

The Peninsula Family Advocacy Program

A Medical-Legal Partnership for Children

Provider Identification of Socio-Economic and Environmental Barriers to Child's Health "IHELP"¹

"I am now going to ask you a few questions about your family and home. I ask these questions to all families to help me better understand issues that might affect a child's health."

INCOME

- Do you and/or your spouse work outside of the home? What type of work?
- Who takes care of your child/children during the day?
- Do you ever have trouble making ends meet?
- Do you ever have trouble paying rent or buying food, or paying electricity, heat, or telephone bills?
- Do you have a stove? Do you have a refrigerator?
- Do you ever have to take time off work because of your child's health?
- Is anyone in your family uninsured?
- Do you get Food Stamps, WIC, Social Security, TANF, etc?
- Do you need help accessing benefits or services for your family?
- What is your primary mode of transportation?

HOUSING

- Where do you live?
- Is that an apartment or a house? How many bedrooms?
- Do you rent or own?
- How long have you lived there?
- Who lives in this home?
- Is your housing ever a problem for you?
- Is there anything else about the home that you are worried might worsen your child's health – like dust, mold, chemicals, poor plumbing or heating?
- Do you know if your child might be exposed to lead – for example, lead is found in old paint, old plumbing and some home remedies?
- Does anyone who lives in your home smoke?
- Is there anyone in your home that you worry might have a problem with alcohol or other drugs?

EDUCATION

- Is your child in Head Start, preschool or other early childhood enrichment?
- How is your child doing in school?
- Do you have any concerns about school performance or behavior?
- Is your child getting the help he/she needs to learn?
- Is violence at school a concern?

¹Kenyon C., Sandel M., Silverstein M., Shaker A., and Zuckerman B. Revisiting the Social History for Child Health. *Pediatrics* 2007;120:e734-e738.

LEGAL STATUS

- Do you have any questions about your immigration status?

LITERACY

- Do you read to your child every night?
- How happy are you with how you read?

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Do you feel safe in your home? Do you feel safe in your neighborhood?
- Is violence at home a concern?
- How do you and your partner work out arguments?
- How is your partner treating you and the children?
- Do you feel safe in your current relationship?
- Have you or anyone who lives with you ever been threatened or hurt by a family member or partner?

At end of visit to help elicit financial, cultural or other barriers to fulfilling plan:

“Is there anything in our plan that you don’t think you can carry out for any reason? I ask because we can always change the plan.”