Innovative Solutions to Improving Behavioral and Developmental Outcomes for Young Children and Families

A Colorado Case Study

NCSL Early Learning Fellows Kick-Off Meeting

June 8, 2018
Understanding the Challenge

- **10 out of every 1,000** children were removed from Colorado licensed child care settings, compared to a K-12 expulsion rate of nearly **3 per 1,000** students.

- **Approximately 17%** of young children under age 5 experience some type of emotional or behavioral problem, yet **less than half** of these issues are detected before entering school.

- **26.5%** of Colorado parents have concerns about their children’s emotions or behavior, but only a fraction get mental health supports.

- **Half** of adult mental illnesses begin before age 14.
  - National Academy for State Health Policy, 2013)
# The Cost of Not Being Socially & Behaviorally Ready for School

## Near Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Estimated Per Pupil Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being retained in a grade</td>
<td>$11,153/student/year (US Department of Education, 2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receiving services and supports through IEP</td>
<td>Average $10,000/student/year (Bartik, 2011; National Education Association, 2002-2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Being suspended or expelled</td>
<td>Staff time; lost school funding; lost parent wages</td>
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## Long Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Estimated Societal Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 in 5 adults experience a mental illness</td>
<td>$201 Billion (National Academy for State Health Policy, 2013)</td>
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State-Level Leadership & Vision
Early Childhood Colorado Framework
Early Childhood Mental Health State Plan

VISION
all children and families are valued, socially and emotionally healthy, and their relationships are thriving

COLORADO
local and state systems

CONTINUUM OF SUPPORTS
promotion • prevention • intervention • treatment

RELATIONSHIPS
Caregivers • professionals

FAMILIES
CHILD

COLORADO’s Early Childhood Mental Health Strategic Plan:
An Innovative Portfolio of Solutions
Endorsed by the Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission 9/15

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

A long-term sustainable financing approach exists for Colorado’s early childhood mental health system.

Coordination and alignment exists across systems that promotes and extends collaboration and integration.

Colorado’s early childhood workforce has the capacity and expertise defined through knowledge, skills, experiences, and the support necessary to promote child and family mental health and well-being.
Public/Private Enthusiasm & Investment
Colorado Turning Points

2008
SAMHSA Project LAUNCH
Early Childhood Colorado Framework

2010
Weld County Systems Navigation (Project LAUNCH)
Early Childhood Leadership Commission (State Advisory Council)

2013
Early Childhood Mental Health Environmental Scan
ECMH Funders Network
Office of Early Childhood

2014
Colorado Project LAUNCH w/ Adams County as Local Pilot
State Innovation Model
Early Childhood Mental Health Director
Project LAUNCH Replication Planning

2015
EC Mental Health State Plan
EC Colorado Framework Refresh
Young Minds Matter: Mental Health Policy Brief
LAUNCH Together
The Focus

LAUNCH Together supports Colorado communities in expanding evidence-based prevention and promotion strategies and building coordinated systems to support the wellness of children, prenatal through age 8, and their families with a focus on behavioral health and social and emotional development.
Project LAUNCH Framework as Model

Source: http://www.healthysafechildren.org/project-launch-framework
Foundation Partners for LAUNCH Together
Local Innovation Informs Policy & Systems Change
Community Profiles

Chaffee & Fremont
- Large & rural

Pueblo
- Intergenerational poverty

Jefferson
- Gentrification & transportation

Southwest Denver
- 12,500 children
Evaluation
Outcome Pipeline

- System
- Organization
- Program
- Provider/Caregiver
- Individual Family
- Individual Child

Population
# State Network Vitals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Density</th>
<th>Centrality</th>
<th>Trust</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75% out of 100</td>
<td>27% out of 100</td>
<td>75% out of 100</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Preferred score network dependent. Preferred score network dependent. High scores are preferred.
Providers Trained Across the 5 Strategies

68
Screening and Assessment

140
Early care and education

43
Primary health care

34
Home visitation

79
Family Strengthening

54
Other

Trainings by 5 Strategy Areas (n = 320)
Knowledge Change as a Result of Training

Early Childhood Social-Emotional Development

Pre: 3.23  Post: 4.13

Primary Topic Area

Pre: 3.12  Post: 4.10
What Else Do Providers Need?

- Financial support/assistance: 16%
- Individualized coaching on this topic: 20%
- More or better resources: 35%
- More training on this topic: 53%
- Other: 11%
- Smaller caseload/workload: 7%
- Support from org leadership: 37%
- Support from other family members: 18%
Moving Forward
Policy Priorities

✓ Advance integration of mental health services and supports in health care and educational settings through delivery system changes, payment reform and practice transformation.

✓ Develop and fund robust infrastructure to support a statewide screening, referral and care coordination model.

✓ Invest in workforce capacity development to (1) increase the number of qualified mental health professionals and (2) expand professional development and training opportunities that enhance the skills of professionals in the field.

✓ Develop a comprehensive statewide navigation system to connect caregivers, families and children to referral and mental health resources, including supports for crisis situations.

✓ Support innovative practices, programs and approaches, scaling those that are making a demonstrable difference and find ways to embed them into the core work of public agencies serving children.
Key Take-Aways

✓ Without promotion, prevention, and early identification children will continue to struggle from the start.

✓ Colorado’s population is growing and changing. Therefore, we need to re-think how, when, and where social-emotional and mental health supports are accessed by young children and families.

✓ “Complex systems, fail in complex ways, and require complex solutions.” – Ret. Major General John Barry
Molly Yost
Senior Project Manager
Early Milestones Colorado
myost@earlymilestones.org