



Assuring Better Child Health and Development Initiative (ABCD)

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NASHP

- 20 year old non-profit, non-partisan organization
- Academy members
 - Peer-selected group of state health policy leaders
 - No dues—commitment to identify needs and guide work
- NASHP staff
 - Develop, identify, and disseminate promising practices
 - Work informed and guided by members
- Working together across states, branches and agencies to advance, accelerate and implement workable policy solutions that address major health issues

Four ABCD Projects

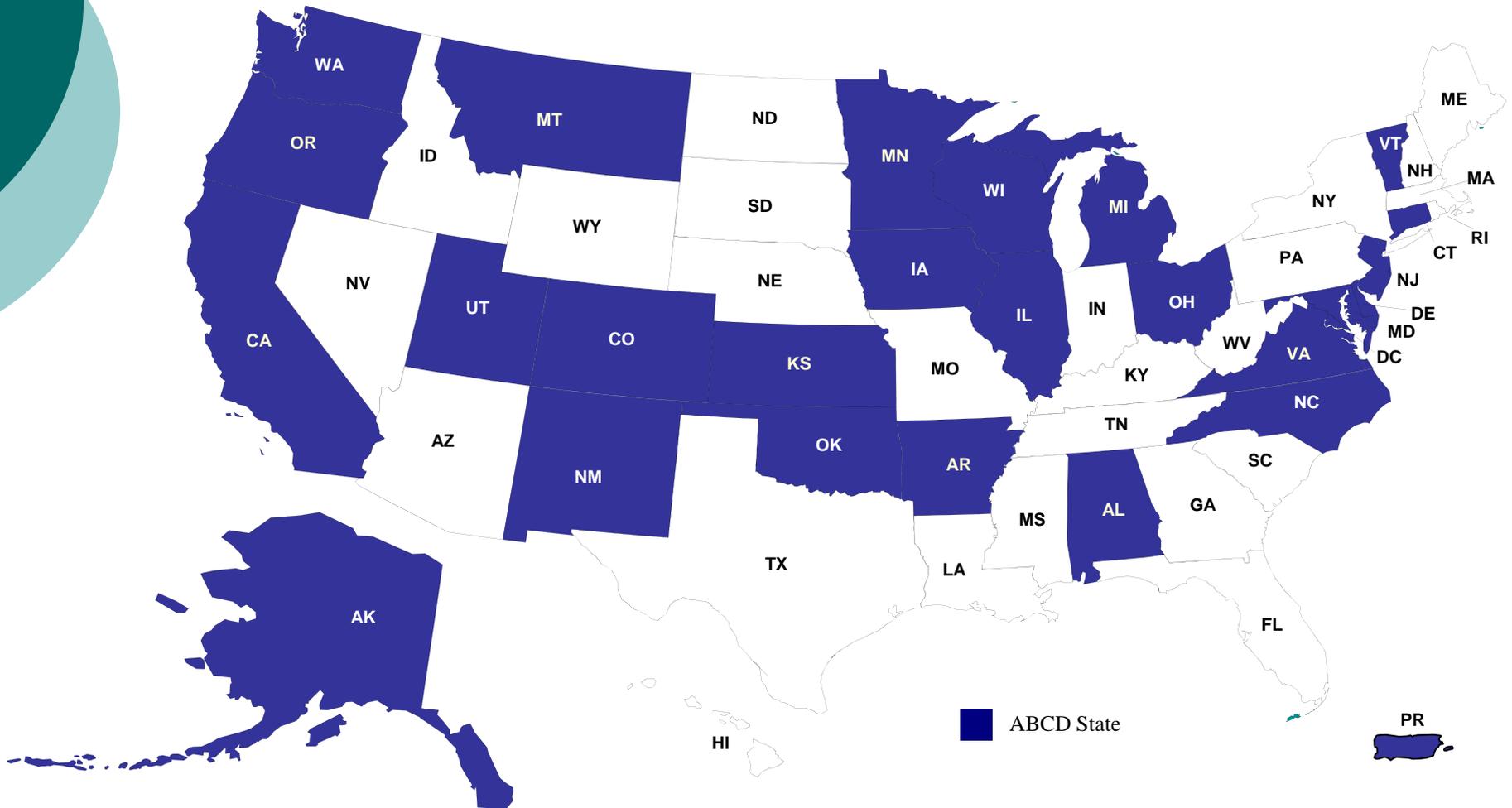
- Three to develop models
 - ABCD I Consortium focused on general development (2000-2003)
 - ABCD II Consortium focused on social/emotional development (2004-2007)
 - ABCD III Consortium will focus on linkages (2009-2012)
- One to spread a key element of the models
 - ABCD Screening Academy (2007-2008)



ABCD Initiative Goals

- Strengthen states' capacity to deliver care that supports young children's healthy development
- Identify and implement policy and systems changes that support the provision of preventive and early intervention care by Medicaid (and commercially insured) providers

27 ABCD States





Did they succeed?

- Improved policy
- Supported/promoted provider level improvements
- Measured results
- Built public/private partnerships

Policy level improvements

- **California is currently revising its CHDP Health Assessment Guidelines (HAG) to include recommendations that the Guidelines be consistent with AAP Guidelines, use AAP algorithms for developmental and for social-emotional/behavioral screening, and adhere to recommended AAP periodicity for visits. Other important recommendations included screenings for ASD at 18 and 30 months, reducing the list of tools and sending a letter out to all CHDP providers with information on billing**
- **Maryland's Medicaid program began paying for up to two 'units' of CPT 96110 on the same date of service to allow providers to administer both (1) a general developmental screening test and (2) an autism or social/emotional screening test in the same visit.**



Provider level improvements

- **Illinois' Part C program clarified that a child can receive Early Intervention Services if his or her parent, or other primary caregiver, has been diagnosed with a severe mental disorder, including perinatal depression**
- **Ohio developed and is currently implementing a 29 physician practice learning collaborative (in conjunction with the local AAP chapter) designed to improve both general developmental and autism screening and care referral process. The ongoing collaborative will include collecting and analyzing data on screening implementation (both qualitative and quantitative) pre/post intervention.**

Collecting and using meaningful data

- All ABCD states worked toward measurement, but not all fully succeeded
- Most successful in producing screening rate
 - 13 of 21 Screening Academy states produced pre and post measures; 3 produced pre- measure
 - All showed substantial increases in screening rate
- Almost all produced other data to support change
- ABCD II states sought to measure referral and treatment—results indicated need for ABCD III



Public/private partnerships

- **The Iowa legislature approved funding for the MCH agency to expand the system developed under the ABCD II project of using EPSDT coordinators to facilitate access to follow-up services, with a focus on autism spectrum disorders.**
- Alaska ABCD's Core Committee and Stakeholder Group are working in partnership with the EPSDT Workgroup, the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems project, the Part C/Early Intervention programs, and the Autism Project to implement a statewide spread strategy of structured screening in primary care.



Lessons Learned

1. States' efforts can improve the identification and treatment of developmental delay
2. Policy and practice improvement are (and should be) tied
3. Partnerships are critical (state agencies, physicians, families, community resource agencies....)
4. Start small—but plan for spread
5. Performance measurement and feedback can incent and support change even without new legislation or funding (but they sure help!!)

For More Information

E-mail jmay@nashp.org
<http://abcd.nashpforums.org/>

- *State Policy Improvements that Support Effective Identification of Children At-Risk for Developmental Delay*, Neva Kaye and Jennifer May, March 2009.
- *Measurement to Support Effective Identification of Children at Risk for Developmental Delay*. Neva Kaye, Jennifer May, and Colleen Peck-Reuland, April 2009.
- *State Strategies that Support Effective Identification of Children At-Risk for Developmental Delay*. Neva Kaye and Jennifer May, March 2009.
- *Improving the Delivery of Health Care that Supports Young Children's Health Mental Development: Update on the Accomplishments and Lessons from a Five-State Consortium*. Neva Kaye and Jill Rosenthal, February 2008.
- *Measuring and Evaluating Developmental Services: Strategies and Lessons from the ABCD II Consortium States*. Colleen Peck Reuland and Christina Bethel, December 2006.
- *State Policy Options to Improve Delivery of Child Development Services: Strategies from the Eight ABCD States*. Neva Kaye, Jennifer May and Melinda Abrams, December 2006.