Early Childhood Mental Health in Colorado:
Progress in Innovation, Alignment, Collaboration and Partnership

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Cross-Systems Collaboration for Children’s Social-Emotional Development
National Academy for State Health Policy
Chicago, Illinois
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Goals for Today

• Highlight Colorado’s Early Childhood Mental Health Strategic Plan and alignment to other initiatives
• Provide an Overview of Colorado Project LAUNCH
• Introduce a Public/Private Collaboration: Colorado Project LAUNCH and LAUNCH Together

helping children soar
Colorado’s Early Childhood Mental Health Strategic Plan: An Innovative Portfolio of Solutions

Endorsed by the Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission 9/15

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

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.

RESULTS

Young children develop to their fullest social–emotional potential; form close and secure interpersonal relationships; and are ready to explore the environment and learn.

Adults are knowledgeable about early childhood mental health and development and have the skills and mental well-being necessary to engage in responsive, supportive relationships with and on behalf of young children.

The continuum of supports and services including promotion, prevention, intervention, and treatment promotes early childhood mental health by building safe and healthy relationships and environments.

Local and state systems and the people of Colorado recognize the importance of early relationships and prioritize and support early childhood mental health in young children and families.
A long-term sustainable financing approach exists for Colorado's early childhood mental health system

- Decision makers and stakeholders have access to timely data that informs policy and funding investment opportunities for early childhood mental health
- State policies regarding payer reform, parity, and reimbursement for services address early childhood mental health needs across the continuum
- Appropriate tools that allow providers and families to understand and respond to the needs of young children in their caregiving contexts are available and reimbursable

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

- Early childhood mental health consultation is available in every region of the state and is accessible to a wide range of professionals who work with children and families in a variety of settings
- A universal and coordinated screening to surveillance system is supported across sectors
- Physical and behavioral health services are integrated within primary care settings to support early childhood mental health and well-being
- Best practices and effective clinical diagnosis, intervention, and treatment are expanded for those needing services at this level
- Barriers to access, utilization, and expected outcomes across the continuum of supports (i.e., promotion, prevention, intervention, and treatment) are identified and reduced

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

- Post-secondary education experiences across disciplines incorporate social–emotional development and mental health awareness into curricula
- Professional development opportunities target social–emotional development and mental health awareness
- Supports and resources are provided to promote the mental health and well-being of those who work with children and families
- The Infant Mental Health Endorsement is used to inform consumers, employers, and institutions about competency in the early childhood workforce
“The purpose of Colorado Project LAUNCH (COPL) is to improve the early childhood system by enhancing the expertise of behavioral health providers in primary care and increasing access to and availability of evidence-based prevention and wellness promotion practices that support young children and families.

The project will address health disparities by incorporating culturally and linguistically appropriate standards and implementing strategies to increase equity through access, service use, and outcomes for racial and ethnic minority young children and families.

COPL aligns with the ECMH Strategic Plan, the Colorado Early Childhood Framework and the state vision that all children are valued, healthy and thriving.”
COPL Objectives

• Access to screening, assessment and referral to services for children and families
• Use of culturally relevant, evidence-based prevention and wellness promotion practices
• Integration of behavioral health into primary care
• Coordination and collaboration across disciplines
• Workforce knowledge of children’s social and emotional development and preparation to deliver high quality care
Collaboration & Partnership

LAUNCH Initiatives
Promote social-emotional health and well-being of young children and families

- Weld Systems Navigation Project
  Weld County (2010-2015)

- Colorado Project LAUNCH (COPL)
  State of Colorado w/ Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County as pilot site (2014-2019)

- LAUNCH Together (2015-2020)

Opportunities for Alignment:
- Policy & Systems Change
- Data Collection, Evaluation Strategy & Information-sharing
- Communications/Public Awareness
Thank You!
Questions?
Please contact Ann Bruce
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