**Children’s Outcomes Project Vision**

Improved health and well-being for children.

**Project Principles**

The COP promotes initiatives that are:

- Multi-sector (at least three sectors, including health, education/early education and family support)
- Place-based
- Prevention/promotion focused
- Integrated
- Public/private partnerships

Nemours is one of the nation’s leading child health systems, dedicated to advancing higher standards in children’s health. Nemours has made a promise to do whatever it takes to prevent and treat even the most disabling childhood conditions—a promise of specialty medical care, advanced hospitalization, applied research, and advocacy integrated with health information, prevention and a continuous process of teaching and learning.

The California Endowment is a private, statewide health foundation that was created in 1996 as a result of Blue Cross of California’s creation of WellPoint Health Networks, a for-profit corporation. The foundation’s mission is to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians.

For more information on the Children’s Outcomes Project, please contact Brandi Robinson at brrobinson@nemours.org.

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Background on Place-Based Initiatives

Policy makers across the country are looking at an old concept—places—with fresh eyes and, in some cases, new investments. “Place-based” initiatives are gaining traction, from the White House to small rural and large urban communities. Based on good common sense and growing evidence, place-based policies and programs start from the understanding that how well or how poorly children and families fare depends in large part on whether they can find adequate schools, child care, grocery stores, health care, jobs, transportation and other necessities near their homes and in places where they spend time.

Right now, these systems of goods, services and supports are developed individually, and are not connected in a way that helps children and families thrive. By integrating these and other systems serving children and families, place-based initiatives can more effectively address the full range of children’s needs (e.g., physical, social, emotional) to prepare them to be healthy, productive adults. Simply stated, place matters in the health and development of children.

Successful comprehensive place-based initiatives, however, are much harder to find and to make happen than the term suggests. For more than three decades, national reports have recommended that the programs and services that children and their families use—such as child care, schools, health and health care, food and nutrition—be coordinated and integrated to improve child and family outcomes. There is a longstanding gap between well-intentioned efforts to be coordinated and integrated to improve child and family outcomes. Successful comprehensive place-based initiatives, however, are much harder to find and to make happen than the term suggests.

The Children’s Outcomes Project

The Children’s Outcomes Project (COP) promotes the work of integrated, multi-sector place-based initiatives that improve the health and well-being of children. The COP includes state and local initiative teams plus national experts and advocates. The Children’s Outcomes Project has three goals:

1. Provide a forum for information sharing and joint learning among local, state and national leaders working to improve the health and well-being of children in their communities and nationwide;
2. Help integrated, multi-sector place-based initiatives advance innovative policies and practices for children in their communities and states; and
3. Work collaboratively to inform federal policy to support integrated, multi-sector place-based initiatives that improve the health and well-being of children.

How the Children’s Outcomes Project Facilitates Change

The COP is funded by Nemours, The California Endowment and an anonymous donor and was launched in 2009. The COP both informs policy and advances promising practices, because of its collective experience doing the work in communities and states and its range of expertise across child-serving systems and throughout all levels of government. Eight innovative state and local teams were selected based on several criteria including a demonstrated ability to work across multiple child-serving systems (including health, education/early education and family support), an emphasis on prevention and promoting child health and well-being and a focus on utilizing a systems change framework. The national experts and advocates bring expertise in healthy development, prevention, program spread and/or child advocacy.

The COP convenes state, local and national leaders in a learning community to identify policies and practices that advance multi-sector, integrated place-based initiatives. COP discussions, materials and publications disseminate this knowledge to spread the work at the local level and build support at the state and federal levels.

The following publications can be found on our Web site at http://nemours.org/about/advocacy/promotecare.html:

- Helping Communities and States Spread and Scale Up Integrated, Place-Based Initiatives for Children
- Promoting Healthy Child Development: The Role of Data, Evidence and Evaluation
- Improving Children’s Health and Well-being by Integrating Children’s Programs
- Helping Communities and States Promote Healthy Development