

The California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN): Evaluation of Interagency Collaborations

Children's
Hospital
Los ANGELES

USC UNIVERSITY CENTER
FOR EXCELLENCE IN
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



RIMENT OF FOUCEPHOUS

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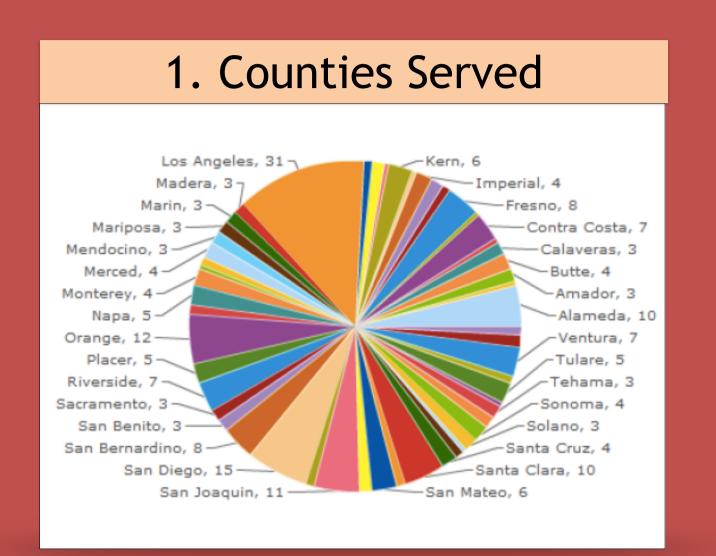
Introduction

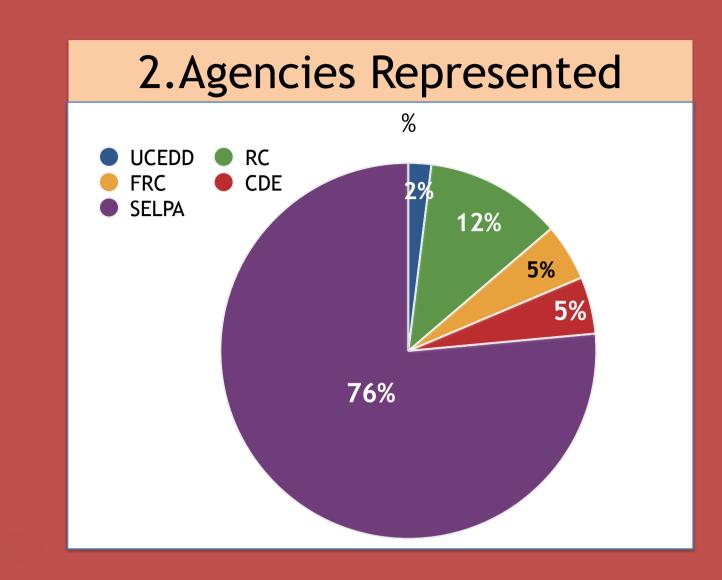
CAPTAIN is a multiagency network created to support the understanding and use of evidence based practices for individuals with autism spectrum disorder in California using the trainer of trainers model. Annual Summits were used to disseminate information and provide a venue for networking. A primary objective of CAPTAIN is to increase inter-agency collaboration and coordination between the state's key stakeholders, especially during key transition periods for individuals with ASD, per recommendation made by the 2009 Act Early Summit Regional Workgroup. The key stakeholders were identified as the Department of Disability Services Regional Centers who operate Part C and Adult Services, the school district SELPAs who are local special education regions, and the network of Family Resource Centers/Family Empowerment Centers who provide parent training and support from birth through age 22. Each of these groups were asked to nominate members to become part of the CAPTAIN Cadre of trainers. California's UCEDDs and state agencies, including the CA Department of Education and CA Department of Disability Services have served as primary organizers and facilitators in this effort. A core Leadership Committee composed of representatives from UCEDDs, state agencies and key stakeholder groups provides strategic planning and oversight of CAPTAIN.

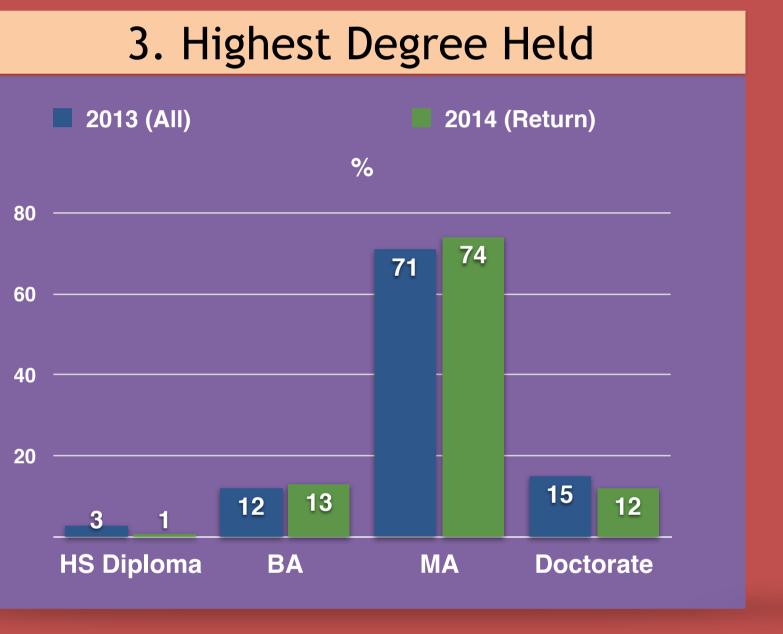
Methods and Results

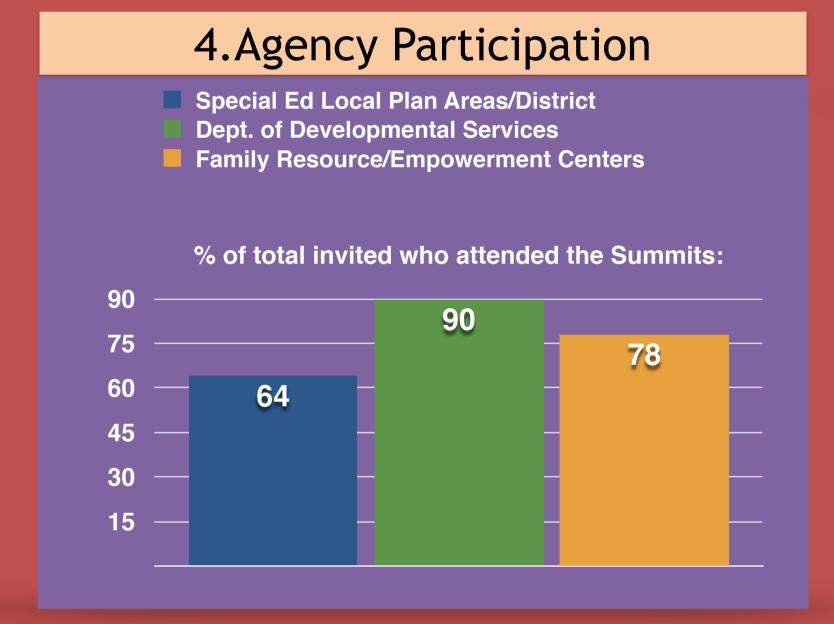
Cadre members were asked to complete an online 38 item survey prior to the CAPTAIN Trainer of Trainers Summits to obtain year one and year two measurement on various constructs related to CAPTAIN goals. Forty-seven percent of the 342 Cadre members completed the survey in 2013 and almost 80% completed it in 2014. Results were configured using the total survey participants from 2013, and those who returned to the next year's Summit in 2014. Figures 1 through 5 provide descriptive information about the Cadre members, notable for their degrees held and years in the field, as well as the California counties served. Figures 6 through 7 provide information regarding intra-agency coordination related to transition periods; in 2013 less than 30% believed that there was a reliable procedure for the transition between Part B to Adult Services of IDEIA and in 2014 50% believed there was a reliable procedure. In 2013, 38%, believed there was a reliable procedure for the transition between Part C to Part B of IDEIA, rising to 50% for 2014 returning members. Figures 8 and 9 suggest a less significant outcome for interagency collaboration, with only 23% believing there was interagency collaboration for any type of disability services in their region, as compared to 28% for 2014, and 33% versus 42% growth year 2 for autism specific services. The post-Summit survey results indicate less growth than hoped for in inter-agency collaborations for service delivery, yet the increase is statistically significant at the .05 level for inter-agency collaborations for ASD service delivery.

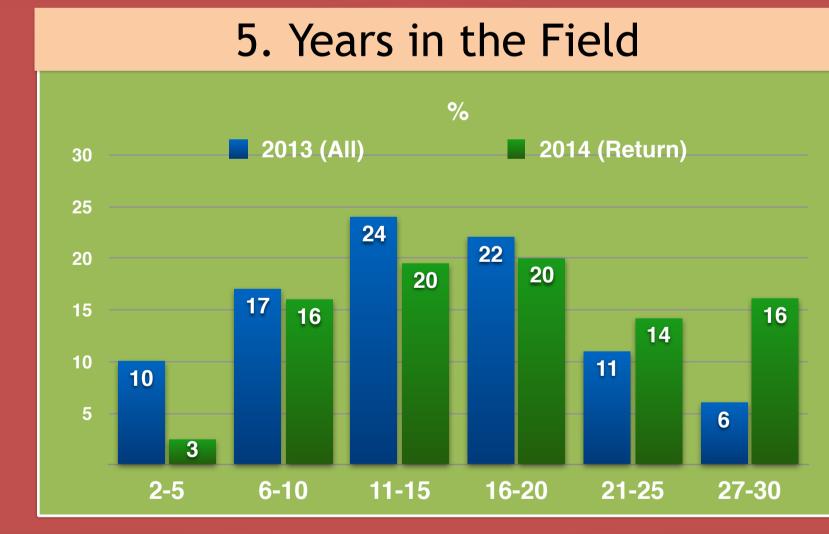
Who are the CAPTAIN Cadre members?







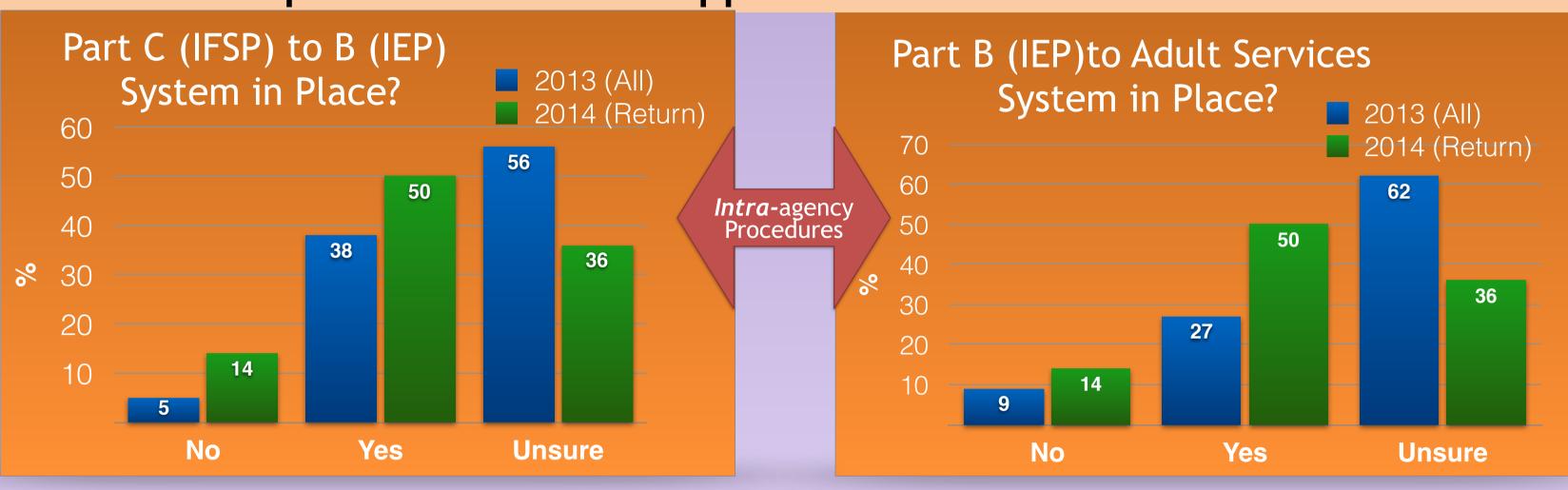




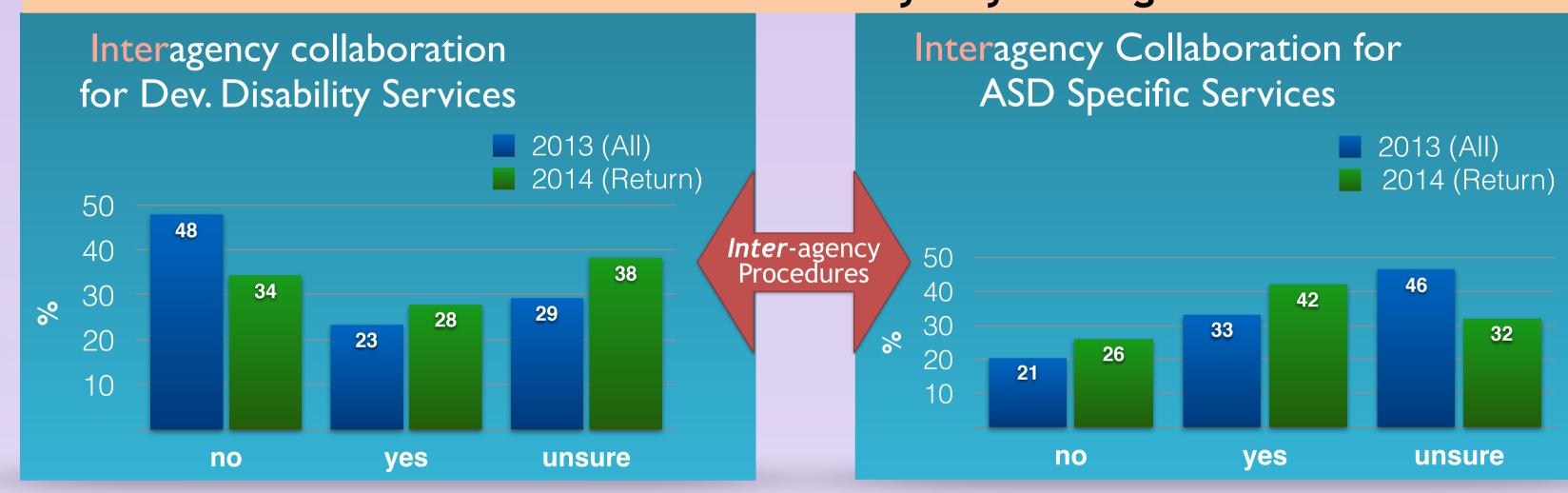
This project is an exemplary model of effecting broad systems' level change by identifying and engaging key stakeholders from every county in California, and leveraging their existing infrastructures and resources. What began as the vision of a few state leadership members has evolved into active cross participation from CA's UCEDDs, CA's Department of Education Diagnostic Centers, Local Education Agencies, CA's Department of Disability Services, and CA's network of Family Resource and Empowerment Centers. Many of these agencies, while mandated to serve the same geographic catchment areas, frequently operate independently. Our CAPTAIN network has facilitated inter-agency collaboration for more strategic and effective impact within each region.

Key Findings





8. & 9. Do you have inter-agency collaborations to address service delivery in your region?



Discussion and Next Steps

To most effectively leverage resources, especially in economically difficult times, interagency collaboration and coordination should be the norm and not the exception. A crucial step is agency member awareness of what types of both formal and informal policies and relationships their agency has with other agencies serving the same populations. The initial 2013 survey results suggested that agency personnel were not often aware of these policies. Through the annual Summits, CAPTAIN established procedures and requirements for inter-agency communication and collaboration between the three primary stakeholder groups, including quarterly planning meetings and the development of cross-agency regional training plans. Thus far, these plans have focused on training and resource sharing, but it is clear from the results of the baseline 2013 survey and the post-Summit 2014 survey that CAPTAIN has facilitated improved awareness of and development of intra-agency and inter-agency procedures, especially around key transition periods such as Part C to Part B and Part B to Adult Services. Next steps include identifying factors that influence successful multi-stakeholder collaboration and facilitation of communication networks between the participating agencies.

Systems level change - the power of engagement and collaboration