documentation, specimen tracking, reporting, coordinating follow-up notifications
- Disposable supplies

State Department of Health

- Increase staffing to accommodate for tracking and follow-up monitoring

General

Payment responsibility for hospital screening protocols

A glowing yellow tent is pitched on a rocky mountain peak at night. The tent is illuminated from within, casting a warm yellow light. The background shows dark, rugged mountain ranges under a deep blue night sky with a few stars and a bright moon in the upper right corner.

**The way to get
started is to quit talking
and begin doing.**

Walt Disney



Robert Fifer, Ph.D.

rfifer@med.miami.edu



Thank you