The California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN):
The Power of Engaging our State in the Implementation of Evidence Based Practices

Patricia Schetter, MA, BCBA, Project Coordinator, CEDD at UC Davis MIND Institute, Sacramento, CA
Patrice Yasuda, PhD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, USC Keck School of Medicine; Training Director of CA-LEND, USC UCEDD at Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Ananda Aspen, MA, Diagnostic Center Central - CA Department of Education
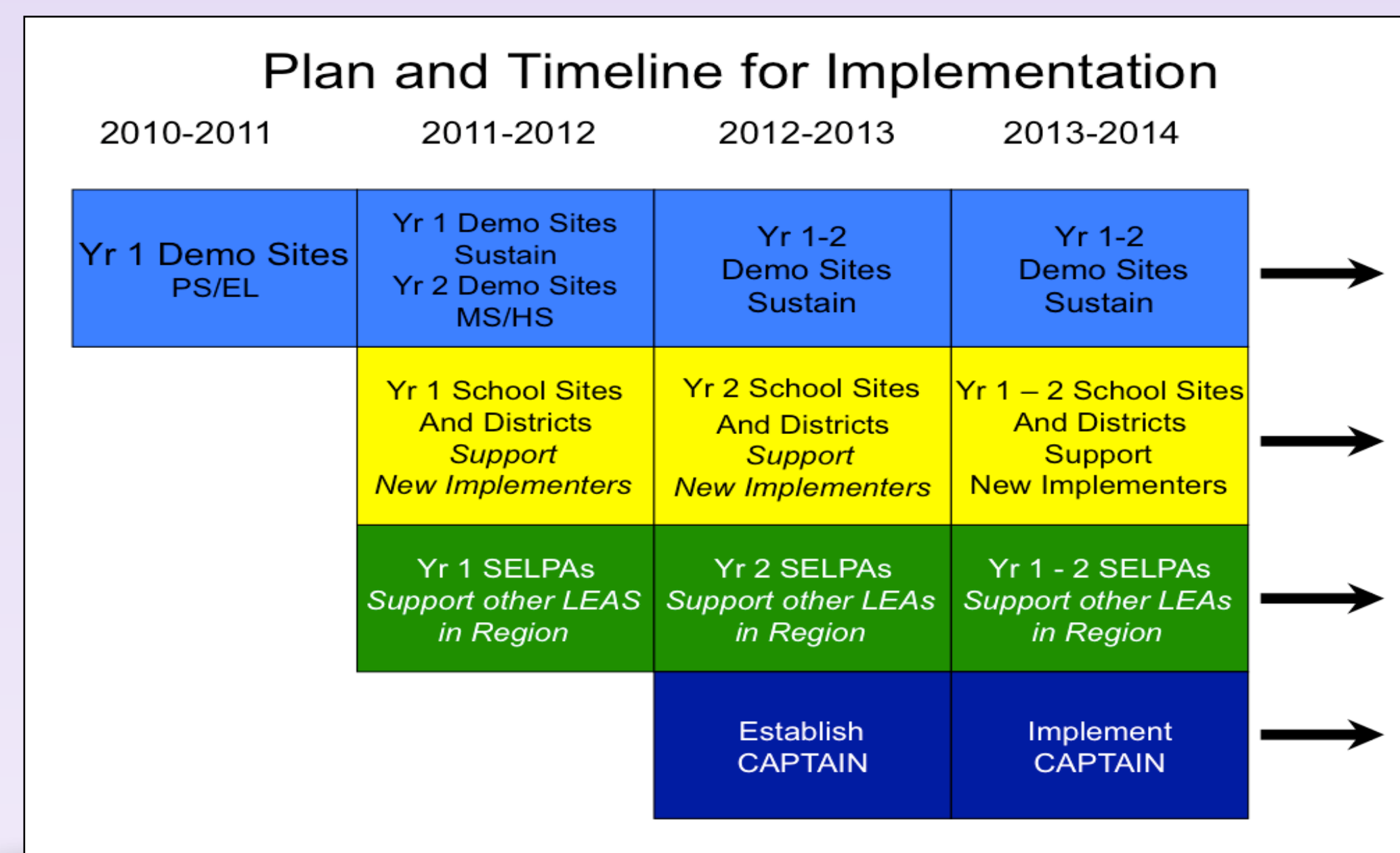
What is CAPTAIN?

CAPTAIN is a multiagency network created to support the understanding and use of evidence based practices for individuals affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) across the state of California.
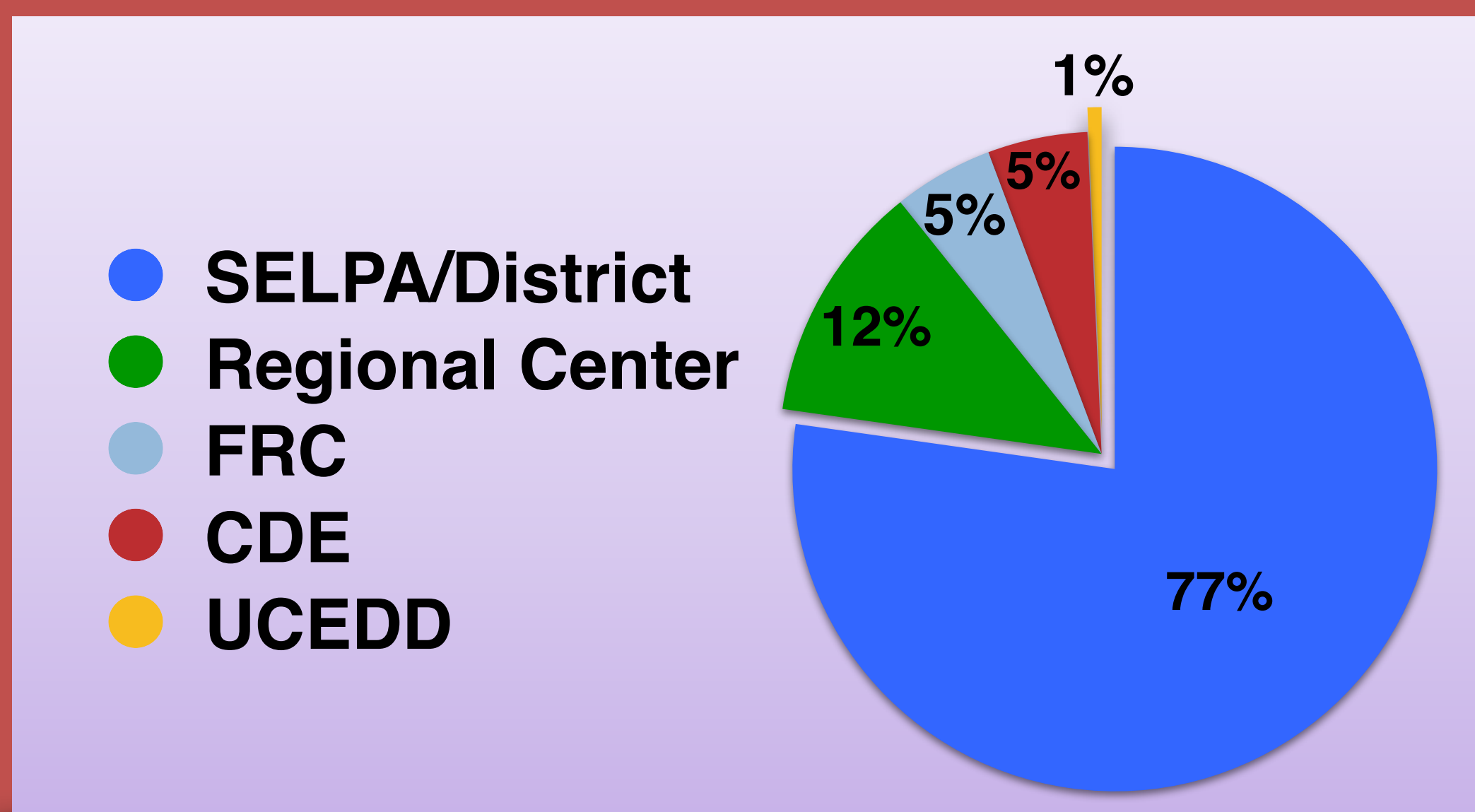
This network was established as a result of California's participation in the CDC Regional Act Early Summit (2009) and the OSEP funded National Professional Development Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (NPDC – ASD) Training and Technical Assistance Grant (2010-2012). CAPTAIN was established to build awareness about ASD, build knowledge and use of evidence based practices, improve interagency coordination, and bring to scale the NPDC – ASD training model in our state.

Activities

➢ Recruitment of Cadre Members (*N* for Year 1 = 342 / Year 2 = 405)
  • Cadre members must fulfill annual training requirements to continue membership
➢ Development of CAPTAIN Website
  www.CAPTAIN.CA.gov
➢ Annual training summits for cadre members
  • Use of NPDC – ASD Tools and Resources
  • Implementation Coaching
  • Hot Topics and Policy
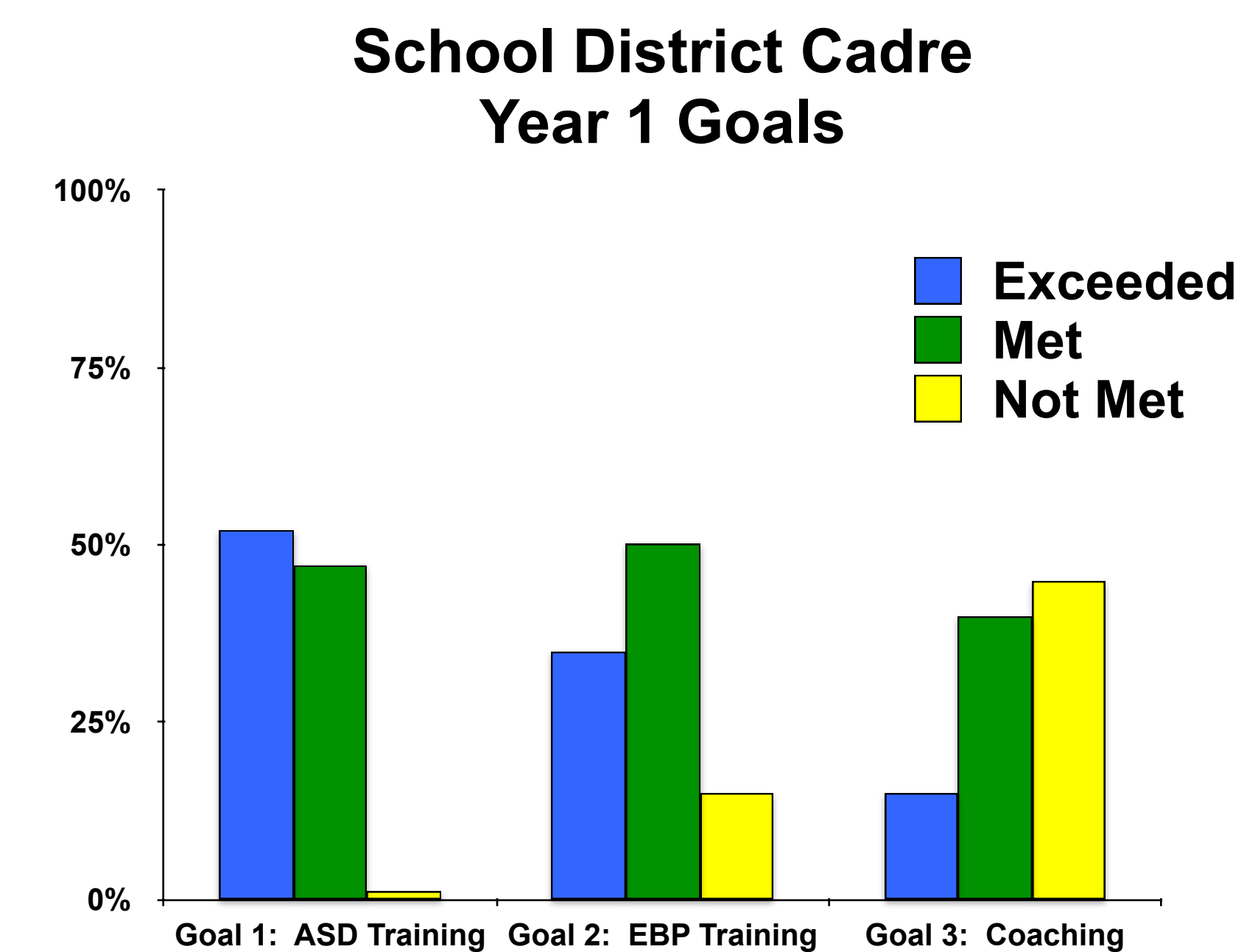 • Regional Planning Time and Coordination
➢ Annual Cadre Survey

Plan and Timeline for Implementation

2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Yr 1 Demo Sites PS/EL	Yr 1 Demo Sites Sustain Yr 2 Demo Sites MS/HS	Yr 1-2 Demo Sites Sustain	Yr 1-2 Demo Sites Sustain
	Yr 1 School Sites And Districts Support New Implementers	Yr 2 School Sites And Districts Support New Implementers	Yr 1 – 2 School Sites And Districts Support New Implementers
	Yr 1 SELPAs Support other LEAS in Region	Yr 2 SELPAs Support other LEAs in Region	Yr 1 - 2 SELPAs Support other LEAs in Region
		Establish CAPTAIN	Implement CAPTAIN

Our Cadre

- SELPA/District — 77%
- Regional Center — 12%
- FRC — 5%
- CDE — 5%
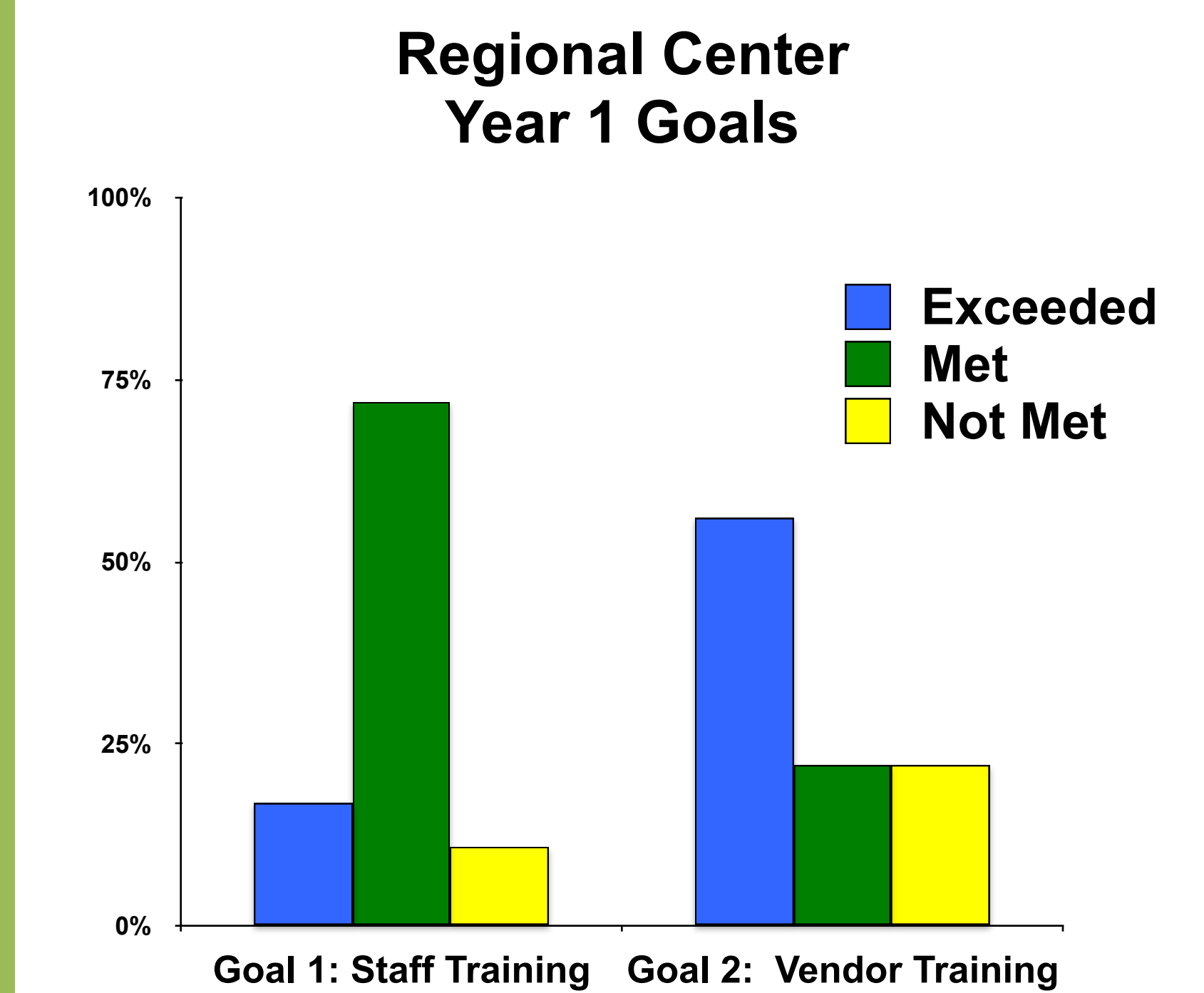- UCEDD — 1%

Year 1 Goals and Results

SELPA/ School District Requirements:
• Provide 1 Overview of ASD training to school staff annually
• Provide 3 trainings on evidence based practices annually
• Provide Implementation Coaching to 3 programs annually

School District Cadre Year 1 Goals
Exceeded / Met / Not Met
Goal 1: ASD Training Goal 2: EBP Training Goal 3: Coaching

Regional Developmental Disabilities Service Center Requirements:

• Provide 3 Overview trainings for Service Coordinators
• Provide 1 Overview training of ASD/EBPs for Service Providers

Regional Center Year 1 Goals
Exceeded / Met / Not Met
Goal 1: Staff Training Goal 2: Vendor Training

Discussion

The data from the 2014 returning Cadre member survey indicate that most Cadre members were able to meet and exceed their implementation goals with the exception of school district Cadre members' ability to provide coaching for programs and teachers. Lack of time and administrative support were indicated as the key barriers to implementing the coaching component of the model. A surprising finding was that most Regional Center Cadre members were able to exceed the goal of training their vendors/providers in EBPs. This has not historically been a role that Regional Centers have played; however, it is an area that appears to be needed and welcomed by providers. One aspect of this goal that needs further evaluation is an understanding of what type of provider (e.g. respite, independent living skills, supported employment, behavioral health, etc) most consistently attended these trainings.

CAPTAIN continues to struggle with FRC/FEC participation. FRC/FEC Cadre identified funding as a key barrier to participation in year 1. Despite travel stipends and scholarships being provided for the subsequent year, only 4 of the original 13 FRC Cadre returned to participate in the year 2 Summit.

Next Steps

1. CAPTAIN Leadership will report results from the year 2 survey to administrators and discuss the barriers encountered by Cadre members related to their implementation goals.
2. CAPTAIN Leadership will continue to work with the Family Resource and Empowerment Centers of California to determine means and methods for greater collaboration. Other parent stakeholder groups as possible collaborators will be explored.
3. Regional CAPTAIN chapters will continue to meet to implement their 2014 – 2015 local plans and goals. Many of the Regional Chapters have planned local conferences, summits and cross training opportunities.
4. CAPTAIN Leadership will begin planning for the 2015 Summit. Based on Cadre feedback, key issues being considered for next year's Summit include: Employment First Implementation, Bullying and Mental Health, Access to Medicaid Funded Behavioral Health Treatments, Access to Common Core State Standards for students with ASD and Disproportionality and Inequity Across Racial/Ethnic Groups.

References

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Systems level change - the power of a collaborative statewide initiative