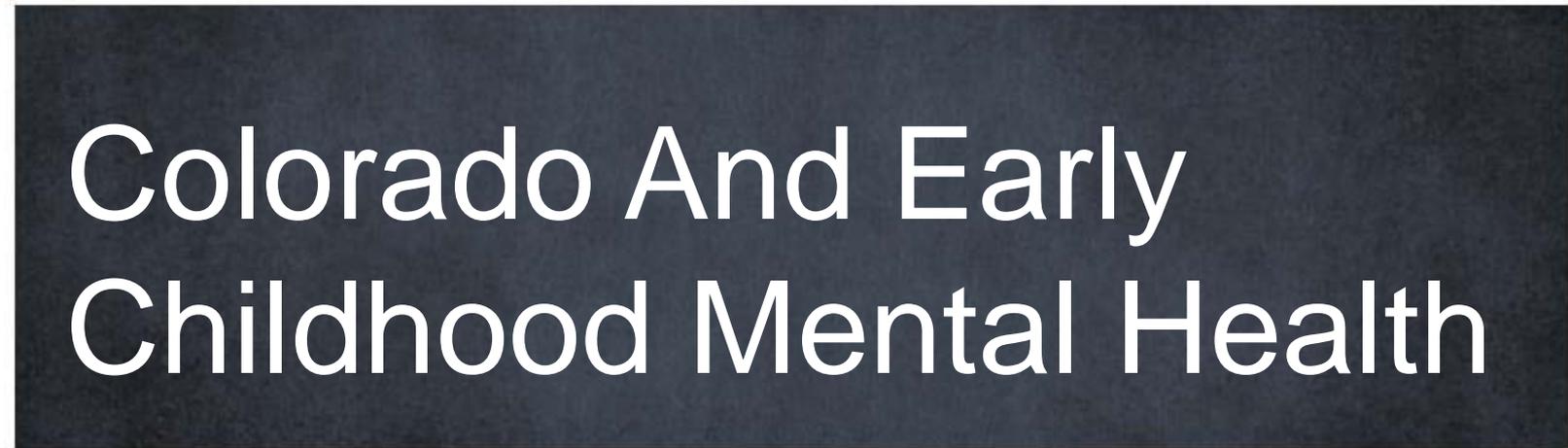




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Health/Childcare 2012



# Colorado And Early Childhood Mental Health



# Key Strategies



We began with little in place ....



Early Childhood  
Mental Health System

**PILOTS**

**Organize**

**Design, organize, collaborate and collect data**

# Resources and Approach

Our mission is to weave family-centered, culturally competent and community based mental health supports and services into a seamless early childhood system of care that promotes health social-emotional development, identifies risk factors, intervenes early, and provides high quality services



Blue Ribbon Policy Council  
For Children's Mental Health



## GOALS

Children have high quality early learning supports and environments and comprehensive health care.

Families have meaningful community and parenting supports.

Early childhood professionals have the knowledge, skills, and supports to work effectively with and on behalf of families and children.

*all children are valued, healthy, and thriving*

## outcomes

### ACCESS OUTCOMES

### QUALITY OUTCOMES

### EQUITY OUTCOMES

#### EARLY LEARNING

- Increased availability of formal education and professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals related to early learning standards.
- Increased access to high quality early learning, birth through third grade.

- Increased number of children meeting developmental milestones to promote school readiness.
- Increased number of programs that are accredited and/or quality rated.
- Increased number of schools that have leadership and educational environments that support young children's success.
- Increased availability of community resources and support networks for early childhood practitioners, professionals, and programs.

- Increased number of children with special needs who receive consistent early learning services and supports.
- Decreased gaps in school readiness and academic achievement between populations of children.

#### FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION

- Increased availability and family use of high quality parenting/child development information, services, and supports.
- Increased parent engagement and leadership at program, community, and policy levels.

- Increased number of children who live in safe, stable, and supportive families.
- Improved family and community knowledge and skills to support children's health and development.
- Increased family ability to identify and select high quality early childhood services and supports.

- Increased availability and use of family literacy services and supports.
- Increased availability of resources and supports, including financial and legal, to promote family self-sufficiency.
- Increased coordination of services and supports for families and children who are at-risk or have special needs.

#### SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH

- Increased availability and use of high quality social, emotional, and mental health training and support.
- Increased number of supportive and nurturing environments that promote children's healthy social and emotional development.

- Increased number of environments, including early learning settings, providing early identification and mental health consultation.
- Improved knowledge and practice of nurturing behaviors among families and early childhood professionals.

- Increased number of mental health services for children with persistent, serious challenging behaviors.
- Decreased number of out-of-home placements of children.

#### HEALTH

- Increased access to preventive oral and medical health care.
- Increased number of children covered by consistent health insurance.

- Increased number of children who receive a Medical Home approach.
- Increased number of children who are fully immunized.
- Increased knowledge of the importance of health and wellness (including nutrition, physical activity, medical, oral, and mental health).

- Increased percentage of primary care physicians and dentists who accept Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus.
- Increased percentage of women giving birth with timely, appropriate prenatal care.
- Decreased number of underinsured children.

## STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- Develop and support use of early learning standards by families, programs, and professionals.
- Evaluate and recognize high quality programs with a comprehensive rating and reimbursement system.
- Develop, promote, and support high quality professional development and formal education for adults who work with young children.
- Monitor children's learning and development through screening and on-going assessments.
- Improve financial sustainability and governing efficiency of early learning programs and infrastructure.

- Strengthen coordinated efforts of public and private stakeholders to meet the needs of children and families.
- Strengthen and support family leadership through effective training models.
- Provide tools and information to families to strengthen their own engagement and involvement in their children's lives.
- Provide information to families to facilitate connection to services and supports.

- Promote caregivers' knowledge of the social, emotional, and mental health of young children.
- Provide early childhood professionals with effective practices that promote children's social-emotional development and mental health.
- Strengthen and support community-based mental health services that identify and serve young children.

- Enroll more children in health insurance programs.
- Promote and support use of standards for a Medical Home approach (including medical, oral, and mental health, as well as developmental, vision, and hearing screening and services).
- Strengthen coordinated efforts of public and private stakeholders to support health and wellness.

## FOUNDATIONS

Build and Support Partnerships

Fund and Invest

Change Policy

Build Public Engagement

Share Accountability

Generate Education and Leadership Opportunities

# Blue Ribbon Policy Council State Goals

Public  
Engagement

Professional  
and Workforce  
Development

Funding and  
Finance

Program  
Availability

System of Care

# Blue Ribbon Policy Council State Goals

Public  
Engagement

Blue Ribbon  
Policy Council

Data

Champions

Funding

# Use of Data



Cost of Failure

Colorado Health  
Survey

Children with  
challenging  
Behavior...



# Blue Ribbon Policy Council State Goals

Professional and  
Workforce  
Development

Center for Social  
Emotional  
Competence and  
Inclusion

DC:0-3R  
Harris Fellowship

Colorado  
Endorsement

COAIMH

# Blue Ribbon Policy Council State Goals

Program  
Availability

Early Childhood  
Specialists

Mental Health  
Consultation

Other Programs  
Incredible Years



- Training and Technical Assistance
- Resources
- Model Programs
- Child Care Rule Changes
- Data and Evaluation

A Key Strategy in Colorado

# Blue Ribbon Policy Council State Goals

System of Care

Other Programs

Part C

TANF

ABCD

Early Childhood  
Councils

Strengthening  
Families

# Early Intervention Colorado

Working on another Mountain Peak

- Shared Plan Using Wraparound
- DC:0-3R Eligibility
- Social Work Renamed Social/Emotional Intervention
- Membership on Interagency Coordinating Councils





# TANF-Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

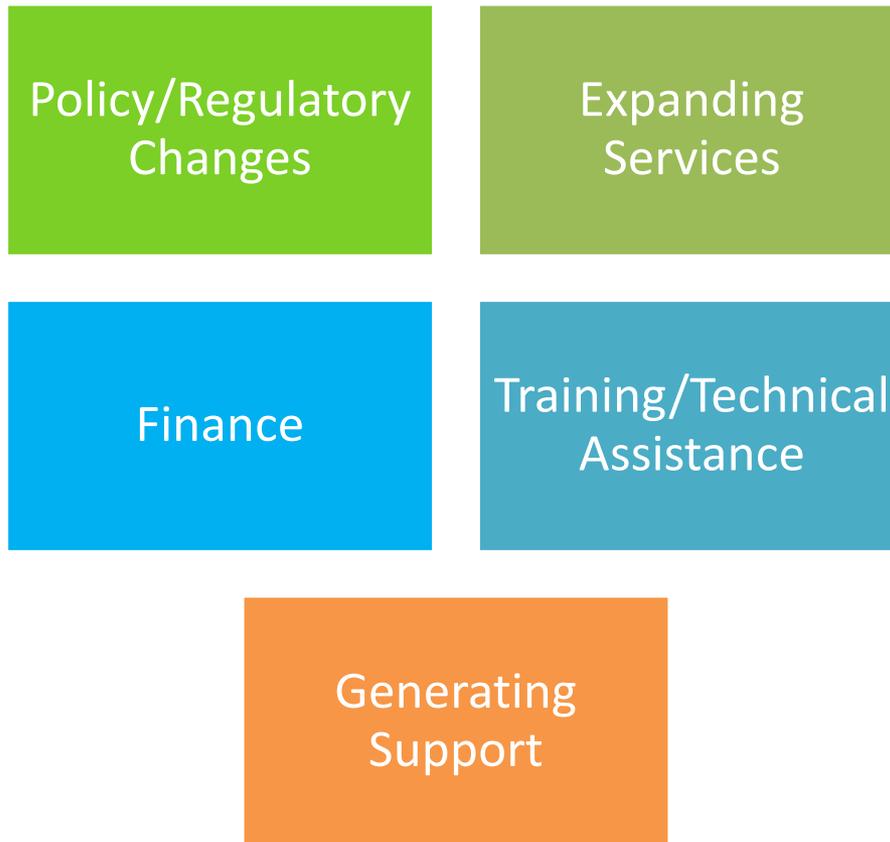
assisting needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes

reducing the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage

preventing out-of-wedlock pregnancies

encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

# Sustainability Strategies





“The cost of failure to intervene early is far too high a price to pay when predictable negative outcomes can be prevented.”  
(Gould, 2000)

