



## The Children's Outcomes Project (COP)

### Aligning Shared Outcomes to Improve the Health and Well-being of Children

Speakers:

Jennifer Weber, Manager of Policy, Nemours  
Nicole Lezin, President, Cole Communications, Inc.

Moderator:

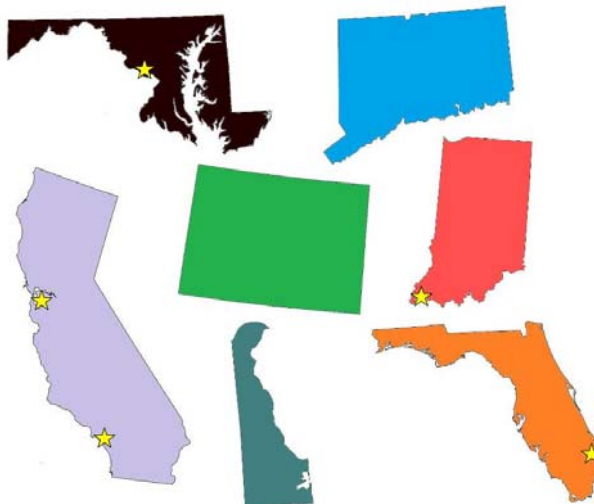
Brandi Robinson, Program and Policy Analyst, Nemours

### What is the Children's Outcomes Project (COP)?

- A **learning community/community of practice** launched in 2009
  - 8 state- and community-based teams
  - National program and policy experts
  
- **Funded** by Nemours, The California Endowment, and a generous anonymous donor
  
- **Purpose:**
  - Promote the work of integrated, multi-sector, place-based initiatives to improve the health and well-being of children
  - Inform public policy
  - Advance promising practices



### COP Communities/States



## Unique COP Teams and Contexts, with a Shared Vision of Children's Health and Well-being

- ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA (First 5 Alameda County), Every Child Counts
  - Every child will have optimal health, development, and well-being to reach his or her greatest potential.
- COLORADO, Early Childhood Colorado Framework
  - All children are valued, healthy, and thriving
- CONNECTICUT, Community Planning Partnership Initiative
  - To support local communities to develop and implement a comprehensive, community-wide plan for young children from birth through age 8 that encompasses early care and education, social, emotional, behavioral and physical health and family supports.

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## A Shared Vision of Children's Health and Well-being (Continued)

- DELAWARE, Nemours Health and Prevention Services/Partnering for Change
  - Optimal health and development for all children.
- FLORIDA, Children's Services of Palm Beach County
  - To be innovative leaders creating communities in which children reach their full potential
- INDIANA, EVSC School-Community Council/Center for Family, School and Community Partnerships
  - To establish schools as places of community to enhance youth and family development.

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## A Shared Vision of Children's Health and Well-being (Continued)

- MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, Linkages to Learning/Teaming for Excellence
  - Children will be academically successful, healthy, and safe and prepared to be productive citizens.
- ORANGE COUNTY, CA, Children and Families Commission of Orange County
  - Orange County's young children need safe, supportive and nurturing environments to be health and ready to succeed in life.

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## Identifying Common Outcomes: Contexts and Caveats

- Review of written materials (logic models, evaluation reports)
- Multiple frameworks (e.g., RBA, CI) and terms
- Caveats
  - Moving target – COP teams are evolving and desired outcomes change over time
  - Broad, inclusive definition (e.g., goals, results, objectives) led to different levels of detail and specificity and a mix of outcomes and indicators
  - Reliance on written materials missed important outcomes
  - Variations in COP teams' scope (e.g., local or community teams vs. state-wide)

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## Types of Outcomes Common to COP Teams

- Health
- Safety
- Early learning and education
- Social, emotional, and developmental thriving
- Parent and family support
- Economic well-being/stability
- Capacity and infrastructure



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## Outcomes Across Eight COP Teams

<p><b>Health – All 8</b></p> <p>All eight teams included specific health-related outcomes</p>	<p><b>Social/Emotional/Developmental Thriving – All 8</b></p> <p>All eight teams included outcomes related to social-emotional and developmental well-being</p>	
<p><b>Learning/Education – 7</b></p> <p>Seven teams included specific outcomes related to early education and school readiness/performance</p>	<p><b>Capacity/Infrastructure – 7</b></p> <p>Seven teams included specific outcomes recognizing the need for investments in basic capacity</p>	<p><b>Parent/Family Support – 6</b></p> <p>Six teams included outcomes specific to engaging and supporting parent and families</p>
<p><b>Economic Well-being – 5</b></p> <p>Five teams specifically addressed economic well-being and stability</p>	<p><b>Safety – 3</b></p> <p>Three teams included outcomes related to safety, including injury prevention and child abuse/neglect</p>	

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## Health Outcome Examples

- Access: Health insurance coverage
- Continuity/quality of care: Medical homes, Well-child exams, Access to prenatal/postnatal care
- Prevention: Increasing immunization rates
- Specific conditions: Oral health, Asthma, Obesity



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## Social, Emotional, and Developmental Outcome Examples

- Links to educational outcomes (e.g., self-regulation of behavior in school)
- Early screening to detect developmental delays
- Referrals to high-quality services



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## Early Learning and Education Outcome Examples

- School readiness
- Academic achievement gaps
- Third-grade academic achievement
- Classroom behavior
- Access to health services through schools
- School capacity/infrastructure: transition planning, records transfers, referral networks



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## Capacity and Infrastructure Outcome Examples

- Training providers who serve young children
- Making high-quality programs available
- Working more closely with parents
- Helping early childhood settings meet accreditation and quality standards
- Linking fragmented services
- Connecting children and families to medical homes

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## Parent and Family Support Outcome Examples

- Making parenting education available
- Engaging parents as partners and leaders in community and policy work
- Giving families tools to select quality early child care programs
- Improving parent-child bonding
- Addressing maternal depression

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## Economic Well-being

- Helping parents
  - Meet basic needs
  - Achieve economic self-sufficiency/independence
  - Gain stable housing



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## Safety Outcome Examples

- Reducing child abuse and neglect
- Reducing out-of-home placements



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## Challenges

- Measuring complex, broader outcomes:
  - Systems Change
  - Equity
  - Relationships/connectedness
  - Community-level outcomes
- Communicating/describing outcomes
- Incorporating other frameworks (e.g., Results Based Accountability, Collective Impact) and national models (e.g., Help Me Grow)
- Common to multi-sector, place-based, integrated initiatives like COP



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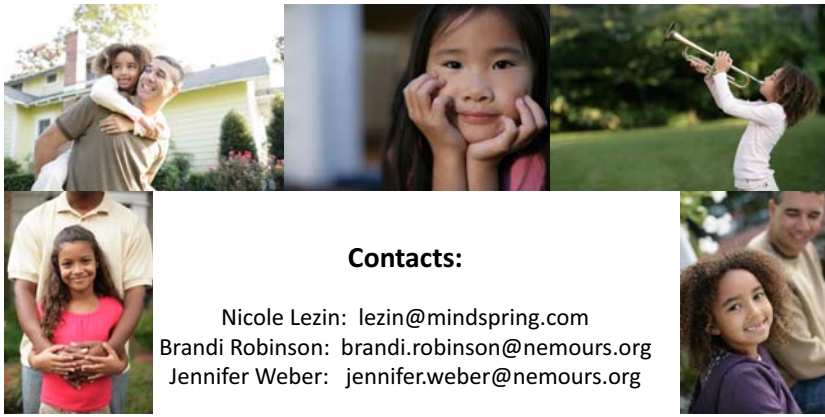
## What's Next for COP?

- Continuing to track common outcomes, measures, and language – and how these are used
- Exploring ways to measure and describe more complex outcomes
- Case stories focusing on data and sustainability

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**Contacts:**

Nicole Lezin: [lezin@mindspring.com](mailto:lezin@mindspring.com)  
Brandi Robinson: [brandi.robinson@nemours.org](mailto:brandi.robinson@nemours.org)  
Jennifer Weber: [jennifer.weber@nemours.org](mailto:jennifer.weber@nemours.org)

