Federal and State Collaboration through the Act
Early Initiative and Approaches to Screening for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

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Model of Collaboration for Systems Change

Improving system collaboration by bringing together key stakeholders in early identification of children with ASD and other developmental disabilities.
Federal Agency Collaboration

- HRSA/MCHB Autism Working Group
  - State demonstration project
  - MCHB Developmental Behavioral Pediatric Fellowships programs authors of ACT curriculum
  - Supplement to MCHB CAAI State Demonstration projects
  - Act Early Summits
Act Early Summits

- Brought together key stakeholders in states to improve awareness and early identification
- 2007-2010: Summits completed in HHS regions
## Act Early Initiative

### Act Early Regional Summits (Federal Level)
- **2007-2010**: 55 teams; 800+ attendees

### Act Early State Teams (State Level)
- **2008-present**: 45 active teams

### Act Early Ambassadors (National/State)
- **2011-2012**: 10 Ambassadors (Cohort 1)
  - **2012**: 15 Ambassadors (Cohort 2)
Act Early Initiative Components

• AMCHP Act Early State Systems grants
  • 2012 grantees: FL, IA, KY, MN, NC, NE, NH, NY, TN, WI

• Technical assistance to AMCHP grantees and Act Early teams

• Act Early Rubric – self assessment tool to measure progress of Act Early teams

• AUCD Research Topics of Interest
Act Early grants - AMCHP and AUCD

- Disseminate and customize *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* materials
- Continue collaboration through meeting of Act Early state teams
- Develop resource guides and ASD guidelines
- Train clinicians and community providers
- Developmental and ASD screening in community and medical settings
- Create roadmaps for families and for professionals
HRSA Learn the Signs. Act Early supplemental grants

• Awarded October 2010
  – Missouri
  – Alaska
  – Utah
  – Washington

Evaluation of targeting implementation of Learn the Signs. Act Early. health education campaign
New Initiatives:
Act Early Ambassadors

Act Early Ambassadors program in partnership with AUCD and MCHB

- Serve as state liaison between Act Early teams and CDC’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early.”
- Provide training and information to parents, health care providers and early educators
- Promote activities to improve early childhood systems in states
New Initiatives: Act Early Rubric

- Self-assessment tool for Act Early teams
- ‘Snapshot’ summary of current practices
- 10 indicators with objective criteria
- Review progress of goals, objectives and activities
- “Very useful”; “…good for a review, to revisit accomplishments and to identify areas to enhance in our future efforts.”
Conclusion

Act Early Initiative

- Provides a forum to improve system collaboration
- Increases opportunity for collaboration between HRSA and CDC
- Strengthens partnerships with programs that work to improve lives of young children and their families
- Activities and extramural research informs future directions for CDC’s awareness and Act Early activities
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