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# Invest Early in Maine *State Plan Overview*

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## **Business Roundtable on Early Childhood Investment**

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*Sheryl Peavey, Director, Maine Early Childhood Initiative*





# Invest Early in Maine



- Objective: Change the way we value, serve and support Maine's families and systems
- Purpose: Living document of accomplishments, goals, activities and identified leadership
- Coordinated by the Maine Early Childhood Initiative





# Maine Early Childhood Initiative

- Federally funded by the US DHHS, Maternal and Child Health Bureau since 2004
- Coordinates activities, monitors progress
  - Task Force on Early Childhood
  - Governor's Children's Cabinet
  - Hundreds of Stakeholders in Action Teams for several years





# Invest Early Assumptions

- Science has provided us with data around brain development
- Budgets show we are spending more money on remediation than we are prevention and health promotion
- Strategic, thoughtful systemic change is possible if the whole system is in the room





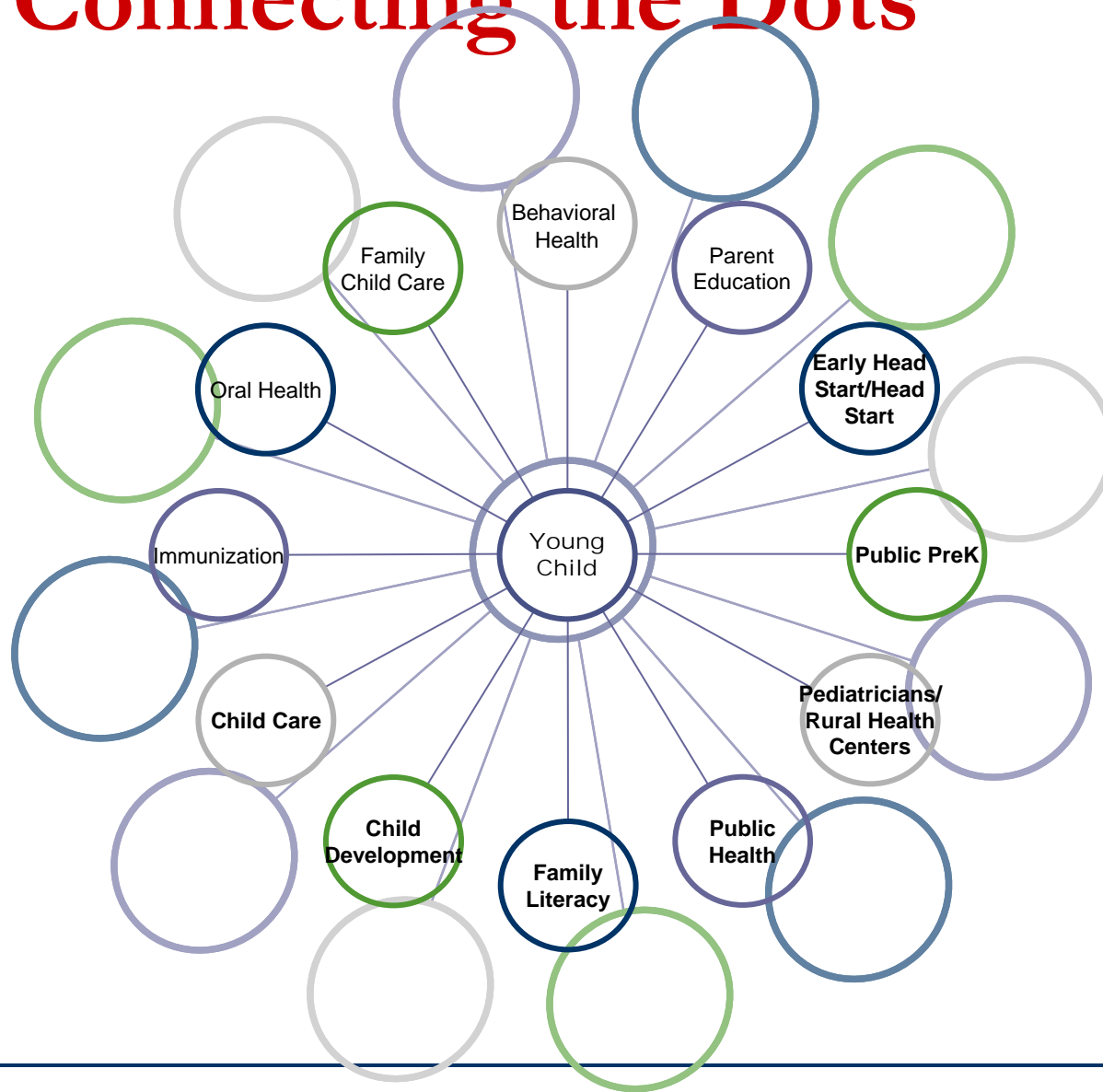
# Invest Early in Maine: Process

- Studied and analyzed data about different systems
- Discussed ways to change the system
- Prioritized recommendations
- Developed action steps and began doing the work





# Connecting the Dots





# Invest Early in Maine Domains

- FAMILY
- HEALTH
- EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION
- LOCAL COMMUNITY
- STATEWIDE COMMUNITY





# Invest Early: FAMILY

- Establish Maine Family Networks
- Provide high quality Home Visiting Services
  - Currently \$4.8M/yr -- reaching 20% of first time families
  - Cover all areas: \$275K/yr
- Offer a continuum of parenting education
- Support Family Literacy Programs
  - Dropped from \$1.1M (2006) to \$378K (2008)
  - Family Place Libraries (\$10K/ea)





# Invest Early: HEALTH

- Infuse health/safety programs with prevention, early intervention and care model philosophy
- Share and work with evidence-based practices and practice-based evidence
  - EBP: costly for statewide support, depends on model and evidence
- Coordinate system of infant mental health
  - Workforce development, training, payments
  - Child Care + ME: \$250K/\$750K/\$1M





# Invest Early: HEALTH

- Ensure appropriate lead exposure screenings and assessments
- Improve/expand Child Care Health Consulting
  - \$400K/\$800K ongoing
- Routinely immunize
  - \$5M/yr for vaccine purchase
- Provide preventive oral health care





# Invest Early: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- Improve access to quality and affordable programs
  - Increase subsidies and restore funding:
    - \$3M/yr to return to FY02 levels
    - For Infant/toddler care by 20% and increase eligibility to 100% median income: \$750K/ \$1M/ \$1.5M ongoing
    - For at risk families not otherwise covered: \$250K/ \$500K/ \$750K ongoing
    - Expand Early Head Start for 0-3: \$250K/ \$750K/ \$1.5M ongoing
  - Improve licensing/enforcement capacity: \$500K/yr





# Invest Early: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- Ensure a stable, high quality, qualified ECE workforce
  - Quality Child Care Education Scholarships
    - \$200,000/yr
- Implement Quality Rating System and its supports
  - \$500K/ \$1M/ \$3M ongoing
  - Increase tax credit for child care expenses:
    - \$1.4M/yr





# Invest Early: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- Coordinate and integrate quality services in public and private ECE settings
  - Support Community Collaboration Coaches
    - \$175K/yr (DOE/DHHS partnership)
- Meet the social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs of developing children
  - Establish model quality program in two communities—  
Educare (\$4M each)
  - Address Child Development Services for children with special needs





# Invest Early: LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Develop public private partnerships for “hubs” or co-located quality services
- Explore the viability of Family Resource Centers or Family Resource Coalitions
  - Pilot Six Sites: \$320K/ \$520K /\$750K
- Expand Community-based work supporting young children and families
- Include early childhood in municipal planning
  - Increase access to Quality Child Care investment tax credit \$50K/yr
- Ensure access to resource directories





# Invest Early: STATEWIDE COMMUNITY

- Coordinate the message about investing in young children
  - Seed endowment fund to match state and federal dollars
  - Marketing campaign
- Engage the public in the work of the Task Force
  - [www.maine-eccs.org](http://www.maine-eccs.org)





# Invest Early in Maine Domains

- FAMILY \$6M
- HEALTH \$7M
- EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION \$20M
- LOCAL COMMUNITY \$1M
- STATEWIDE COMMUNITY \$1M

\$35M/yr





# What we are really talking about

- *Invest Early* has activities and ideas
- *Invest Early* does not have dollars
- Systems change requires both social and financial capital
- How can we generate the momentum for smarter spending of our resources?

