Maine State of the State

Act Early Regional Summit
April 26\textsuperscript{th} & 27\textsuperscript{th} 2010
Providence, RI
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

Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

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

Diagnosticians

- Developmental Pediatricians
- Evaluation Clinics
- Neurologists
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists

Providers

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

Current Systems of Care
Multiple Agencies providing related services, but with different funding sources & reporting requirements

- Families must access multiple systems to obtain comprehensive services

**Multiple Evaluations**

- Multiple Appointments

**Multiple Intakes**

**Multiple Case Managers**

**Multiple Meetings**

**Multiple Plans**

- Entry
  - Referral Received: Provide application to MaineCare and Katie Beckett
  - Case Manager Assigned
  - Intake
  - Screening
  - Eligibility Evaluations
  - Meeting to Determine Eligibility / If appropriate, develop IFSP
  - (IFMC eligible) Provide Family EPSDT / If referred to outside case management
  - Referral to Service Providers
  - Service Begin
  - Periodic Reviews

- Multiple Evaluations
  - Multiple Intakes
  - Multiple Case Managers
  - Multiple Meetings
  - Multiple Plans

- Written Plan
  - Computer Systems
  - In-Home - Children’s Behavioral Health Service
  - Case Management Services
  - CDS System
  - MaineCare System
Current Challenges and Gaps

• Fragmented Service System
• Multiple Methods to Collect Data
• Each System Requires A Separate Plan (IEP/IFSP, ISP, ITP)
• Multiple Funding Streams with different reporting requirements
• Large rural State, bulk of service providers in the South
• Budget cuts to critical programs
PDD Interagency Initiative

Public and private collaboration since 2006, involving:

- DHHS Division of Early Childhood
- Child Development Services
- Psychologists
- Developmental Evaluation Clinics
- Medical Professionals
- Early Childhood Educators
- Child Care Providers
- MaineCare Services
- Children with Special Health Needs
- Autism Society of Maine
- DHHS Children’s Behavioral Health Services
- Disability Rights Center
- Parents
- Department of Education
- Speech and Occupational Therapists
- Center for Community Inclusion and Disabilities Studies
- Developmental Disabilities Council
- State Office of Information Technology
- Maine Parent Federation
- Over 200 individuals with PDD, family members, and professionals as commenter's
Early Identification

**Problem to Address:** Families report that it takes an average of 31 months from concern to diagnosis.

**Achievements**
- Developed Universal Screening Protocol
- Tested protocol - Six Field Pilots, with over 3,500 children screened
- Included screening tools in MaineCare well-child check forms

**In Progress**
- Writing policy to ensure clear and consistent evaluation and diagnosis
- Training physicians not to “wait-and-see”
- Streamlining the Referral Process

Problem to Address: Families report that it takes an average of 31 months from concern to diagnosis.
Statewide Multi-Agency Autism Initiatives

**PDD Systems Change Initiative** - DOE, DHHS, and DOL coordinated by the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC), to address the need for increased capacity and effectiveness in public services and supports.

**Evidence-Based Practice Initiative** - DOE and DHHS supported by Muskie School of Public Services, University of Southern Maine, to review and report the latest research on treatment for children with ASD, identifying treatments documented to achieve positive results.
Maine Expanding Inclusive Opportunities Initiative - DOE and DHHS, coordinated by the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS), to support inclusive early care and education

Initiative to Recognize and Promote Evidence-Based Practices DOE and DHHS, to develop and implement enhanced reimbursement rates for evidence-based Children’s Treatment Services
Other Maine Autism Initiatives & Resources

**Integration of Children with ASDs in Primary Medical Care Offices (MDDC)** to develop and pilot a training program for physicians and other medical office staff to promote ongoing medical care for children with autism spectrum disorders in primary care medical offices.

**Autism Society of Maine** providing information and referral, a summer camp, a family retreat, and ongoing support through the Information Specialist Program.

**Non-profit organizations** providing a wide range of information, support, and training programs for families.
More Autism Initiatives & Resources

Center for Community Inclusion and Disabilities Studies

*Maine's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service*

- CC+ME/Relate - provides consultation to child care mental health consultants for inclusive early care and education programs
- Personnel Preparation Graduate Study in Early Intervention
- Ongoing technical assistance to inclusive childcare programs
- Research on barriers to full inclusion of students with autism or other PDD
- Maine Autism Spectrum Resource Center – online resource
- Professional development opportunities and follow-up support for professionals using DIR-Floortime model
State Legislature’s Participation

• **New Insurance Mandate passed in 2010**

  LD-1198 - *Health insurance policies and contracts must provide coverage for diagnosis of and treatment for children 5 years of age autism spectrum disorders. The policy or contract may limit coverage for applied behavior analysis to $36,000 per year.*

• **Evaluation of educational services for students with autism**

  LD-1280 – *2009 Legislation directs DOE study of educational services for children and youth, and development of recommendations for new teacher training and standards.*
State Legislature’s Participation  
(Continued)

• **Supervision for ABA programs as a MaineCare reimbursable Service**

  *LD-611 - Directed the State to reimburse for the provision of supervisory services by board-certified behavior analysts in the MaineCare programs*

• **Ongoing Review of State Programs for Individuals with ASD**

  *Autism Act of 1984 requires biennial report prepared by DHHS regarding availability of quality social and habilitative services for persons with autism and other pervasive developmental disorders, and plan to address unmet needs.*
Looking towards the future

★ Maine will ensure that children with PDD are identified as soon as possible in order to receive the full benefit of early intervention treatment.

★ Public and private State entities will work together to ensure that treatment interventions will be effective, accessible, comprehensive, and high quality.
Thank you