



Nancy, Cronin MA Maine

Learn the Signs.
Act Early.



Maine – Dirigo State

- Oldest State in the Nation
- Largest State in New England – bigger than the other 5 states combined.
- 1.3 Million people Statewide
 - 25% of the State’s population live in Portland
- 3,478 miles of coastline (More than California – 3,427) Only Florida and Louisiana (mostly bayou) has more coastline.
- Only U.S. State with just one syllable
- 90% of the nation’s lobster and toothpicks comes from Maine



Act Early Team

- Amy Belisle MD
Quality Counts
- Susane Boulette
Maine Autism Institute
- Nancy Cronin
Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
- Cathy Dionne
Autism Society of Maine
- Rita Furlow
Maine Children's Alliance
- Bethan Jerome
Maine Autism Institute
- Janice Lachance
Maine Children's Alliance
- Nancy Ponzetti-Dyer PhD
Edmund Ervin Pediatric Center
- Samuel Senft
MaineCare
- Nan Simpson
Quality Counts
- Toni Wall
Children & Youth with Special Healthcare
Needs



And many more interested team members back home

System Components

Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

- Children with Special Health Needs
- Children's Behavioral Health
 - Early Childhood
 - Child Welfare

Children

Diagnosticians

- Developmental Pediatricians
- Neurologists
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists

**&
Families**

Providers

- In-Home Supports
- Case Management
 - Head Start
- Speech Pathologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Early Intervention programs

Maine Dept. of Education (DOE)

- Child Development Services: *Birth to 2 yr olds (IDEA Part C), 3-5 yr olds (IDEA Part B §619)*
- Public Ed. Programs for 4-yr-olds

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Related Projects

- Developmental Disabilities Council
- FirstSteps
- Improving Health Outcomes for Children
- Maine Children's Alliance
- Maine Children's Growth Council
- State Agencies Interdepartmental Early Learning Team
- State Autism Implementation Grant



Maine goals

- A coordinated, multi-system effort towards systemic improvements for developmental and autism screening.
- Decrease the amount of time it takes between screening and evaluation.
- Improve communication among medical practitioners and early childhood practitioners to prevent duplicative testing, family confusion, and expedite early intervention.



Learning opportunities

- Coordinate existing activities
- Continue Maine's foundation of partnership
- Learn what our neighboring State's are doing
- Gain information to move Maine forward
- Discuss opportunities for data integration
- Develop a coordinated state plan with clear action steps

