



STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Outreach & Autism Screening Clinic

Ron Brennan, MD

Dr. Brennan received his medical education from Harvard College, Dartmouth, and Seattle Children's Hospital. After working for 10 years as a pediatrician in the Alaska Native Health Service in Bethel, he completed a 2-year fellowship in developmental disabilities and returned to Alaska in 1992. Since that time, he has worked as a neurodevelopmental pediatrician for the Children's Hospital at Providence. He is currently the Director of the Center for Children with Special Needs at the Children's Hospital at Providence in Anchorage. He also serves as a consultant with the State of Alaska for neurodevelopmental issues and as a provider in Alaska's rural pediatric outreach and autism screening clinics.

Teresa Hirst, ANP

Ms. Hirst is a certified advanced practice pediatric nurse practitioner, specializing in new or follow-up patient assessments and evaluations of children with neurodevelopmental and autism conditions from birth to age 18 years. She works with the State of Alaska, traveling to regional hub communities to conduct assessments. She routinely provides patient, family, and staff education on pediatric neurodevelopmental disorders in communities at conferences throughout Alaska on neurodevelopmental disorders in children.

Dr. William Walker, MD

Dr. Walker served as a pediatric neurodevelopmental specialist with the US Army for 22 years and in 2001 moved to the role of Chief of Developmental Medicine with the Seattle Children's Hospital. He's an experienced clinician, seeing children of all ages with concerns across the broad spectrum of developmental and behavioral pediatrics. His ongoing specialty is treating children for spina bifida. He enjoys working with providers, agencies and organizations to develop appropriate recommendations that will be successful at the local level.

Parent Navigation Services

Parent Navigation Services are provided by a professional parent navigator from the Stone Soup Group. She provides support, recommendations, and information on the process of accessing and getting services for children affected with neurodevelopmental disorders.

Kris Green, Clinic Coordinator

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General Referral Guidelines

- Children must be under the care of a primary care provider & seen within the past 6-months.
- Parents and the primary care provider should discuss and coordinate the goals for the referral along with the plan for post-evaluation recommendations.
- As part of the assessment, summaries from education services, therapies (OT/PT/SLP), mental health, EI/ILP, SPED pre-school, and Head Start are needed. In addition, test results may be requested by the outreach clinic coordinator prior to the appointment.

The Appointment

- The outreach clinic coordinator reviews the documentation with the neurodevelopmental specialist; the specialist makes the decision whether an appointment is to be scheduled; if not, alternative recommendations are made.
- Parents will be mailed a confirmation letter, intake form, and reminder card.
- Parents must provide picture ID for verification as well as insurance card, Medicaid coupon, or Denali KidCare (DKC) sticker. Legal guardian's, such as foster parent, *must provide* documentation allowing permission to seek medical treatment on the child's behalf.
- The appointment lasts about an hour. During the appointment, the medical provider will spend time taking or reviewing history, assessing the child, and discussing potential diagnosis or recommendations.
- Please make alternative arrangements for siblings as childcare is not provided.
- Families will **not** receive a diagnosis for their child's concerns; rather, this screening clinic offers impressions, treatment considerations, recommendations, and, when appropriate, a referral for additional testing at a diagnostic center.

After the Appointment

- Within 30 days, the family, along with others identified by the family, will receive a summary of the recommendations. Ongoing care is coordinated by the patient's primary care provider.
- Parent navigation is available to assist the family finding financial resources, make appointments, coordinate travel for further testing, and to local therapy or support providers.

The State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Section of Women's Children and Family Health is the designated office of record & will bill insurance, Medicaid, DKC, IHS, or the family.

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