



New Hampshire

Learn the Signs.
Act Early.



[New Hampshire]

Strategic Priorities:

1. All children in New Hampshire will be screened before the age of two years and if suspected of having a developmental delay based on a validated screening will be referred for diagnostic evaluation within 45 days.
2. All children diagnosed with ASD will have access to a robust program of intervention within 45 days of diagnosis.
3. Coordination of activities and improved data sharing across initiatives at the local and statewide levels.
4. Families, PCPs, school and community providers will have support for ongoing adherence to Cultural & Linguistic standards, Medical Home components, Bright Futures guidelines and LTSAE scripting.



NH Attendees

- Jen Doris M. Ed - Ambassador to CDC for Learn The Signs. Act Early NH
- Elizabeth Collins- Special Medical Services, Title V CYSHCN Director, Co-Chair NH Act Early Team
- Deirdre Dunn Tierney, MS Early Childhood Special Projects Coordinator Maternal & Child Health Section Bureau of Population Health & Community Services New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services



NH Attendees

- Sharon Kaiser- RN, BS Early Childhood System Program Specialist Special Medical Services, Title V CSHCN
- Holly Tutko, MS. NH Pediatric Improvement Partnership Coordinator
- Elizabeth Humphreys-Ph.D. LEND Interdisciplinary Training Director Research Assistant Professor/Education
- Rae Sonnenmeier, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Clinical Associate Professor, UNH Institute on Disability/NH LEND
- Joelle Martin- MEd, MBA, NH LEND Fellow



Goals from 2010 Act Early Summit

- All NH children will be screened before age 2, all children suspected of having ASD will be referred and undergo a dx evaluation within 30 day and will have begun a robust program within 45 days
- Children will be screened by the PCP at 18 & 24 months. Universal screening (valid and reliable) using MCHAT and or developmental screening in all PCP offices
- Every child 0-8 identified with ASD their families will have access to a robust program
- Every child within preschool special education has an appropriate program and all preschool staff will be trained



2010 Goals

- Training parents and families, in home support & advocacy training (especially those that haven't had access to ESS and Autism Proposal)
- Outputs:
 - Roadmap for PCP
 - Universal Screening Training Modules (developmental screening process, MCHAT, ASQ, Dissemination of roadmaps)
 - Identify Funding models



Achieved Since 2010

- Road Map completed to share with families
- Open Forums have been held to provide a needs assessment around Autism
- Resource list to include the NH Virtual Autism site



Achieved since 2010

- Partnership with WIC in the North Country
- Collaborating with multiple partners statewide:
 - NH Pediatric Practices
 - Child Development Clinics
 - Early Supports Programs, Home Visiting Programs
 - DCYF has integrated Watch Me Grow into many of the RFP process
 - Special Medical Services
 - Infant Mental Health



Achieved since 2010

- Webinar on the DSM V criteria change
- Applied and received several grants to further the Autism work in the state
- Adopted the Connecticut Guidelines for Clinical Diagnosis of ASD
- Revising and making the Ohio Family Guide NH Specific
- Partnering with the SAMSA Grantees to increase developmental screening initiatives in their communities



Watch Me Grow

- Watch Me Grow (WMG) NH's Developmental Screening System, helps New Hampshire families to ensure their child's brightest future by tracking his or her growth and development. It is New Hampshire's developmental screening, referral and information system for families of children ages birth to six years.
- Welligent web based system in place to collect data,
- Website and brochures for Watch Me Grow,
- Webinars as part of Watch Me Grow,
- Developmental monitoring using Learn the Signs. Act Early.
- Utilizing ASQ and ASQ SE
- Trainings statewide for child care programs, practices and students that are working on Early Childhood Degrees have occurred
- Technical Assistance provided as needed



Project Launch

- Project LAUNCH piloted a site that has continued to offer quality services to its targeted population of low income expecting parents and their children ages 0-8 in the 5 targeted SAMHSA areas;
- Increasing the number and type of settings providing valid screening and assessment to serve more children
- Utilizing best practices to identify primary care patients (parents and children) with behavioral health issues and to integrate successful interventions into practice
- Increasing staff capacity to support children's social-emotional development in early childhood education settings
- Enhance developmental screening into new locations such as child care and PCP offices. Manchester has hired a WMG Coordinator with some of the project funds to demonstrate the benefit on having a designated person for this work.



Project Launch

- Improving the social and emotional well-being of young children through enhanced home visiting services
- Improving families' ability to provide effective parenting to support the multidimensional needs of children through training and education
- In addition, based upon the Strategic Plan providing improved access to needed services for PL children and families through increased transportation availability and increased awareness of services. PL is also aiming to provide culturally and linguistically competent services and to establish a sustainable Young Child Wellness Council based mainly in Manchester to work collaboratively with Statewide Young Child Wellness Council, Spark NH, to promote the wellness of expectant families and young children



Spark NH

- Governor appointed statewide Early Childhood Advisory Council and part of Maternal and Child Health's ECCS and LAUNCH grant . Its mission is to promote a comprehensive coordinated early childhood system with a focus on Communication/Public Awareness, Data Systems, Evaluation, Workforce Development, Policy, Program Quality, and Family Partnership/Engagement.



NH Autism Council

- Created by NH Legislature in 2008 to provide coordinated leadership in addressing the healthcare, education, and service needs of individuals who experience autism or a related disability.
- [**The Council's composition and charge are described in HB 1634.**](#)
- The Council is guided by the findings, recommendations, and principles that were published in May 2008 by a previously established Commission. To read the NH Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Completely unfunded but incorporates multiple agencies
- Is comprised of multiple workgroups



EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND TIMELY ACCESS TO DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENTS

Recommendations from ASD Council 2011

- Part A: Universal Screening, Timely Diagnosis and Prompt Referral

The Department of Health and Human Services, through its Division of Public Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Section, and the Special Medical Services unit of the Bureau of Developmental Services, will develop strong technical assistance for all pediatric primary care settings for the implementation of current nationally accepted autism screening and surveillance guidelines. This effort will include providing information and tools for screening, diagnostic evaluation referral, early intervention and preschool special education referral, individual autism program grants, reporting requirements of the New Hampshire Autism Registry, and connection to available parent -to- parent and family support services. Collaborators include the New Hampshire Pediatric Society, the NH Council on Autism, NH LEND, NH Watch Me Grow, the NH LTSAE Act Early Team/Ambassador and the New Hampshire Pediatric Improvement Partnership.



Human Services and Education Workgroup

- The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Medicaid, Business and Policy (OMBP) supports the *Bright Futures Periodicity Schedule*. These guidelines call for universal screening of all children for ASD through continuous surveillance, the use of autism-specific screening tools, and the valuation of parental concerns. The DHHS, OMBP is currently working on covering Intensive Behavioral Intervention as a part of the Medicaid State Plan.



Screening & Diagnosis Workgroup

- The NH Autism State Plan (currently in development) will identify and support leadership for a system of autism diagnostic clinics using or expanding upon available resources to increase access to timely diagnostic evaluations by improving geographic access and reducing wait times for clinical appointments. It may be possible to build upon services provided through the New Hampshire Office of Special Medical Services (Title V—Children with Special Health Care Needs agency) by identifying autism as needing systematic care coordination and service integration among available providers.



Human Services and Education Workgroup

- The Department of Health and Human Services and Department Education will work collaboratively to ensure consistent eligibility criteria for services that include all individuals with ASD.



Public Awareness Workgroup

- Families and individuals with ASD will be involved in planning and delivering awareness messages and information.



Data Collection Workgroup

- The Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with the NH Council on Autism will develop and periodically publish reports of autism-related data. These data will be made transparent and publicly accessible in a user-friendly format and will include, but not be limited to, information contained in the New Hampshire Autism Registry.

