



Pre-work: Vision and Reality

The 2015 Northeast Regional Developmental Screening, Referral and Response Conference is an exciting opportunity to share, discuss, and learn of neighboring state systems, promising practices, challenges, and future opportunities in health and education service coordination for young children with ASD and related developmental disabilities. This is also an opportunity to come together as a state team to examine current state autism plans and efforts, and identify strategies and action steps to improve early identification, developmental screening, referral and response to referral - as a state team and potentially as a region.

Instructions:

In preparation for the Northeast Conference, work as a team to complete the first 2 steps of an Action Plan included here –**1) develop your state team’s vision for improving services and health for children and families affected by ASD/DD** and **2) describe the current reality of your state’s screening, referral and response efforts**. This exercise will give members of your team who may not be familiar with each other an opportunity to develop a shared understanding of both what success will look like and where your state is in its infant mortality work. The remainder of the Action Plan will be developed during and after the Northeast Conference.



Step 1: Vision

A vision identifies your team’s hopes and dreams for the future – what does success look like? Developing a vision helps lay out your project goals. Teams may have one or more visions. In general, visions should be:

- Understood and shared by all members
- Broad enough to encompass a variety of perspectives
- Inspiring and uplifting
- Easy to communicate

As a group, develop a shared vision for what you hope to accomplish by the end of this collaborative. Imagine picking up a newspaper on May 1, 2016 with your state’s success story highlighted on the front page. What does the headline read? Provide a high-level summary of the article.



Step 2: Reality

Acknowledge where you are now. What are your team's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats? Discuss the benefit(s) that would result from succeeding with this action plan.

STRENGTHS:

WEAKNESSES: (such as -- what gaps are there in your state's current capacity to screening, referral and response?)

OPPORTUNITIES: (such as – what new or planned initiatives are there to expand access to services, or Governor or state legislature interest in screening/early identification, etc.?)

THREATS: (such as -- what challenges does your team face in moving this work forward?)

BENEFITS: (such as – who would benefit and how? What are the fiscal, social, community, political benefits of success?)

Great work on completing these first 2 steps! Your team is now prepared to continue your action planning at the Northeast Conference. Be sure to share your thoughts with your state Ambassador prior to the conference.