Mitigating the Long-Term Effects of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

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Problem: Lack of Follow-up

Long Term Effects of NAS

- Cognitive
  - Poor cognitive skills
  - Poor perceptual skills
  - Poor memory skills

- Physical
  - Otitis Media
  - Strabismus
  - Nystagmus
  - Cerebral Impairment

- Behavioral
  - ADHD/ADD
  - Impulsivity
  - Hyperactivity
  - Short Attention Spans

With an increasing number of children born with NAS in New Hampshire, an effective treatment regimen has been developed for infants, however, past infancy, there is no treatment in place for affected children.

Our goal is to create a program that will diagnosis children with potential long-term effects of NAS and to provide support to children throughout their childhood.

Proposed Solution

We decided to pair biomarkers with in person check ups: While biomarkers help to flag children at high risk for potential disabilities associated with NAS, in person check up serve as early intervention by providing support for the child before the effects become too problematic.

1. Infant is born with NAS
2. A doctor is assigned to the infant and the family
3. 3-5 five years after the birth the doctor will assess the child
4. Assessment will take place four to six times a year, every year

1. Infant is born with NAS
2. Blood is drawn to test for NAS specific biomarkers
3. Results are analyzed
4. Biomarker testing is repeated every 2 years

Implementation Strategy

Step One
- Research similar programs to find the best methods to track NAS affected children.

Step Two
- Find ways to fund the program and work out potential legal problems.

Step Three
- Hire workers and implement the program.

Step Four
- Create the federally funded program.

Step Five
- Research NAS specific biomarkers and implement them into the follow up program.

Solution Assessment

Assessments will be done biyearly between the ages of 3 to 18 to moderate the success of the program. Success will be based of many factors including behavior improvement and test scores.

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