

New Mexico
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems
State Plan



2009-2012

Table of Contents

2009-2012 New Mexico Early Childhood Comprehensive State Systems Strategic Plan	2
Visions and Goals	
Introduction	4
Needs Assessment	5
Current Status of Early Childhood Indicators of Well-Being	6
Health	
Safety and Support	
Early Learning	
Assisting with Transition/Valuing Children and Families	
Current Status of Early Childhood System-Building Efforts in New Mexico	7
Target Populations	
Cross-Walk between Children’s Cabinet Outcomes/ECCS Components/ECCS Goals	
Rational for Changes	
Current Status of Systems Building Goals	11
Methodology	16
Work Plan Outline	17
Work Plan for the Coming Year	30
Year 1 Time Line	
3-Year Time Line	
New Mexico Early Childhood Systems Organizational Chart	37
End Notes	38

2009-2012 NEW MEXICO EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE STATE SYSTEMS STRATEGIC PLAN Vision and Goals

Early Childhood System-Building Vision

New Mexico's Early Childhood Systems will be aligned to promote access of families to state-funded early childhood services through a comprehensive approach encompassing family-centered principles.

HEALTH: Children, their families, and pregnant women have access to continuous preventive, acute, and chronic health care, including physical, nutritional, behavioral, mental, and oral health.

DEVELOPMENT: Young children's developmental concerns are addressed prior to school entry.

EARLY LEARNING: Families have equitable access to high quality learning and care that promotes their child's optimum development, school readiness, and success in school and life.

INVESTMENT: The public and private sector invest in young children and their families to promote healthy development and school readiness to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: New Mexican citizens understand the importance of early childhood development and are actively engaged in supporting policies and programs that help children and families thrive.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: Families nurture their child's optimal development, are strong advocates for their child's needs, and are engaged in designing the early childhood services that they use.

FAMILY FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES AND SERVICES: Families, including families of children with special health care needs, have equitable access to a continuum of comprehensive AND aligned early childhood services and systems in their community performed by providers knowledgeable and trained in early childhood and family support.

HEALTH GOALS:

1. Work with the *Office of the Governor's Council on Women's Health* to develop and implement a holistic reproductive health agenda that ensures that women have the ability to choose whether, when, where, and how to have a child, are supported through pregnancy, and are able to mother with dignity.
2. Develop a statewide system of voluntary home visiting for pregnant women and new families that supports the health, learning, and development of young children and their families.
3. Develop and implement strategies that promote childhood safety and reduce intentional and unintentional injury in early care and educational settings, communities, schools, homes, and other locations where children are cared for.

DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

1. Provide universal developmental screening at recommended intervals during the first five years of a child's life.
2. Improve access and availability of early intervention services for children and their families.
3. Strengthen utilization and quality of *Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, & Treatment (EPSDT)* program in Medicaid.
4. Promote social and emotional development of young children and their families in health care settings (medical home), early care and educational settings, and all other early childhood development programs.

EARLY LEARNING GOALS:

1. Increase quality of early care and education programs for children birth through age eight.
2. Increase access to voluntary early care and education programs for children birth through age eight.
3. Increase access to voluntary *Pre-Kindergarten* in New Mexico communities.
4. Facilitate increased parental involvement in childhood learning and school success.

INVESTMENT GOALS:

1. Partner with business leaders, policy makers, and philanthropy at local, tribal, and state levels to develop and implement a long range early childhood investment and financing plan that is tied to stable funding, as well the reduction of poverty in New Mexico.
2. Partner with policy makers to analyze policy and budget decisions that impact the ability of families to promote their children's well-being.
3. Partner with the *Children's Cabinet* to monitor and improve the well being of young children and their families.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT GOALS:

1. Work with the *New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership* to develop and implement a strategic communication and public engagement plan to increase public awareness of the importance of early childhood development so as to heighten it as a priority within state and local community agendas.
2. Work with the *Office of Philanthropic Outreach* to actively develop relationships with foundations and other funding sources outside of state government to support public engagement efforts.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT GOALS:

1. Educate, involve, and empower family leaders in advocacy and policy development in partnership with state/local/tribal systems to assure early childhood development programs are responsive to family needs.
2. Provide families with the information, resources, skills, and knowledge they need to parent successfully and nurture their child's optimum development.
3. Educate families and the public about optimal child development, health and safety, and social and emotional growth of young children.

FAMILY FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES AND SERVICES GOALS:

1. Develop structures and strategies to lead and coordinate key early childhood services at the state and community level.
2. Improve coordination and collaboration among the various parts of the early childhood system for children birth through age eight and their families.
3. Partner with business and civic leaders to develop family friendly business practices that increase economic productivity AND support families to promote their children's development.

INTRODUCTION

The New Mexico Title V Program is developing a comprehensive state-level multi-agency service system, which reaches to the community level and will support families in fostering the healthy development of their children. There is a crucial need for early childhood systems alignment and integration in New Mexico. New Mexico service systems can better serve families by removing system barriers through cross-agency early childhood systems development planning. The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant is an important opportunity to supplement this systems development work of the State Title V Program.

Through the support of the ECCS grant, New Mexico has accomplished many things during the past five years that improve the health and wellness of young children and their families. Through the vehicle of the public/private partnership represented by the Early Childhood Action Network (ECAN) and the Director of the Children's Cabinet, Lt. Governor Diane Denish, and with firm support from state agency leadership, the following are highlights of the implementation activities from the New Mexico State Early Childhood Plan that the ECCS project has accomplished since its inception:

- Developed a comprehensive annual Early Childhood Policy Agenda (FY 2006, FY 2007, FY 2008, FY 2009).
- Developed prototype Early Childhood Report Card (2005) that evolved into the Children's Cabinet Children's Report Card which is issued annually by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.
- Developed prototype Early Childhood State Agency Budget (2005) that formed the foundation for the Children's Cabinet Children's Budget (2007) which is issued annually by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor; developed Early Childhood Children's Budget (2007, 2008).
- Conducted annual Turn the Curve policy forums to develop Early Childhood Policy Agenda (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008); coordinated communications training to unify the Early Childhood Action Network's (ECAN) core message led by national experts Phil Sparks, Communication Consortium Media Center and Lynn Jones, ZERO TO THREE (2008); hosted learning exchange with England's early childhood delegation to explore nationalized model (2007).
- Coordinated Developmental Screening Symposiums that formed the foundation for New Mexico's new Developmental Screening Initiative (DSI), with published report: Improving Developmental Care for Young Children and Their Families in New Mexico (2006), over 1,600 hard copies have been distributed.
- Established Family Leadership Action Network (FLAN) (2005) in collaboration with NM Department of Health, New Mexico Children's Cabinet to conduct annual Shared Family Leadership Conferences (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008) which has grown from 50 attendees to approximately 300 attendees, and to develop a statewide network for family engagement in public policy discussions; hosted Town Hall Meetings with families and Executive Cabinet Secretaries (2005, 2008).
- Developed an Early Childhood Strategic Plan (2005, updated 2008) which is comprehensive and addresses all of the Children's Cabinet desired outcomes and the five components of the MCHB state early childhood systems development initiative.
- Created policy briefs on early childhood issues: Family Leadership, Home Visiting, Women's Health, Developmental Care, Family Infant Toddler (Early Intervention), Early Childhood Infant Mental Health Training Institute, Medicaid, Early Learning, Young Children's Continuum (2007).
- Partnered with many key stakeholders, including key legislators, to establish funding to Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) to create a Home Visitation Task Force to develop a statewide plan for voluntary newborn home visitation. Participated in Task Force and development of recommendations for report: Building a System of Home Visitation in New Mexico: 2009-2012, published by Children, Youth, and Families Department.
- Partnered with Governor's Women's Health Advisory Council to host Women's Health Forum on Pre-conception and Perinatal Care which developed recommendations to improve outcomes for women that will be submitted to the Governor's Office for the 2009 legislative session.
- Successfully competed for Project LAUNCH initiative (funded by SAMHSA) in partnership between Department of Health, Santa Fe County and Santa Fe Children's Project, which will bring just under \$1 million dollars to New Mexico each year for the next five years to promote wellness of young children, birth to eight years of age, through development of Federal, State, tribal and locally-based networks for the coordination of key child-serving systems and the integration of behavior and physical health services. LAUNCH will work in conjunction with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant.

- Established a Multi-Agency Team: Council on Young Child Wellness (MAT) which is responsible for providing guidance for the state-level implementation plans, feedback from and communication to members' respective agencies, and for insuring support and involvement from their respective organizations as required for both the ECCS and Project LAUNCH initiatives.
- Partnered with Office of the Lieutenant Governor to establish an Early Childhood Investment Committee to develop long term and short term strategies for investing in early childhood development systems. The committee presented their report and recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor on October 29, 2008.
- Established an Early Childhood Resource Website: www.earlychildhoodnm.com with Policy Tool Kit, annual policy documents and summaries, reports, and other research links.

Building on this strong foundation and leveraging the investment of the ECCS project, New Mexico is poised to deepen its early childhood system-building work through the strong partnerships and collaborative networks that have been engaged during the last five years, with firm political support of the executive and legislative branches of government and with increasing support from philanthropy such as the Kellogg Foundation and other state foundations who are placing more emphasis on investment in early childhood.

To assure a successful implementation of the strategic plan and in order to align state early childhood services, a new organizational structure (see org chart at end of document) will be put in place. The responsibilities previously carried out by a contractor will be moved to the newly created position of Early Childhood Coordinator (ECC). This position will work with the Child & Youth Policy Advisor in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and will have the authority to work across agencies and oversee the implementation of the system's change recommendations in the ECCS strategic plan. Secretaries from the Departments of Health; Children, Youth and Families; Human Services; and Public Education will form the Executive Committee. These Secretaries will work directly with the Early Childhood Coordinator who will, in turn, facilitate meetings with project staff, cross-agency early childhood work groups, and public/private partners to meet objectives of ECCS initiative.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

New Mexico is the 16th fastest growing state, with 139,300 children age birth to 5, and 271,765 children age 5 to 14 years of age.¹ Twenty-seven of the thirty-three counties in New Mexico are designated as rural or frontier counties. There are 22 Sovereign Indian Nations: 19 Pueblo, two Apache, and the Navajo Nation that crosses over state boundaries of New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. New Mexico is one of the poorest states in the country, ranking 43rd among states in per capita personal income,² and is 48th in the nation, only above Mississippi and Louisiana, for percentage of children living in poverty.³ Although New Mexico is the 5th largest state in size, it ranks 36th in total population and 45th in population density,⁴ making service delivery in rural areas an ongoing challenge. New Mexico ranks very low among the states on a number of indicators of adequacy of prenatal care, including the percentage of women receiving low or no prenatal care (11.5 %) and a high percentage of low birth weight babies (8.9%).⁵ Since New Mexico is consistently one of the states with the very highest teen birth rates, the high rates of inadequate prenatal care for teens is especially concerning: 32% of pregnant girls 15-7 and 25% of pregnant girls 18-19 had inadequate prenatal care. Lack of providers, especially in the rural areas, and low income/not eligible for Medicaid were the biggest factors in failure to get prenatal care.⁶ New Mexico's border with Mexico and immigration create great challenges in providing health care services, particularly specialty care services, to children and their families residing in, but not born in New Mexico. The priority health status problems are attributed largely to problems associated with living in poverty, working families with too few resources and the problems associated with health risk behaviors.

CURRENT STATUS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING:

Health

- Using the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series, immunization rates for 19-35 month olds in New Mexico have gone from 59.1% in 2002 to 76.0% in 2006-07.⁷
- The number of uninsured children has decreased slightly thanks to an aggressive Medicaid outreach and enrollment campaign, from 18.5% in 2006 to 17.6% in 2008.⁸ As of May 2008, an all time high of 195,711 children aged birth to 12 were enrolled in Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).⁹ However, NM is still among the states with the highest rates of uninsured children.
- In 2006, 85% of infants, 62% of children aged one-two and 42% of children aged three-five received at least one Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT) screen.¹⁰ According to the National Child Health Survey, 2003, only 12% of New Mexico's children receive the recommended number of well-child visits.
- 27.8% of teen mothers age 15-17 and 24.4% of teen mothers age 18-19 had post-partum depressive symptoms. These age groups also had the highest rates of new mothers who did not receive a routine 6 week check up following the birth: 15.2% and 15.6% respectively did not have a six-week checkup.¹¹

Safety and Support

New Mexico's record of assuring safety and support of its children continues to need increased focus:

- In 2006, twenty-six percent (26%) of New Mexico's children lived in poverty compared to the national rate of 18.5%.¹²
- 15% of mothers lived in families where there was not enough to eat.¹³
- 13% of mothers in New Mexico report they have no one they can count on for support after the birth of their baby.¹⁴
- From July 2006 through June 2007 there were 30,632 reports of child abuse in New Mexico and 15,585 cases were substantiated. The most common maltreatment was neglect.
- In New Mexico, injuries continue to be the leading cause of death in children birth to fourteen years. In 2006, the rate of unintentional fatal injuries was 12.7% for children ages 1-4, and 8.5% for children 5-14.¹⁵
- 15.7% of mothers reported they received a prenatal or post-partum home visit.¹⁶
- 13% of teen mothers age 18-19 reported physical abuse by their current or ex partner before pregnancy, while 7.9% reported abuse during pregnancy.
- Children of teen mothers also experience the highest rates of food insecurity: 23% of mothers age 15-17 and 19% age 18-19 reported that the family "sometimes" or "often" did not have enough food to eat.¹⁷

Early Learning

The investment New Mexico is making in the early learning system is beginning to show significant improvements.

- In 2008 there were 1,005 licensed early care providers, 67% of which had a 2 star or higher star rating, up from just 15% in 2004. This indicates voluntary maintenance of qualifications above the minimum necessary for licensing.
- As of January 2009, 12.5% of licensed early care centers in New Mexico are nationally accredited.
- 404 early childhood teachers are enrolled in college level early childhood teacher education coursework with the help of T.E.A.C.H. scholarships, more than 20 times the number in 2004 when the program was initiated.
- In 2004, four New Mexico counties had T.E.A.C.H. scholars; in 2008, all but four of the state's 33 counties had one or more scholars.¹⁸
- Only 24% of fourth grade students in the state were reading at or above proficiency in 2008;¹⁹ this is a measure of the critical importance of this progress in early childhood teacher education to better literacy scores for future students.

Assisting with Transition/Valuing Children and Families

The NM Spark (Supportive Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) five-year Transition Project completed the demonstration site aspect of the work in May 2008. This project included building in sustainability and scaling up measures and looked at the importance of developing Ready Kids, Ready Schools, Ready Families, Ready Communities as part of the systems and service building throughout the state. The results of the evaluation process show promise in the area of alignment of systems and creating family friendly environments while using the New Mexico created Joining Hands Framework.

According to a Report Card released by the New Mexico Public Education Department (www.ped.state.nm.us) the Department:

- Named statewide Parent and Family Involvement Advisory Council with parents and representatives from 23 organizations and parent and family groups, 2007.
- Created an agency Parent Involvement Action Committee to ensure integration and collaboration for 21 state and federal mandated and 9 optional parent involvement activities, 2007.
- Implemented a Parent Involvement Media initiative, 2006-2008.
- Provided parent involvement district and school training, 2006-2008.
- Completed a teen father video in collaboration with Human Services Division, 2007.
- PTA parent involvement workbook targeted K-6 for every parent, 2007.
- Supported 13 rural school-community programs that partner school curriculum with community needs to revitalize economies, workforce, and culture, 2007.
- NM's Rural Revitalization program considered a model by the National Community Education Association, 2007.

While there is little data available to measure how New Mexico is doing in valuing children and families, we do know that in 2005 New Mexico scored a C+ on parent partnerships in the new Making Schools Work Report Card released by the Public Education Department.²⁰ In 2007, although this Report Card assessed New Mexico's children to be facing more barriers to school success than any other state (based on statistics for parental poverty, parental educational attainment, parental ability to speak English, and similar factors), the state received an A- and a ranking of 4th in the nation for its policies strengthening academic standards, assessments, and school accountability, the building blocks of the state's educational reform strategy.²¹

An environmental scan, funded by the NM Project LAUNCH initiative, was recently completed which mapped systems and programs that serve children in New Mexico from birth through eight years of age and their families, including a financial map of funding streams that support programs to address the physical, emotional, social, and behavioral health of children. It assessed publicly funded family support and parent education programs; current social marketing and media programs whose target audiences are families and young children, birth to age eight, funded by various state agencies; public programs and funds dedicated to professional development of early childhood providers in all state agencies; and family friendly practices implemented by large and small businesses in New Mexico.

CURRENT STATUS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM-BUILDING EFFORTS IN NEW MEXICO:

The New Mexico ECCS project began updating the Strategic Plan in March, 2007, when the ECCS project administered a strategic plan survey (via survey monkey) and distributed the survey to over 400 key early childhood stakeholders from all across the state via the ECAN list serv. Eighty-eight (88) responses were received from all sectors of the state early childhood system. In the survey, the former 2005 strategic plan goals were outlined with implementation steps and respondents were asked to provide input about further need for work under those goals. The data was summarized and analyzed by both ECAN Steering Committee and Executive Committee, leading to the changes in goals and target populations that are listed below. With the convening of the new Multi-Agency Team: Council on Young Child Wellness (MAT), additional input was provided by state agency representatives. Finally, the Secretaries of Health, Public Education, Human Services, and Children, Youth and Families have given input and support for the New Mexico Early Childhood Comprehensive State Systems Strategic Plan.

Target Populations Addressed in the Revised Plan:

The New Mexico Early Childhood Comprehensive State Systems Strategic Plan has been revised to focus on the following target populations:

- New Mexico's youngest children, birth to age five, including families of child-bearing age contemplating pregnancy, pregnant women, and their families.
- A special emphasis on the needs of families with infants and toddlers, birth to age three, needs the highest priority since this is the time when 80% of a child's brain develops and when other critical health, developmental, and learning milestones occur.

- In addition, our planning addresses the continuum of early childhood growth and development, birth to age eight, given significant stages of development for young children during these critical years and the transition needs of families as they move from systems of early care into public education.

The changes in target population, goals and implementation strategies formed the framework for New Mexico's application to SAMSHA for Project LAUNCH. New Mexico is one of six state/tribe grantees selected to participate in the first cohort of the Project LAUNCH initiative, which also calls for submission of an early childhood strategic plan. We are in the process of working with the local Project LAUNCH, housed at the United Way of Santa Fe County, the newly formed MAT, public/private partnerships, and the Children's Cabinet to further refine the Early Childhood Strategic Plan. We are committed to having one state early childhood strategic plan that is broad enough to guide all of the early childhood system's building work in New Mexico, irrespective of multiple funding streams coming into the state from various federal agencies to fund components of New Mexico's early childhood system. The new plan provides comprehensive strategies for addressing and strengthening the five ECCS components to achieve the New Mexico five Children's Cabinet outcomes.

To assure the successful implementation of the new strategic plan, the new organizational structure will be put into place. Just like the decision to update the strategic plan, it was decided that the structure in which the plan is implemented needs to be updated as well. Based on the work of the past five years, it is now time to create a structure which emphasizes alignment and system-building within state government. Incorporation of the ECCS grant, more formally, into the organizational structure of the Lt. Governor's Office assures increased communication and more direct leadership of activities through the Children's Cabinet, as well as a seamless alignment of state agency program goals and objectives.

The implementation plan, goals, objectives and activities are based on achieving the results reflected in the Children's Cabinet outcome statements. The cross-walk between the Children's Cabinet Outcomes, the ECCS components and the current goals of the New Mexico ECCS project are as follows:

<p>Children’s Cabinet Outcome: We want to create a state where all of our children and youth will be:</p>	<p>ECCS Components:</p>	<p>NM ECCS State Vision: New Mexico’s Early Childhood Systems will be aligned to promote access of families to state-funded early childhood services through a comprehensive approach encompassing family-centered principles.</p>
<p>Physically and mentally healthy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medial Homes/Health Care ▪ Social-Emotional Development/Mental Health 	<p>HEALTH: Children, their families and pregnant women have access to continuous preventive, acute and chronic health care, including physical, nutritional, behavioral, mental, and oral health.</p> <p>DEVELOPMENT: Young children’s developmental concerns are addressed prior to school entry.</p>
<p>Safe in their families and communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family Support Services ▪ Parenting Education 	<p>FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: Families nurture their child’s optimal development, are strong advocates for their child’s needs, and are engaged in designing the early childhood services that they use.</p>
<p>Valued contributors to their community through civic responsibility, connection, and being culturally and linguistically enriched</p>		
<p>Well-educated and provided with opportunities to reach their full potential</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early Care and Education 	<p>EARLY LEARNING: Families have equitable access to high quality learning and care that promotes optimal development and school readiness, and success in school and life.</p>
<p>Become productive, self-sufficient and employable adults</p>		
	<p>Early Childhood System Building Goals:</p>	<p>Early Childhood System Building Goals:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financing 	<p>INVESTMENT: The public and private sector invest in young children and their families to promote healthy development and school readiness to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governance ▪ Standards/Monitoring/Accountability ▪ Communications/Family Leadership Development ▪ Provider/Practitioner Support 	<p>FAMILY FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES AND SERVICES: Families, including families of children with special health care needs, have equitable access to a continuum of comprehensive AND aligned early childhood services and systems in their community performed by providers knowledgeable and trained in early childhood and family support</p>
		<p>PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: New Mexican citizens understand the importance of early childhood development and are actively engaged in supporting policies and programs at all levels that help children and families to thrive.</p>

Rationale For Changes to the 2005 Early Childhood Strategic Action Plan for New Mexico:

The First Four Goals

The goals related to Health, Development, Family Engagement and Early Learning have been re-worded to reflect a deeper understanding of the implementation strategies and action steps that key stakeholders feel are needed to more effectively address the needs of children and families in New Mexico. The Health goal has been broadened to include behavioral, mental, and oral health – three key areas in New Mexico that really need attention in the early childhood system work. The Development goal has remained the same, but implementation strategies will place more emphasis on addressing maternal depression. The Early Learning goal has been re-worded to be inclusive of the new emphasis on early learning, birth through age eight, with a particular focus on transition among various early childhood programs (home visitation to early intervention, medical home to early learning, etc.) and transition between early learning programs, Pre-Kindergarten, kindergarten and elementary school.

The NM ECCS System Building Goals

During the first years of the ECCS project (2003-2008), greater focus was given to the first four goals which included strategies to: strengthen funding for the child health insurance coverage; remove barriers to enrollment and retention in the state Medicaid program; strengthen developmental screening and early intervention services; develop a plan for implementing a statewide system of voluntary home visitation; continue strengthen and improve the quality of early learning services, including a strong emphasis on inclusive child care; continuing to move towards increasing eligibility for child care assistance up to 200% of poverty; and designee and implementing a totally new Pre-Kindergarten initiative for our state. The activity described above corresponds with the first two system building components outlined in “A Framework For Evaluating System’s Initiatives”²²: 1) Context: Improving the political environment that surrounds the system so it produces the policy and funding changes needed to create and sustain it; and 2) Establishing high-performance programs and services within the system that produce results for system beneficiaries.

Much of the system-building work over the last five years was devoted to developing a Children’s Report Card, a Children’s Budget, and an Early Childhood Investment Committee comprised of business leaders to develop financing strategies to support expanding key early childhood services in our state with a particular emphasis on home visitation and Pre-Kindergarten – two key components of the early childhood system that are absolutely under-funded and reach a minority of children and families. The system’s building work over the last five years has focus more on state systems.

While work needs to continue in the first two system-building focus areas, this proposal begins to place more emphasis on focus area 3) Connections: Creating strong and effective linkages across system components that further improve results for system beneficiaries.

Because of increased emphasis on alignment and system-building within state government, the goal in the former strategic plan, “NO WRONG DOOR: There will be No Wrong Door for families: An integrated state service system that families can easily use will be ensured,” has been re-written to increase the focus and make the work of state agency system’s alignment a priority. The re-written goal also reflects the need to strengthen local/tribal early childhood services and systems development efforts. More importantly, the implementation strategies and action steps have been greatly strengthened.

An additional goal was added related to Public Engagement. In all of the survey results and group brainstorming that has taken place for the duration of the project, this has emerged as a pre-condition for increasing investment in early childhood services and helping the general public, policy makers, and families understand the profound developmental milestones that take place in a child’s first years of life.

The ECCS effort will strengthen the focus on these very important areas of system-building, but does so in a climate of profound budgetary shortfall for our state. However, the benefits of system-building in this economic climate are a more effective use of tax payer dollars, reduction of duplication through system alignment, and greater reach of early childhood programs and services to young children and their families.

New Mexico State Early Childhood Implementation Plan Progress and Remaining Need

The following is a brief review and highlights of the most important implementation activities carried out during the past grant year under the previous New Mexico State Early Childhood Plan and remaining needs associated with newly updated 2009-2012 New Mexico Early Childhood Comprehensive State, Systems Strategic Plan. **The bold statements under each goal title indicate the implementation plan activities that were carried out during 2008. Changes to the plan will be identified in the narrative.** It is difficult to document every aspect of this work and the benefits of it; credit goes to all those ECAN members and state agency staff who have contributed countless hours to improving outcomes for New Mexico's young children and families.

CURRENT STATUS NEW MEXICO SYSTEM BUILDING GOALS:

1. Family Engagement (formerly Parents as Partners)

2008 Implementation Plan Activities:

Continue to strengthen a statewide formal network of family leaders to partner with policy leaders and decision-makers to ensure a mechanism exists for families to have input into policies, program design and evaluation of early childhood services by May 31, 2009.

- In 2008, the fourth annual Family Leadership Conference had an attendance of nearly 300. Families participated in a community mapping session on the first day of the conference. The intent of the activity was to support families to think collectively about issues, to present recommendations for change, and to develop a shared understanding of the issues affecting families in the topics of: Family Friendly Services/ Transportation; Education; Health; Early Care and Education; Family Support and Parenting Education. Groups involved in organizing this conference were New Mexico Department of Health; ECAN; Parent's Reaching Out, a family advocacy group; the New Mexico Community Foundation, SPARK Project; New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children; and UNM Family Development Program.
- A town hall of the New Mexico's Children's Cabinet was held in conjunction with the fourth annual Family Leadership Conference. State agency leaders from the highest level from the following Departments: Health, Human Services (Medicaid), Public Education, Children Youth and Families, Aging and Long-Term Services, and Corrections attended to hear the issues and recommendations that families had for the children's cabinet from the mapping session the previous day.
- The New Mexico Family and Parent Involvement Advisory Council of the NM Public Education Department was established in 2007 to provide advocacy, guidance, and support for child centered policies and practices affecting family, school, business, and community engagement to local and state decision-makers, and to increase parent and family involvement in children's education.

Results:

- Recommendations from the Family Leadership Conference Issues and Recommendations to New Mexico's Children Cabinet can be found on the Early Childhood Resource website: www.earlychildhoodnm.com.
- New Mexico's Guiding Principles on Family & Parent Involvement were developed by the Family and Parent Advisory Council of the New Mexico Public Education Department to guide family involvement initiatives and activities in the public schools.

Remaining Need to be addressed in updated 2009-2012 Plan:

- Family Leadership Initiative is under-funded. There is tremendous need to fund this family leadership work so that it can be institutionalized. A minimum of \$200,000 is needed to fund a coordinator and to provide stipends to families to participate in early childhood system building activities.
- Family Leadership Development is taking place in several places in State government. There is a lack of coordination between state agencies around the family leadership work that is being implemented. New Mexico Department of Health supports the Family Leadership Conference (Early Intervention Program and the Family Health Bureau both contribute funds); the Public Education Department supports the Family and Parent Advisory Council. The work between these two major initiatives is not coordinated. The ECC will be able to coordinate and bring these different initiatives into alignment.
- There is a need to map all family engagement training and professional development that is available to teachers, leaders and other stakeholders in early childhood and organizations that serve families in New Mexico. The ECC will provide a coordinated approach to the provision of this information to families, schools, educators, and other stakeholders.

- Families need to know where to get information. Often information is not in their first language or available in places that families say are easily accessible (doctor's offices, churches, local stores, chapter house, WIC office, etc.). Parenting education information and a social marketing strategy through public service announcements on the radio, TV, local newspapers, and the internet would be effective ways to communicate. Parents complain about misinformation and poor communication between themselves and service providers. To address this need, Project LAUNCH will propose a training model for "Parent Cafés" that can be used throughout the state. "Parent Cafés" provide a unique mechanism for taking the information directly to parents for them to discuss, internalize, and act upon. "Parent Cafés" are a sophisticated method of drawing out parent participation that requires in-depth training and ongoing development of parent leaders.

2. Investment

2008 Implementation Plan Activities:

Early Childhood Investment Task Force produced recommendations by fall, 2008.

- The organizing committee for the Early Childhood Investment Committee, which consisted of Katherine Freeman, CEO United Way of Santa Fe County, Lee Reynis, Director of Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of New Mexico, Lois Vermilya, UNM Family Development Program (ECAN Executive Committee representative) and ECAN consultants, Frances Varela and Kathy Armijo Etre, met over the Fall of 2007 to develop a plan for organizing the EC Investment Committee. Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish approved of the plan and the list of invitees in February, 2008. The list of invitees included business leaders, executive leadership, economic leadership and legislative leadership, including members of the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC). Invitation letters were developed by the Lt. Governor and sent out from United Way of SF County. First meetings of the newly formed Early Childhood Investment Committee took place on April 28, May 28, and June 18, 2008 with the Lt. Governor in attendance.
- Sub Committees on Public Financing and Business Partnerships were established for the time period of April-October, 2008. The sub committees met monthly throughout the summer to consider short and long term financing strategies and to engage business leaders in advocacy for early childhood legislative requests. Between 17 and 22 business leaders attended and were actively engaged in the work of this committee.
- December 10, 2008 a Legislative dinner was held between business members of EC Investment Committee, the Lt. Governor, and key members of the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC). Commitments were secured to increase funding to NM Pre-K, home visitation, and to maintain child care assistance at 200% of poverty.

Results:

- Early Childhood Investment Committee Report and Recommendations was approved by the Lt. Governor.
- The NM Early Childhood Partnership, a public/private partnership, was created. Its membership will include business and philanthropic leaders who will promote investment in early childhood development, finalize financing strategies to fund key early childhood programs, advocate for those financing strategies at the highest levels of decision-making, and develop a public awareness campaign regarding the importance of investing in early childhood development.
- United Way of Santa Fe County will provide the infrastructure and is currently working to raise funds to support this initiative. The work will be overseen by Lt. Governor Diane Denish and Katherine Freeman, CEO of United Way of Santa Fe County.
- Funding is included in the 2009 Legislative budget as requested by the EC Investment Committee.
- The annual New Mexico Children's Report Card and Budget continue to be produced and distributed each year since 2005 by the New Mexico Children's Cabinet. (www.nmchildrenscabinet.com)

Remaining Need to be addressed in updated 2009-2012 Plan: Working under the leadership and guidance of the Lt. Governor and the Lt. Governor's Child & Youth Policy Advisory, the ECC will work:

- To ensure alignment between the work of this new NM Early Childhood Partnership entity and all of the other early childhood work that is taking place in New Mexico.
- To further research various financing strategies and analyze their political and practical feasibility, especially in the context of the current fiscal down turn.

- To identify additional private, corporate and/or philanthropic dollars to fund the public awareness campaign.
- To establish the New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership as a potent force for building the political will to make early childhood development a top policy priority in New Mexico.

3. Family Friendly Communities and Services (formerly No Wrong Door)

2008 Implementation Plan Activities:

Establish a State-Interagency Early Childhood group to develop recommendations for a more accessible early childhood system

- The State MAT was created to provide guidance for the state-level implementation plans, feedback from and communication to members' respective agencies, and for insuring support and involvement from their respective organizations as required for both the ECCS and Project LAUNCH initiatives.
- This year a new division, Early Childhood Services Division within Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), was created by Secretary Dorian Dodson to better align all of the early childhood programs and initiatives in the Children, Youth and Families Department. Included in the new division is the home visitation program, the child care assistance program, Pre-K, multiple quality initiatives and programs related to early learning, the office of Child Development and the Child Development Board, and the Head Start Collaboration office. This re-organization of early childhood programs within CYFD is the result of greater focus on early childhood systems alignment within CYFD.
- The Department of Health successfully competed for the Project LAUNCH initiative (funded by SAMHSA) in partnership between Department of Health, Santa Fe County, and the Santa Fe Children's Project, which will bring just under \$1 million dollars to New Mexico each year for the next five years to promote wellness of young children, birth to eight years of age, through development of Federal, State, tribal and locally-based networks for the coordination of key child-serving systems and the integration of behavior and physical health services. LAUNCH will work in conjunction with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant.

Results:

- There has been increased effort to define the work of alignment for the state. Progress is reflected in the revised Early Childhood Strategic Plan.

Remaining Need to be addressed in updated 2009-2012 Plan:

- The ECC working with the newly formed MAT needs to develop a work plan which would prioritize their activities based on the strategic plan and the needs of Project LAUNCH local community system building efforts.
- New Mexico has many local Health Councils which are community coalitions designed to improve health and wellness. Some of these councils are working on improving well-being of early childhood population. There is a need to gather together communities who are working to improve early childhood at the local level and identify "best practices." The Health Councils also need to share with the rest of the state the needs for support that these community groups may have.
- The ECC will catalogue and align the capacity building efforts of state agencies directed to providers of services to young children and their families. Front-line state workers need to be supported to provide respectful, culturally competent, useful services that support families in all communities.
- Core Early Childhood Development (ECD) training needs to be developed based on a common set of outcomes and delivered to multiple disciplines who serve the target population.

4. Public Engagement (New Goal)

Work to Date:

- Over 75 members of ECAN were trained by Phil Sparks, co-founder and executive vice-president, Communications Consortium Media Center (CCMC), in how to develop core messages on the importance of early childhood development.
- ECAN formed a Strategic Communications Committee to develop a core message box that all members can use as they reach out to others about the importance of early childhood development.
- Concept development for a new campaign called "Decade of the Child" is currently being discussed by the Strategic Communications Committee of ECAN.
- ECAN Outreach Committee formed to develop tools and to reach out to new constituencies with the message about the importance of early childhood development.

Results:

- A message box was developed, and an investment slide show was also developed based on the message box. It was vetted with business leaders.
- A Creative Public Awareness Strategy Brief was used by a public relations firm who developed pro bono a creative strategy brief outlining an approach for developing a public awareness campaign for the Early Childhood Investment Committee and Lt. Governor Diane Denish.

Remaining Need to be addressed in updated 2009-2012 Plan:

- There is a need for funding to implement the public awareness campaign.
- Develop and implement plans to reach out to new stakeholders to embrace the importance of ECD.
- Need to reach out at the grassroots, community level to have conversations about importance of ECD and what communities can do to support families to nurture their young children.

5. Health**2008 Implementation Plan Activities:****Continue to collaborate with Medicaid to assure all young children and their families have access to Medicaid and a medical home.**

- \$20 million was appropriated during a special legislative session in August, 2008 to enroll more eligible children in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program; \$10 million to enroll more individuals with developmental disabilities in the Medicaid waiver program; and \$2.5 million for direct behavioral health services for children. This funding was de-authorized due the state budget deficit in 2009.
- The Medicaid recertification process has been streamlined to expedite recipient renewal and facilitate the enrollment of newborn infants. The Notification of Birth form was updated. The form is filled out and sent to Medicaid by the hospitals or medical providers when a child is born to a Medicaid eligible mother. The recertification process has been simplified by sending a letter to recipients asking if there are any changes to their income. If there are no changes, the recipient does not need to go to the Income Support Division (ISD) office to recertify. If there are changes, the recertification will be facilitated by a new team of ISD workers that will accept the new information from recipients. The recipient can recertify by fax, phone, e-mail or mail.

Partner to implement recommendations of home visiting task force report over the next nine months. *This implementation plan activity was formerly under the development goal. It was moved here because of the interest in LFC and Executive branches of obtaining Medicaid funding and private health insurance dollars to finance system of home visitation.*

- A report providing the framework for the state's system of home visitation was released in July 2008. The report does not endorse specific models, but rather sets standards and outcomes for the publicly funded home visitation programs. A follow-up meeting to the plan's release was held in October, 2008 by Children, Youth and Families Department, the Legislative Finance Committee, along with National Conference of State Legislatures consultant Jack Tweedie and Catherine Bodkin, a representative from the home visitation program in Virginia, to discuss how to leverage Medicaid funding for New Mexico's home visitation program. A work group is being established to further the implementation of the recommendations in the Home Visitation report, align key programs that provide home visitation, such as the early intervention program, Families FIRST Perinatal Case Management Program, and the CYFD home visitation program.

Fall Women's Health Policy Forum to address gaps in pre-conceptional and perinatal care.

- The Governor's Women's Health Advisory Council and the Early Childhood Action Network collaborated to host a meeting in October 2008 to develop recommendations, using a woman-centered approach, to improve indicators of well being for women related to pre-conceptional and perinatal health. Over 50 key stakeholders, agency leaders, and Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish met to dialogue and develop strategies in the following areas: 1) catalyzing a woman centered model of pregnancy care for NM; 2) community engagement in women's perinatal health; 3) strengthening NM system of perinatal care inclusive of pre-conception care; and 4) improving access to behavioral health treatment for maternal depression, and 5) strengthening choices for New Mexico's young women. The Governor's Women's Health Advisory Council has made pre-conceptional and perinatal care their top policy priority over the next two years.

Results:

- Medicaid health coverage is available to additional children in New Mexico based on the extension of recertification period to 12 months.
- “Building a System of Home Visitation in New Mexico: The Next Three Years 2009-2012” was released in July and is available on www.earlychildhoodnm.com.
- The Governor’s Women’s Health Advisory Council offered initial recommendations, “What is Needed to Strengthen Women’s Health in New Mexico,” which created a work group for child-bearing aged women’s health needs.

Remaining Need to be addressed in updated 2009-2012 Plan:

- The ECC, under the leadership of the Executive Committee and the Lt. Governor’s Child & Youth Policy Advisor will seek additional funding to increase access to home visitation services for more New Mexico families, implement the recommendations from the Home Visitation report, establish a cross agency group to align home visitation services, and reduce duplication between home visitation and early intervention services, and other key early childhood programs.
- Increase awareness of and access to treatment for post-partum depression.
- Explore re-building the Healthy Child Care New Mexico initiative through implementing a state-wide system for child care health consultants (CCHC). During Year 2 of Project LAUNCH, a state level Coordinator (MCH Health Educator/MSW funded through Title V) will be sent to a three-day National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants in North Carolina. With the support and guidance of the Multi-Agency Team and input from public/private partners, the entities which will serve as the CCHC and the model to be used will be determined and collaborations will be built. CCHC will focus on health issues – developmental screenings and physical and social-emotional health. Collaborations with SAFE KIDS Coalition will continue and be nurtured with the State Child Care Administrator, Child Care Licensing and Assistance, Resource and Referral Agency, and Health Start State Collaboration Office.
- Increase oral health awareness state-wide. The Dental program continues to help individuals and families access dental services in the community through Dental Case Management in Santa Fe only. This program has been very successful and the Department of Health is looking to replicate it statewide. The program also provides oral health and educational outreach in the community, including Health Start Programs and ChildFind screening clinics (Santa Fe and Española area), oral health education and dental case management/follow-up with the Fluoride Varnish Program (for children 0-5 years of age), coordination of these clinics in partnership with Santa Fe WIC, and Santa FE and Rio Arriba Head Start programs.

6. Development**2008 Implementation Plan Activities:****Increase the number of providers who offer developmental screens with a validated to by May 31, 2009.**

- Developmental Screening Initiative New Mexico (DSI) is a community-based, systems oriented, evidence-directed quality improvement initiative working with health care providers and other professionals statewide to promote highest standard of practice in developmental screening. The long range goal of DSI is to ensure that no child reaches school with an undetected developmental condition. Participants in DSI receive education, training, and on-going technical support to promote routine use of standardized developmental screening tools over a nine month period of time. DSI is approved by the American Board of Pediatrics as an official Quality Improvement Project. Participating pediatricians will, upon completion, have fulfilled their quality improvement project requirement for Maintenance of Certification in pediatrics effective in 2010. DSI has expanded beyond the original pilot site in Albuquerque to community sites in Roswell and Grants, and planning to begin a site in Raton.
- There is increased interest by the Governor’s Women’s Health Advisory Council, a high level governor’s appointed group, to address the issue of maternal depression which afflicts 20% of new mothers in New Mexico. Recently a presentation was made to the Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative on post partum depression.

Results:

- There is increased demand for Quality Improvement initiative to improve Developmental Screening and referrals to early intervention.

- There is increased momentum and partnerships to address maternal depression.

Remaining Need to be addressed in updated 2009-2012 Plan:

- Funding is needed to meet the community demand for the DSI quality improvement project. Since DSI receives a Medicaid match, it is estimated that the project needs \$100,000 of new dollars to expand to all of the communities who are requesting DSI training.
- Multi-agency groups need to become familiar with the “Improving Developmental Screening” document produced under the ECCS grant.
- The needs of mothers who are suffering from maternal depression are not being met. Approximately 50% of births in the state are paid for by Medicaid. Medicaid for pregnancy related services ends with the 6-week post-partum visit. Maternal depression is typically diagnosed much later. Strategies for treating maternal depression and financing for those services are in the process of being developed.
- New Mexico has been selected to join the Early Childhood and Community Schools Linkages Project hosted by the Coalition for Community Schools. The purpose of the project in New Mexico is to increase the number and percentages of developmental screenings provided for children birth to five. Three elementary schools in Albuquerque have been selected as New Mexico sites.

7. Early Learning

2008 Implementation Plan Activities:

Promote improvement of quality in licensed early childhood homes and centers, create more effective learning environment and improve outcomes for children by May 31, 2009.

- During department reorganization, the Early Childhood Services Division was established within the Children, Youth and Families Department.
- During the Special 2008 Legislative session, funding was appropriated to increase child care assistance to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- The state has increased both appropriation levels and total enrollment for state-funded prekindergarten. In school year 2005-2006, the appropriation was \$4.95 million with 1,538 4-year olds enrolled. In 2008-09 the budget calls for funding of \$19.39, with an anticipated enrollment level of 4,867 4-year olds.²³

Remaining Need to be addressed in updated 2009-2012 Plan:

- Aligned use of early learning guidelines for assessments/curriculum planning/reporting.
- Revise the NM Early Learning Plan to include the following: strategizing for a comprehensive/fully-articulated professional development system; a mechanism for aligned Training and Technical Assistance Programs (TTAP); and early learning guideline/outcomes for birth – kindergarten.

METHODOLOGY

The goals, specific objectives, and results outlined below provide a framework for how the state and local partners will collaborate to achieve a strengthened, cohesive infrastructure that addresses the needs of all children, birth to eight, in New Mexico. The State is on the forefront of targeting children’s health through assigning a position in the Lt. Governor’s office and through partnerships within Departments. NM has prioritized children’s health and wellness through strong policy and agendas, shown by the support of the Children’s Cabinet and the ECCS network. Using a public health approach which addresses the needs of the population and seeks to improve outcomes at the individual and community levels by addressing risk factors that can lead to negative outcomes, the NM ECCS initiative promotes protective factors that support resilience and health development which can protect individuals from later social, emotional, physical and behavioral problems. This public health approach encompasses family-centered principles throughout the ECCS plan. The methodology outlined is for the three year period of 2009 through 2012.

**2009-2012 NEW MEXICO EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE STATE SYSTEMS STRATEGIC PLAN
WORK PLAN OUTLINE**

HEALTH VISION: Children, their families and pregnant women have access to continuous preventive, acute, and chronic health care, including physical, nutritional, behavioral, mental, and oral health.

Health Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
Work with the <i>Office of the Governor's Council on Women's Health</i> to develop and implement a holistic reproductive health agenda that ensures women have the ability to choose whether, when, where, and how to have a child, are supported through pregnancy, and are able to mother with dignity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a comprehensive system to serve women that is community-based and women directed and centered. • Increase access to comprehensive pre-conception, pregnancy and post pregnancy services in all NM communities. • Increase awareness of and access to treatment for post-partum depression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize recommendations from fall and spring Women's Health Policy Forum that focused on pre-conception, prenatal, and post partum care. • Seek endorsements for policy recommendations from key stakeholder groups in New Mexico. • Develop and implementation action plan and timetable. • Review inclusion of maternal depression issues in in all relevant areas of strategic plan, including: Medicaid and private health insurance coverage, maternal depression screening in Developmental Screening Initiative, and screening tools in home visiting programs. 	Office of the Governor's Council on Women's Health, ECAN, MAT, Maternal Depression Working Group	% of mothers who have a healthy birth index (DOH)
Develop a statewide system of voluntary home visiting for pregnant women and new families that supports the health, learning, and development of young children and their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement recommendations from "Building a System of Home Visitation in New Mexico -The Next Three Years 2009-2012." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with CYFD to participate in the Home Visitation Work Group to increase financing, implement standards and outcomes and assure program alignment with other key early childhood services. 	MAT, State Home Visiting Workgroup, Santa Fe County Home Visiting Collaborative, CYFD, DOH	% of NM families who participate in voluntary newborn home visitation program (CYFD)
Develop and implement strategies that promote childhood safety and reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen health and safety standards in early learning plan and in standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure representation of SAFE KIDS Coalition representatives on Child 	ECC, DOH, CYFD, EMS-C, UNM Children's Hospital, NM Child Fatality Review Team,	Rate of intentional and unintentional child injuries by age (DOH & Health Policy)

Health Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
<p>intentional and unintentional injury in early care and education settings, communities, schools, homes, and other locations where children receive care.</p>	<p>and outcomes for early childhood services and systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen health and safety training in programs that serve children: family child care homes, home visitation, early care and education settings. • Explore utilization of best practices for child abuse prevention in all the settings where children are cared for. • Explore rebuilding Healthy Child Care New Mexico 	<p>Development Board advisory group charged with revision on New Mexico Early Learning Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current state standards related to health and safety in early care an education and other settings serving young children – compare to national standards and recommend revisions. • Work with other state agencies and the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C) Program to design a pilot intervention project around injury prevention reporting for children who seek care in the Emergency Departments. • Collaborate with the NM Child Fatality Review teams in advocating for targeted prevention. • Collaborate with EMS-C to design a child homicide prevention program for parents and children at risk. • Collaborate with the University of NM Children's Hospital in designing a Child Safety Center. • Send Child Care Health Consultant Coordinator for training and determine the entities which will serve as the CCHC and the model to be used. 	<p>SAFE KIDS Coalition, Safer New Mexico Now (SNMN), Child Care Health Consultants (CCHC), MAT, Public/Private Partners, County Health Councils</p>	<p>Commission, State Trauma Registry)</p>

DEVELOPMENT VISION: Young Children’s developmental concerns are addressed prior to school entry.

Development Goals	Implementation Steps	2009 -2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
Provide universal developmental screening at recommended intervals during the first five years of a child’s life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement quality improvement processes in early childhood settings and in communities to increase utilization of developmental screening with validated, standardized screening tools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify sustainable funding sources to ensure that all NM communities have access to the training and tools to implement a system of high quality developmental screening and early intervention. 	Developmental Screening Initiative NM (DSI), Center for Development & Disability (CDD), Envision NM, DOH	#/% of NM communities who have conducted a quality improvement project to increase developmental screening with validated tool (UNM CDD)
Improve access and availability of early intervention services for children and their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner to ensure adequate funding for early intervention services. • Develop strategies to ensure linkages between early intervention services and other parts of the early childhood system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with Interagency Coordinating Council of FIT, New Mexico DOH Family Infant Toddler (FIT) program to ensure alignment between FIT and home visitation as well as the Developmental Screening Initiative. • Continue to advocate for increased funding to implement phase 2 of the family, infant, toddler rate study recommendations, to reimburse providers for services rendered without compensation and to expand services to eligible children. 	DOH, FIT, Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), CDD	Ratio of rate of children being served in FIT as a proportion of available funding (NM FIT Program)
Strengthen utilization and quality of <i>Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, & Treatment</i> (EPSDT) program in Medicaid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards including the EPSDT requirement that developmental screening be conducted using validated standardized screening tests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate providers about the use of the code 96110 for additional developmental screens at 9, 18, 24, and 36 months. 	HSD (Medical Assistance Division), DSI	#/% of child health providers utilizing 96110 coded for developmental screening (Medicaid Data)
Promote social and emotional development of young children and their families in health care settings (medical home), early care and education settings, and all other early childhood development programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate various constituencies regarding methods for inclusion of screening for social-emotional issues in young children and families. • Continue to increase professional development opportunities of early childhood professionals in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with New Mexico Association of Infant Mental Health, Envision NM, Governor’s Women’s Health Advisory Council, and Behavioral Health Collaborative to develop training in use of screening tools for maternal depression in child health and women’s 	NM Assoc. of Infant Mental Health, Envision NM, Office of the Governor’s Council on Women’s Health, Behavioral Health Collaborative, DOH, CYFD, CCHC, MAT	<p>#/% of early childhood workers who have been trained in infant mental health practices (Infant Mental Health Training Institute)</p> <p>#/% of early childhood providers who include screening for social emotional development as part of routine developmental</p>

Development Goals	Implementation Steps	2009 -2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
	early childhood mental health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop mechanisms for increasing identification and treatment of post partum maternal depression. • Explore rebuilding Healthy Child Care New Mexico 	health practices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with NM Governor's Women's Health Advisory Council to ensure that treatment for maternal depression is included in health care benefits through Medicaid and private insurance. • Send Child Care Health Consultant Coordinator for training and determine the entities which will serve as the CCHC and the model to be used. 		screening (Data Development)

EARLY LEARNING VISION: Families have equitable access to high quality learning and care that promotes their child’s optimum development, school readiness, and success in school and life.

Early Learning Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
<p>Increase quality of early care and education programs for children birth through age eight.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase educational qualifications and early childhood professional development for early childhood educators of children birth to eight. • Develop education and retention incentives as well as increased wages and benefits (health insurance, retirement, etc.) to ensure equitable compensation for comparable qualifications. • Strengthen the child care star rating system and other quality initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide increased support for scholarships of the early childhood workforce such as T.E.A.C.H. • Increase funding and capacity of the state Training and Technical Assistance Programs (TTAPs) so they can support registered as well as licensed family child care homes and other efforts to improve quality. • Increase the capacity of early care and education programs to serve children with special needs by providing inclusion specialists and support for inclusion through state quality initiatives. • Strengthen capacity of early care and education programs to meet social and emotional needs of children birth to three through workforce development. • Train higher education faculty to provide support to early childhood educators in social-emotional development and special needs of children. 	<p>Health & Human Services (HHS) Secretaries/Children's Cabinet, NM Association for the Education of Young Children (NMAEYC), T.E.A.C.H., NM Child Care & Education Association, CYFD</p>	<p># of qualified early childhood T.E.A.C.H. educators (Children's Report Card)</p> <p>#/% of early childhood educators with an associate degree or above (Data Source CYFD)</p> <p>#/% of licensed and star quality accredited early child care providers</p>
<p>Increase access to voluntary early care and education programs for children birth through age eight.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen New Mexico's Child Care Assistance Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that child care assistance is available to families up to 200% of FPL with higher exit eligibility. • Increase reimbursement rates to provide incentives for early childhood providers to advance in the star system. 	<p>HHS Secretaries, NMAEYC, T.E.A.C.H., NM Child Care & Education Association, CYFD</p>	<p># of families served by Child Care Assistance Program by year as a proportion of all low income families at or under 200% of FPL</p>

Early Learning Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
<p>Increase access to voluntary <i>Pre-Kindergarten</i> in New Mexico communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure availability of voluntary, quality pre-kindergarten and other early care and education programs in all New Mexico communities. • Ensure alignment between Pre-K and early care and education programs to meet the needs of working families. • Develop a plan to extend Pre-K to 3 year olds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Executive request to allocate funds for New Mexico Pre-K. • Support including Head Start and other federally funded Pre-School programs in NM Pre-K. 	<p>HHS Secretaries, NMAEYC, T.E.A.C.H., NM Child Care & Education Association, CYFD, PED, MAT</p>	<p>Proportion of NM four-year olds who participate in NM Pre-K program</p> <p>Proportion of NM Pre-K participants who are ready for kindergarten based on school readiness assessments (PED & CYFD)</p>
<p>Facilitate increased parental involvement in childhood learning and school success.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Parent and Family Involvement Advisory Council and ensure needs of Pre-K families are included. • Ensure alignment of work of Parent Involvement Action Committee with Multi-Agency Team and Family Leadership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement a Parent Involvement Media Initiative, 2006-2008. • Extend Parent involvement district and school training to NM Pre-K sites. • Ensure representation from Parent Involvement Action Committee on Multi-Agency Team. 	<p>HHS Secretaries, PED Parent & Family Involvement Advisory Council, Parent Involvement Action Committee, Parents Reaching Out, ECAN, FLAN, MAT</p>	<p># of joint activities carried out by Parent and Family Involvement Advisory Council and Multi-Agency Team</p>

INVESTMENT VISION: The public and private sector invest in young children and their families to promote health development and school readiness to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans.

Investment Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
Partner with business leaders, policy makers, and philanthropy at local, tribal, and state levels to develop and implement a long range early childhood investment and financing plan that is tied to stable funding, as well as reduction of poverty in New Mexico.	Implement recommendations of the 2008 Early Childhood Investment Committee.	Partner with Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish and United Way of Santa Fe County to implement recommendations of the 2008 Early Childhood Investment Committee.	Office of the Lt. Governor, United Way of Santa Fe County, NM Early Childhood Partnership, ECAN, Public/Private Partnerships	Dollars invested in early childhood as a percentage of state general fund budget
Partner with policy makers to analyze policy and budget decisions that impact the ability of families to promote their children's well-being.	Utilize Children's Budget to ensure adequate and increased funding for all key early childhood services even during times of economic challenges.	Work with "New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership" (Lt. Governor's EC Investment group), public/private partners, and Multi-Agency Team to review early childhood funding on an annual basis using data from Children's Budget to evaluate adequacy of funding for Early Childhood Development (ECD).	Office of the Lt. Governor, United Way of Santa Fe County, NM Early Childhood Partnership, ECAN, Public/Private Partnerships	% increase in early childhood funding over time
Partner with the <i>Children's Cabinet</i> to monitor and improve the well being of young children and their families.	Publish annual New Mexico Children's Cabinet Children's Report Card and Budget.	Distribute the annual New Mexico Children's Cabinet Report Card and Budget.	NM Children's Cabinet, Office of the Lt. Governor, HHS Secretaries	# of Children's Report Card and Budgets distributed

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT VISION: New Mexican citizens understand the importance of early childhood development and are actively engaged in supporting policies and programs that help children and families thrive.

Public Engagement Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
The ECC, under the leadership and guidance of the Lt. Governor's Child & Youth Policy Advisor and the Executive Committee will:				
<p>Work with the <i>New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership</i> to develop and implement a strategic communication and public engagement plan to increase public awareness of importance of early childhood development so as to heighten it as a priority within state and local community agendas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop core messages around the importance of early childhood. • Develop tools to assist early childhood leaders to convey the core message. • Develop outreach to statewide and local groups to continue to provide information on importance of early childhood development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop core messages around importance of early childhood development. • “New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership” (Lt. Governor's EC Investment group), public/private partnerships, Multi-Agency Team to work in partnership with public relations consultants to develop a campaign around the importance of investment in ECD. • “New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership” in collaboration with United Way of Santa Fe County, NM Children's Cabinet, and public/private partners to convene an Early Childhood Development Summit in partnership with America's Partnership for Economic Success for state business leaders. 	<p>Lt. Governor, Early Childhood Partnership, Children's Cabinet, United Way of Santa Fe County, Public/Private Partnership</p>	<p># of statewide and local groups who endorse early childhood development as an organizational priority</p>
<p>Work with the <i>Office of Philanthropic Outreach</i> to develop relationships with foundations and other funding sources outside of state government to support public engagement efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support EC Investment Committee recommendation to secure private and philanthropic support of Early Childhood Development (ECD). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership” to develop strategies to secure private and philanthropic support of ECD. • “New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership” to raise funds from foundations to initiate the work of the Partnership. 	<p>Lt. Governor, Early Childhood Partnership, Children's Cabinet, United Way of Santa Fe County, Public/Private Partnership</p>	<p># of foundations investing in EC D in New Mexico</p>

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT VISION: Families nurture their child’s optimal development, are strong advocates for their child’s needs, and are engaged in designing the early childhood services that they use.

Family Engagement Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
<p>Educate, involve, and empower family leaders in advocacy and policy development in partnership with state/local/tribal systems to assure early childhood development programs are responsive to family needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop peer to peer family support in education, policy and advocacy. ● Develop family advocacy leadership groups to impact policies for children and families in NM. ● Develop a statewide family leadership network which ensures that families using early childhood services are actively involved in shaping the system that impacts them. ● Develop effective strategies that promote involvement of fathers in their children’s lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convene representatives from all programs across agencies and in communities committed to family engagement to develop a plan for creating a statewide family leadership network, including fathers. ● Identify potential funding streams that can be allocated to support the family leadership network and provide stipends for families to participate. ● Include parent participation on Multi-Agency Team: Council on Young Child Wellness (Multi-Agency Team). 	<p>ECAN, FLAN, MAT, PED Family and Parent Advisory Council, NM Community Foundation (SPARK), ENLACE New Mexico, Parents Reaching Out (PRO),</p>	<p># of policy recommendations implemented that were developed by family advocacy and family leadership network groups</p>
<p>Provide families with information, resources, skills, and knowledge they need to parent successfully and nurture their child’s optimal development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess the current status of family support and parenting education programs throughout the state. ● Convene the above programs to identify best practices, gaps and to develop a cohesive and aligned plan to ensure all families are receiving consistent information when they need it. ● Assess current early childhood information and referral programs in the state to evaluate their adequacy to provide information and referral to all families who need Early Childhood (EC) services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct a state-level environmental scan which assesses at a minimum publicly funded family support and parent education programs. ● Work with Multi-Agency Team to develop a parenting education plan for the state. ● Gain input from families about best mechanisms to reach parents with information on early childhood development, parenting information. ● Convene annual family leadership conference to support families to learn more about Early Childhood (EC) development and EC policies 	<p>ECAN, Public/Private Partnerships, PRO, PED Family and Parent Advisory Council, MAT</p>	<p># of children ages 0-5 years old who were read to in the family by the number of days (National Survey of Children’s Health)</p> <p># of families who participated in parenting education and support group services (NMPRAMS)</p>

Family Engagement Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
		that affect them and to support families' capacity to advocate for their own children and other children in their schools and communities.		
Educate families and the public about optimal child development, health and safety, and social and emotional growth of young children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Map and evaluate current early childhood social marketing and media programs' efforts that provide families with information on EC development (ECD). ● Identify opportunities to pool public/private resources to develop aligned social marketing campaigns with common messages and unified dissemination strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multi-Agency Team to map all current social marketing and media programs whose target audiences are young children and families birth to age eight funded by various state agencies. ● Develop a common state welcome baby kit that each agency contributes to and which all families receive at the birth of their new baby modeled after the state of Virginia. ● Develop a common brand for all education materials distributed by the state to increase the reach and impact on target audience. ● Identify a website that can be used to house parenting education and early childhood development materials that families can easily access. 	ECAN, Public/Private Partnerships, PRO, PED Family and Parent Advisory Council, MAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of TV & radio stations airing the social marketing campaign # of households viewers reached By social marketing campaign # of newspapers picking up the stories and readership of those papers

FAMILY FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES AND SERVICES VISION: Families, including families of children with special health care needs, have equitable access to a continuum of comprehensive AND aligned early childhood services and systems in their community performed by providers knowledgeable and trained in early childhood and family support.

Family Friendly Communities & Services Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
<p>Develop structures and strategies to lead and coordinate key early childhood services at the state and community level.</p>	<p>The ECC, under the leadership and guidance of the Lt. Governor's Child & Youth Policy Advisor and the Executive Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop effective and efficient mechanisms to coordinate state early childhood services and reduce duplication; • recommend potential structural, functional and operational changes to the state funded early childhood service system; • develop common early childhood outcomes, standards, practices and monitoring to assure effective implementation of state funded early childhood programs based on best practices and research; use outcomes, standards and practices to develop a professional development system and front-line worker training program to improve the quality of state early childhood services and administration. • Work with New Mexico communities and Tribes to enhance coordinated planning and delivery of integrated early childhood services to young children and their families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ECC to work on action plans related to following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a single entry point to improve access to comprehensive state funded early childhood services in every community in New Mexico. - Increase access to state early childhood services by families through the web, 1-800 phone numbers, handouts and fliers provided at conferences, schools, doctor's offices, public health offices, and WIC clinics. - Review models for one stop shopping for state services already in existence in New Mexico communities. Identify best practices and work with other NM communities to implement. - Develop a common State of NM early childhood customer satisfaction survey to track the needs of families as they utilize state services. <p>Partner with Office of Child Development, NM Child Development Board, and Early Learning Council of the Health Start collaboration to revise the NM Early Learning Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop tools and compendium of what works ideas from NM local system 	<p>Children's Cabinet, DOH, CYFD, PED, HSD, Community Health Councils, ECAN</p>	<p>% of state service system customers who demonstrate knowledge of access points to state services (Data Development Measure)</p> <p>% of state service system customers who demonstrate satisfaction with the services they receive (Data Development)</p> <p>New Early Learning Plan completed and recommendations approved by Children's Cabinet</p> <p># of local communities/Tribes participating in early childhood system-building activities</p>

Family Friendly Communities & Services Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
		<p>development efforts (E.G. Project LAUNCH, health councils, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop mechanisms to disseminate tools, what works ideas, and lessons from Project LAUNCH and communities working to implement early childhood systems that integrate health, mental health, developmental screening and early intervention, early learning and, family involvement and support, pre-conception and pregnancy services. • Partner with Project LAUNCH to support local communities to engage families in system's development and to strengthen civic engagement. • Partner with Project LAUNCH and communities to analyze and develop recommendations about reducing barriers to local system building created by state regulation and statutes. • Ascertain training and technical assistance needs of communities toward system building. 		
<p>Improve coordination and collaboration among the various parts of the early childhood system for children birth through age eight and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure that children and their families transition smoothly from one program and/or system. • Educate early childhood providers, public schools and families about the importance of transition best practices. • Enhance and support professional development opportunities for K-3rd grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a policy brief that defines transition and the best practices of transition and recommendations for improving the capacity of communities and schools to support families' transition among the various EC programs and systems. • Utilize the framework of "Joining Hands" to implement transition best practices among 	<p>ECAN, Early Childhood Alliance, Child Development Board, Early Head Start, Head Start, DOH, CYFD, PED, HSD, Children's Cabinet</p>	<p># of training that introduce communities to "Joining Hands" framework</p>

Family Friendly Communities & Services Goals	Implementation Steps	2009-2012 Action Steps	Partners	Key Measures
	<p>teachers -- and all educational personnel in public schools -- for best practices in early childhood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that families and others interested in young children will be involved in designing professional development opportunities. 	<p>all systems that affect young children and their families such as between early care and education and early intervention programs in specific NM communities.</p>		
<p>Partner with business and civic leaders to develop family friendly business practices that increase economic productivity AND support families to promote their children's development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with business and civic groups to develop incentives (such as an awards program) for businesses to develop family friendly environments and businesses for their employees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public/Private partnerships to work with "New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership" (Lt. Governor's Early Childhood Investment Committee) and Birth to Five, Inc. to develop mechanisms to encourage businesses to adopt family friendly policies. • Conduct an environmental scan of current family friendly practices already implemented by large and small businesses in New Mexico. 	<p>ECAN, Public/Private Partnerships, NM Early Childhood Partnership, Birth to Five, Inc.,</p>	<p># of events and # of businesses participating in developing strategies for family friendly practices</p>

Strengthening Collaborations and Partnerships:

While significant progress has been made organizing and structuring partnerships from the outside of the state government, many of the above strategies cannot be addressed without state agency collaboration on issues that cut across the state agencies responsible for the administration of various early childhood programs. In order for systems to be aligned in communities, they must be aligned with state government. The new structure will facilitate this alignment.

WORK PLAN FOR THE COMING YEAR: 2009 TO 2010

High Priority Strategies for 2009 through 2010

As with other states, enormous budget shortfalls are being experienced in the state. In this changing context, the work plan is realistic and focuses on high leverage strategies that can move the early childhood system forward with little or no resources. The 60 day legislative session has commenced (January 20 through March 17, 2009) and both legislative and executive leaders have demonstrated an understanding of how important it is to continue to support families who are struggling. An indication of this is the 15% rise in applications for Food Stamps in the state.

Through the new structure of the Children's Cabinet Executive Cabinet and the Early Childhood Coordinator, New Mexico will build on the strong foundation of the last five years of the ECCS initiative and based on the needs outlined in the previous sections, the following priority actions will be the focus for this coming ECCS grant year:

- Partner with Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish and the United Way of Santa Fe County to implement recommendations of the 2008 Early Childhood Investment Committee.
- Align all state early childhood programs.
- Continue to work with outside partners.
- Support the Multi-Agency Team: Council on Young Child Wellness to become an organized and authorized group that has as its charge prioritization and implementation of key action steps reflected in 2009-2012 New Mexico Early Childhood Comprehensive State Systems Strategic Plan.
- Instruct the Multi-Agency Team to work with Project LAUNCH to identify system barriers in the state services provided in Santa Fe County. Develop a plan for removing those barriers and make recommendations for strategies to remove those barriers in other communities in NM.
- Develop formal lines of communication and linkages between all early childhood system development initiatives through the Multi-Agency Team.
- Continue to implement Project LAUNCH at state and local level.
- Complete the environmental scan for Project LAUNCH, using the newly revised early childhood strategic plan as framework and finalize, obtain endorsements, publish and distribute broadly the 2009-2012 New Mexico Early Childhood Comprehensive State Systems Strategic Plan.
- Begin work to revise the New Mexico Early Learning Plan, which should include a definition and focus on transition, health, and safety.
- Do a strategic mapping of all family engagement, training, and professional development available to teachers and leaders and other stakeholders in early childhood and organizations that serve families in New Mexico.
- Map all of the local systems development efforts that are focusing on early childhood development-convene a forum to share best practices and assess what supports are needed to catalyze this work.
- Implement recommendations to strengthen women's health services in NM.
- Continue to strengthen and increase the reach of the Developmental Screening Initiative.
- Continue to participate in the Maternal Depression Working Group's planning for increased awareness of and access to treatment for post-partum depression.
- Explore re-building the Healthy Child Care New Mexico initiative through implementing a state-wide system for child care health and mental health consultants (CCHC).
- Increase oral health awareness through community outreach events such as local health fair, Sealant clinics, and CMS Cleft Palate Clinics.
- Work to increase investment in home visiting and social-emotional supports and services for families with young children zero-five.
- Focus on educating policy makers about the importance of addressing and treating maternal depression.

ECCS WORK PLAN TIMELINES AND MILESTONE CHART: 2009-2010	Qt. 1	Qt. 2	Qt. 3	Qt. 4
Partner with Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish and the United Way of Santa Fe County to implement recommendations of the 2008 Early Childhood Investment Committee. Responsible Parties: Lt. Governor's Office, United Way of Santa Fe County	X			
Support the Multi-Agency Team: Council on Young Child Wellness (MAT) to become an organized and authorized group that has as its charge prioritization and implementation of key action steps reflected in 2009-2012 New Mexico Early Childhood Comprehensive State Systems Strategic Plan. Responsible Parties: New Mexico Departments of Health, Public Education, Children, Youth & Families, Human Services, Public/Private Partners	X	X	X	X
Identify system barriers in the state services provided in Santa Fe County. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan for removing those barriers. • Make recommendations for strategies to remove those barriers in other communities in NM. Responsible Parties: Early Childhood Coordinator (ECC), MAT, United Way of Santa Fe County, Santa Fe County MCH		X	X	X
Develop formal lines of communication and linkages between all early childhood system development initiatives through the Multi-Agency Team. Responsible Parties: ECC, MAT		X	X	X
Continue to implement Project LAUNCH at state and local level. Responsible Parties: MAT, Project LAUNCH local and state staff	X	X	X	X
Finalize, obtain endorsement, publish, and distribute broadly the 2009-2012 New Mexico Early Childhood Comprehensive State Systems Strategic Plan. Complete environmental scan. Responsible Parties: ECC, ESSC and Project LAUNCH local and state staff			X	
Revise the New Mexico Early Learning Plan Responsible Parties: Office of Child Development (CYFD), Child Development Board				X
Strategic mapping of all family engagement, training, and professional development available to teachers and leaders and other stakeholders in early childhood and organizations that serve families. Responsible Parties: ECC, MAT, Public/Private Partners				X
Map all of the local systems development efforts that are focusing on early childhood development. Convene a forum to share best practices and assess what supports are needed to catalyze this work. Responsible Parties: ECC, MAT, Project LAUNCH, Public/Private Partners				X
Implement recommendations to strengthen women's health services in NM. Responsible Parties: Office of the Governor's Council on Women's Health, Public/Private Partners	X	X	X	X
Strengthen and increase the reach of the Developmental Screening Initiative. Responsible Parties: Developmental Screening Initiative, Envision NM	X	X	X	X
Increase investment in home visiting and social-emotional supports and services for families with young children birth-five. Responsible Parties: Home Visiting Task Force	X	X	X	X

Educate policy makers about the importance of addressing and treating maternal depression. Responsible Parties: Office of the Governor's Council on Women's Health, Public/Private Partners	X	X	X	X
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Over the last five years, ECAN, a public/private partnership, has been committed to answering two questions: what do we need to do and how can we do it differently so we have a real, measureable impact on the well-being of young children, birth to eight, and their families. This effort has been funded by the federal ECCS grant. The New Mexico Early Childhood Comprehensive State Systems Strategic Plan is the result of a five-year consensus building effort undertaken by ECAN among key early childhood stakeholders and early childhood experts. There is energy, commitment, and expertise in the state to move this early childhood agenda forward. It is out of this desire to move the agenda forward that ECAN is recommending a re-structuring of the ECCS 2009-2012 internal organizational plan.

In January 2009, the ECAN Executive and Steering Committees offered to the following recommendations, which the Early Childhood Collaborative Executive Committee will work to implement:

- Fund an Early Childhood Coordinator working with the Children's Cabinet Director in the Lieutenant Governor's office with the authority to work across agencies and oversee the implementation of the system's change recommendations in the strategic plan.
- Establish an Early Childhood Collaborative, comprised principally of executive agency staff and sanctioned by the Governor and Lt. Governor functioning under the auspices of the New Mexico Children's Cabinet to integrate and align all early childhood initiatives, grants, and program.
- Maintain ECAN and its linkage to the Executive as a public/private partnership to continue to reach across disciplines and increase involvement with different sectors of the early childhood system in order to move forward on key pieces of the strategic plan, increase quality of early childhood development services by connecting theory, research, and best practice.

Three-Year Time Line

Health Vision: Children, their families and pregnant women have access to continuous preventive, acute and chronic health care, including physical, nutritional, behavioral, mental, and oral health.	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Participate in health care authority work groups to recommend child and family health benefits for new health care reform proposals.	X	X	X
Continue to advocate for expansion of Medicaid to children and their families.	X	X	X
Finalize recommendations from fall and spring Women's Health Policy Forum that focused on pre-conception, prenatal and post partum care.	X		
Seek endorsements for policy recommendations from key stakeholder groups in New Mexico.	X		
Develop and implementation action plan and timetable.	X		
Partner with CYFD to participate in the Home Visitation Work Group to increase financing, implement standards and outcomes and assure program alignment with other key early childhood services.	X		
Work with other state agencies and the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C) Program to design a pilot intervention project around injury prevention reporting for children who seek care in the Emergency Departments.			X
Collaborate with the NM Child Fatality Review teams in advocating for targeted prevention.		X	
Collaborate with EMS-C to design a child homicide prevention program for parents and children at risk.		X	
Collaborate with the University of NM Children's Hospital in designing a Child Safety Center.		X	
Increase awareness of and access to treatment for post-partum depression.	X	X	X
Explore re-building the Healthy Child Care Ne Mexico by sending a Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) Coordinator for training and then determine the entities which will serve as the CCHC, the model to be used, and training for CCHC	X	X	X

Increase oral health awareness through community outreach events such as local health fair, Sealant clinics, and CMS Cleft Palate Clinics.	X	X	X
Development Vision: Young children's developmental concerns will be addressed prior to school entry.	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Identify sustainable funding sources to ensure that all NM communities have access to the training and tools to implement a system of high quality developmental screening and early intervention.		X	
Partner with Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) of FIT, New Mexico DOH Family Infant Toddler (FIT) program to ensure alignment between FIT and home visitation as well as the Developmental Screening Initiative.		X	
Continue to advocate for increased funding to implement phase 2 of the family, infant, toddler rate study recommendations, to reimburse providers for services rendered without compensation and to expand services to eligible children.	X		
Educate providers about the use of the code 96110 for additional developmental screens at 9, 18, 24, and 36 months.	X	X	X
Work with New Mexico Association of Infant Mental Health, Envision NM, Office of the Governor's Council on Women's Health, and Behavioral Health Collaborative to develop training in use of screening tools for maternal depression in child health and women's health practices.		X	
Work with Office of the Governor's Council on Women's Health to ensure that treatment for maternal depression is included in health care benefits through Medicaid and private insurance.		X	
Early Learning Vision: Families have equitable access to high quality learning and care that promotes their child's optimum development, school readiness, and success in school and life.	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Provide increased support for scholarships of the early childhood workforce such as T.E.A.C.H.	X	X	X
Increase funding and capacity of the state Training and Technical Assistance Programs (TTAP's) so they can support registered as well as licensed family child care homes and other efforts to improve quality.	X	X	X
Increase the capacity of early care and education programs to serve children with special needs by providing inclusion specialists and support for inclusion through state quality initiatives.		X	
Strengthen capacity of early care and education programs to meet social and emotional needs of children birth to three through workforce development.		X	
Train higher education faculty to provide support to early childhood educators in social-emotional development and special needs of children.			X
Ensure that child care assistance is available to families up to 200% of FPL with higher exit eligibility.	X		
Increase reimbursement rates to provide incentives for early childhood providers to advance in the star system.		X	
Support the Executive request to allocate funds for New Mexico Pre-K.	X		
Support including Head start and other federally funded Pre-School programs in NM Pre-K	X		
Continue to implement a Parent Involvement Media Initiative, 2006-2008.	X		
Extend Parent Involvement district and school training to NM Pre-K sites.		X	
Ensure representation from Parent Involvement Action Committee on MAT.	X		

Investment Vision: The public and private sector invest in young children and their families to promote healthy development and school readiness to improve the quality of life for all New Mexicans.	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Partner with Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish and United Way of Santa Fe County to implement recommendations of the 2008 Early Childhood Investment Committee.	X	X	X
Work with New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership (Lt. Governor's EC Investment group), ECAN, and MAT Budget to evaluate adequacy of funding for ECD.	X	X	X
Public Engagement Vision: New Mexican citizens understand the importance of early childhood development and are actively engaged in supporting policies and programs at all levels that help children and families to thrive.	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Continue to develop core messages around importance of early childhood development.	X		
New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership, ECAN, MAT to work in partnership with public relations consultants to develop a campaign around the importance of investment in ECD.		X	
New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership in collaboration with United Way of Santa Fe County, NM Children' Cabinet and ECAN to convene an Early Childhood Development Summit in partnership with America's Partnership for Economic Success for state business leaders.			X
ECAN Strategic Communications and Outreach committees to develop strategies, using tools developed by ECAN, that ECAN members will implement to engage an increased number of stakeholders in discussions about importance of ECD (example: hosting community conversations).	X		
New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership to develop strategies to secure private and philanthropic support of ECD.		X	
New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership to raise funds from foundations to initiate the work of the Partnership.			X
Family Engagement Vision: Families nurture their child's optimal development, are strong advocates for their child's needs, and are engaged in designing the early childhood services that they use.	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Create a plan for building on the success of family engagement (FLAN).	X		
Identify potential funding streams that can be allocated to support the family leadership network and provide stipends for families to participate.	X		
Include parent participation on MAT.	X		
Conduct a state-level environmental scan which assesses at a minimum publicly funded family support and parent education programs.	X		
Conduct a state-level environmental scan which assesses at a minimum publicly funded family support and parent education programs.	X		
Work with multi-agency team to develop a parenting education plan for the state.		X	
Gain input from families about best mechanisms to reach parents with information on early childhood development, parenting information.	X		
Convene annual family leadership conference to support families to learn more about Early Childhood Development (ECD) and EC policies that affect them and to support families' capacity to advocate for their own children and other children in their schools and communities.	X	X	X
Multi-Agency Team to map all current social marketing and media programs whose target audiences are young children and families birth to age eight funded by various state agencies.			X
Develop a common state welcome baby kit that each agency contributes to and which all families receive at the birth of their new baby modeled after the state of Virginia.			X

Develop a common brand for all education materials distributed by the state to increase the reach and impact on target audience.			X
Identify a website that can be used to house parenting education and early childhood development materials that families can easily access.		X	
Family Friendly Communities and Services Vision: Families, including families of children with special health care needs, have equitable access to a continuum of comprehensive AND aligned early childhood services and systems in their community performed by providers knowledgeable and trained in early childhood and family support.	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Develop a single entry point to improve access to comprehensive state funded early childhood services in every community in New Mexico.			X
Increase access to state early childhood services by families through the web, 1-800 phone numbers, handouts and fliers provided at conferences, schools, doctor's offices, public health offices, and WIC clinics.			X
Review models for one stop shopping for state services already in existence in New Mexico communities. Identify best practices and work with other NM communities to implement.		X	
Develop tools and compendium of what works ideas from NM local system development efforts (E.G. Project LAUNCH, health councils, etc.).			X
Develop mechanisms to disseminate tools, what works ideas, and lessons from Project LAUNCH and communities working to implement early childhood systems that integrate health, mental health, developmental screening and early intervention, early learning and, family involvement and support, pre-conception and pregnancy services.			X
Partner with Project LAUNCH to support local communities to engage families in system's development and to strengthen civic engagement.	X		
Partner with Project LAUNCH and communities to analyze and develop recommendations about reducing barriers to local system building created by state regulation and statutes.		X	
Ascertain training and technical assistance needs of communities toward system building.		X	
Develop a policy brief that defines transition and the best practices of transition and recommendations for improving the capacity of communities and schools to support families' transition among the various EC programs and systems.		X	
Utilize the framework of "Joining Hands" to implement transition best practices among all systems that affect young children and their families such as between early care and education and early intervention programs in specific NM communities.		X	
Partner with Office of Child Development, NM Child Development Board, and Early Learning Council of the Head Start Collaboration to revise the NM Early Learning Plan.	X		
MAT to map state public programs and funds dedicated to professional development of early childhood providers in all state agencies.		X	
MAT to identify potential opportunities to improve and align ECD training for greater impact.	X		
MAT to develop a plan for integrating professional development training including expanding the reach of professional development programs by leveraging and aligning programs across agencies with similar goals.			X
ECAN to work with New Mexico Early Childhood Partnership (Lt. Governor's Early Childhood Investment Committee) and Birth to Five, Inc. to develop events and plans for developing strategies to encourage businesses to adopt family friendly policies.			X
Conduct an environmental scan of current family friendly practices already implemented by large and small businesses in New Mexico.		X	

RESOLUTION OF CHALLENGES

New Mexico has provided early childhood development services over the last 50 years. The Children's Cabinet was created to improve the well-being of children and improve services to children, youth, and families. One of its goals is to reduce duplication and administrative barriers. The Multi-Agency Team: Council on Young Child Wellness will, at the program manager level, be able to identify and address these issues. Their recommendations will be forwarded to the Children's Cabinet Executive Committee. Many changes recommended in the revised strategic plan will not take additional dollars, but will require a change in how state agencies do their business.

As noted in the introduction, New Mexico has made considerable progress toward early childhood systems alignment and integration. Being able to sustain those accomplishments and build on them by creating greater systems development work will be a challenge. New Mexico, like many other states, is in a budget crisis. There have been budget cuts in every agency and program. Additionally, a State Personnel Office hiring freeze is in effect. These two issues may impinge on the ability to accomplish all of the goals set in this proposal within the original time frame and budget.

EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT CAPACITY

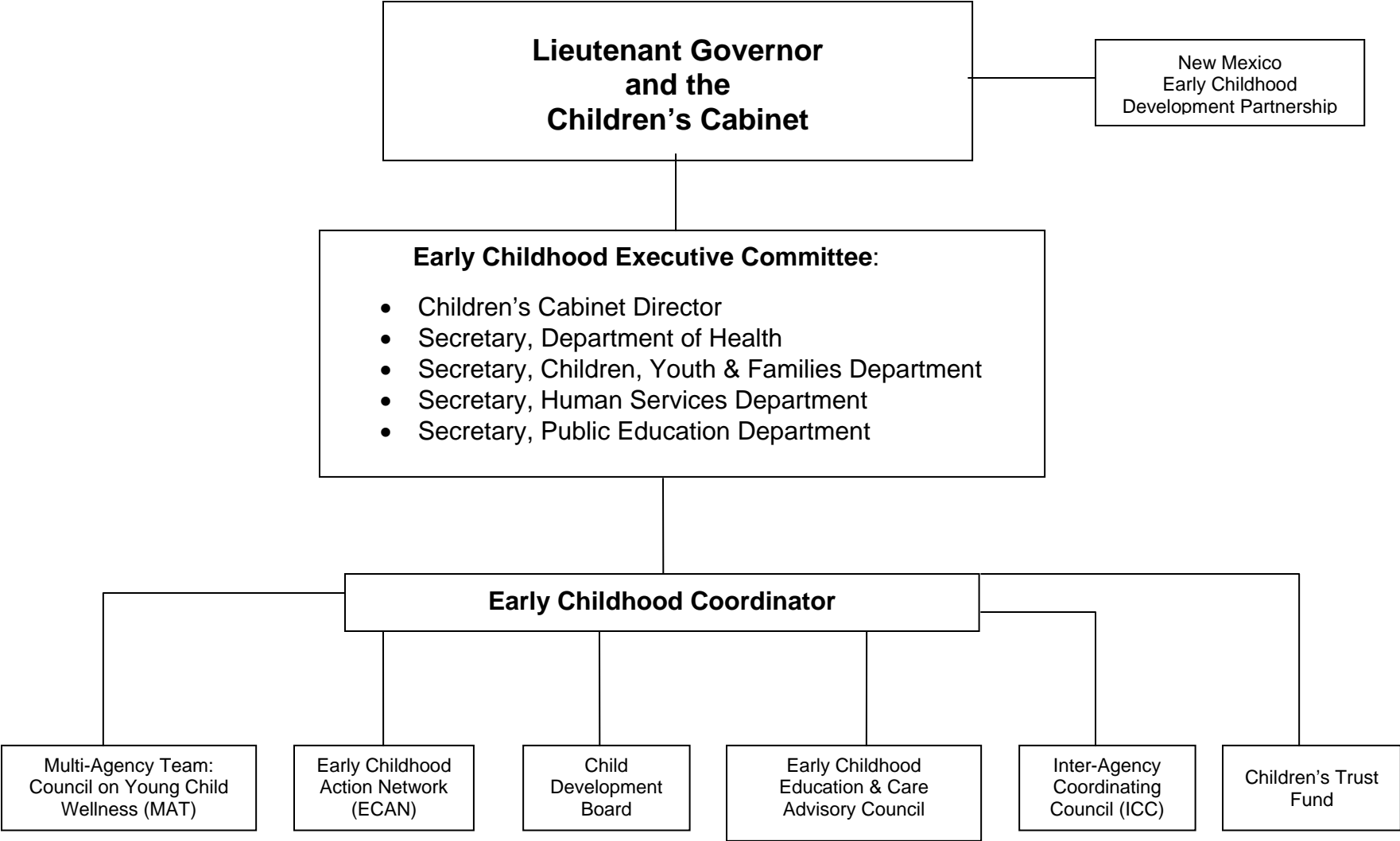
While there is sufficient expertise within the Family Health Bureau to evaluate the ECCS initiative, there is insufficient time and man-power to adequately perform an outcome evaluation. Because of the ECCS grant, there is a commitment from the New Mexico Department of Health to fund coordinated planning and oversight with identified staff and resources to assure participative evaluation of the integrated approach. Members of the Multi-Agency Team and members of ECAN will work together to provide information regarding the key measures related to each goal. Outcome evaluations related to several of the New Mexico ECCS goals are performed by various state agencies: Public Education, Children, Youth and Families, and Department of Health. Technical support from state agencies and the ECCS partners is invaluable and accessible. The Early Childhood Coordinator is tasked with performing a process evaluation which will include monitoring the progress of the initiative, the products produced under the project and their use, meetings organized to carry out the work of the project, and the level of participation by the various stakeholder groups (measured through attendance records and meeting minutes). The use of the website, www.earlychildhoodnm.com will be tracked through the monitoring of the hits to the site. Participants in ECCS events and pilots will also be tracked.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

The ECCS initiative functions are the responsibility of the New Mexico Department of Health, Public Health Division, Family Health Bureau, as the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant receiving agency. Below is a list of various groups and personnel with direct responsibility related to the ECCS grant.

The Early Childhood Coordinator serves as the Project Liaison (1 FTE) and is responsible for compiling recommendations and implementation plans for ECCS initiatives outlined in this proposal. The ECC has the authority to work across agencies and oversee the implementation of the system's change recommendations in the strategic plan. The ECC will facilitate meetings with project staff, cross-agency early childhood work groups, and public/private partners to meet objectives of Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) grant and produce documents, including updating ECCS strategic planning documents and tools. 5% of the Title V Director's time is being donated (in-kind) to this project as the Project Director; the MCH Section Manager, who is also a Co-Director for the State Project LAUNCH, contributes 10% (in-kind) of her time to the ECCS project; and the Child Health Program Manager is the Co-Director for the State Project LAUNCH and contributes 20% (in-kind) of her time to the ECCS project. The Children with Special Health Care Needs Medical Director will be working closely with the project as she serves on the Multi-Agency Team: Council on Young Child Wellness. The Senior MCH epidemiologist contributes 1% time to assisting with the Early Childhood Report Card. This is also being contributed in kind to this process. The MCH Health Educator will serve as the CCHC Coordinator. She also serves on the Maternal Depression Working Group. Her time is donated as in-kind.

During the last year, over 3,000 hours of volunteer time was contributed by various ECAN participants and Steering Committee members to refining the ECCS strategic plan, determining a policy agenda, planning Turn the Curve and Family Leadership annual meetings, and participating in sub-committee work: early learning and transition, local systems, outreach, strategic communication, and policy.



End Notes:

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- ¹ New Mexico Selected Health Statistics Annual Report 2006
 - ² Ibid.
 - ³ The Annie E. Casey Foundation 2008 Kids Count Data Book
 - ⁴ US Census Bureau: Population Division (www.census.gov/popest and www.census.gov/population/www/censusdata/density.html)
 - ⁵ New Mexico Selected Health Statistics Annual Report 2006
 - ⁶ New Mexico Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Systems (PRAMS): Surveillance Report 2004-2005 births
 - ⁷ http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/nis/tables/07/tab02_antigen_iap.xls
 - ⁸ Families USA Press Release (www.familiesusa.org/resources/newsroom/)
 - ⁹ New Mexico Human Services Department: April 28, 2008 Press Release
 - ¹⁰ Annual EPSDT Participation Report (www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidEarlyPeriodicScrn/downloads/epsdt)
 - ¹¹ NM PRAMS: 2004-2005
 - ¹² New Mexico Selected Health Statistics Annual Report, 2006
 - ¹³ NM PRAMS:: 2004-2005
 - ¹⁴ NM PRAMS: 2004-2005
 - ¹⁵ New Mexico Selected Health Statistics Annual Report, 2006
 - ¹⁶ NM PRAMS: 2004-2005
 - ¹⁷ NM PRAMS: 2004-2005
 - ¹⁸ Children, Youth and Families Department, Family Services: www.newmexicokids.org/caregivers/
 - ¹⁹ The Annie E. Casey Foundation: 2008 Kids Count Data Book
 - ²⁰ www.nea-nm.org: "Governor Bill Richardson's Report Card on Education."
 - ²¹ New Mexico Education News, February 2008.
 - ²² Julia Coffman, A Framework for Evaluating System's Initiatives, August 2007.
 - ²³ Impacts of New Mexico Pre-K on Children's School Readiness at Kindergarten Entry: Results from the Second Year of a Growing Initiative, <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/EarlyChildhood/dl08/preK/NM%20Year%203%20RDD%20report%20revised%2005-1.30.08.doc.pdf>