



# Systems Coordination for the Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disabilities: Seven Years of Lessons Learned

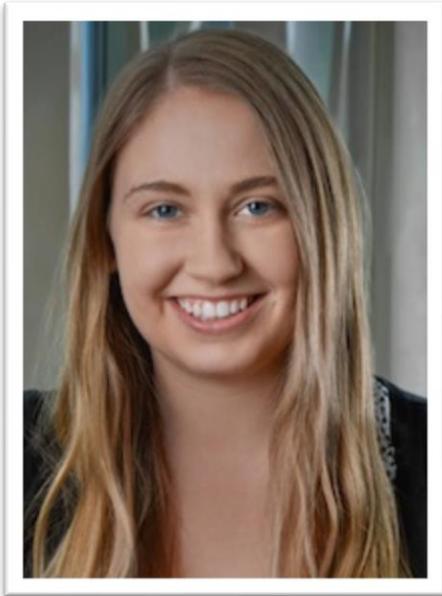


2018 CityMatCH Leadership & MCH Epidemiology Conference | Portland, OR  
September 12, 2018 3:30-4:45PM PST | Room: Broadway I

# Presenters

**Paige Bussanich, M.S.**

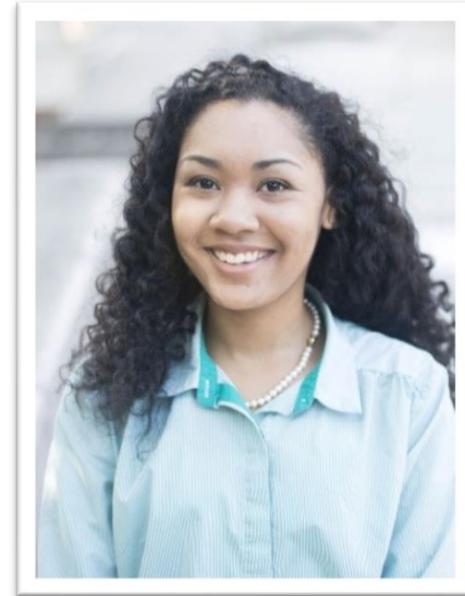
[pbussanich@amchp.org](mailto:pbussanich@amchp.org)



**Senior Program Manager**  
*Children and Youth with  
Special Health Care Needs*

**Shanel Tage, MPH**

[stage@amchp.org](mailto:stage@amchp.org)



**Program Analyst**  
*Children and Youth with  
Special Health Care Needs*

# Who is in the Room?



# in which type of following organization do you primarily work?

State Health Department

Local Health Department

Tribal Agency

Federal Agency (CDC, HRSA,  
IHS, etc.)

Non-Governmental Organization

Non-Profit Organization

Community-Based Organization

University/College  
Clinical- University-bas  
ed/Non-University  
based

# What is your familiarity with the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP)?

Never heard of it

Heard of it, but  
not sure of what it  
does

Familiar

Proficient aka  
AMCHP All-Star

# Over the next

# 20

...

- Learn the Signs. Act Early.
- Accomplishments
- Applications
- Challenges & Barriers
- Lessons Learned
- Q & A
- Session evaluations



# Introduction

- Developmental Disabilities (DD)
  - Group of conditions
    - Impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior
    - Conditions begin during developmental period and usually last through the lifetime
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
  - Developmental disability (DD)
  - Diagnostic criteria: deficits in social communication & social interaction persisting through life



# Prevalence

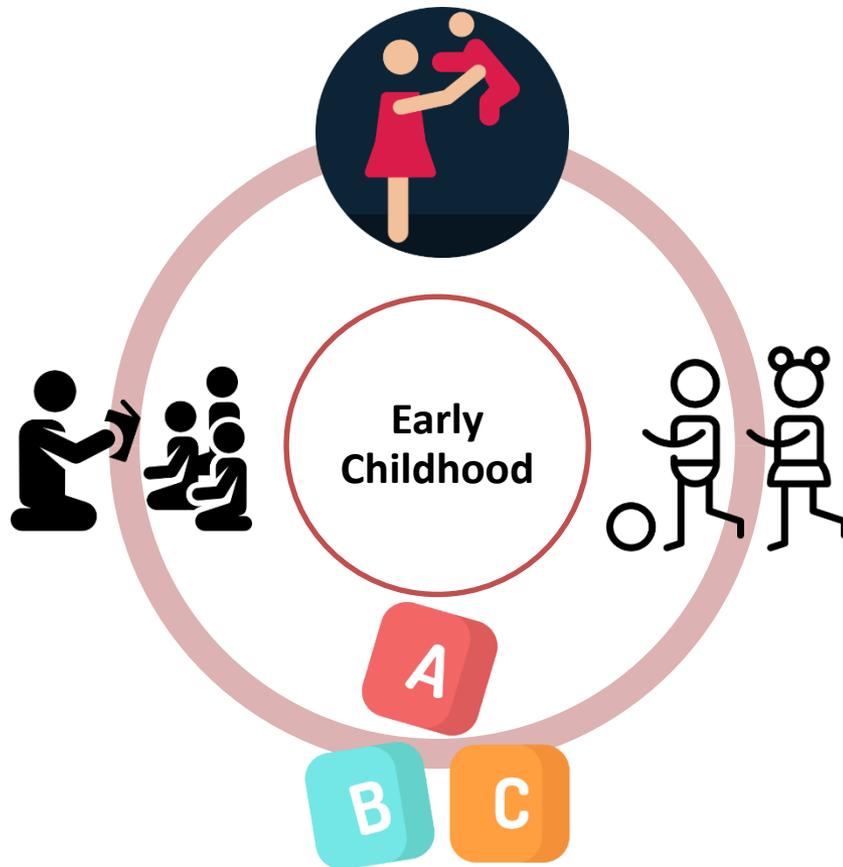


Every 2 years, the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network produces estimates of prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder

The overall 2014 prevalence of ASD among children 8 years old is approximately 1 in 59 (increased from 1 in 68 in 2012)



# Importance of early screening and identification



- Why?
  - Critical period
  - Early identification is important so children and families can get the services and support they need as early as possible

# Ensuring Early Identification

## Developmental Surveillance/Monitoring

- Process of recognizing children who may be at risk for developmental delays
- Ongoing process
- Involved process for caregivers, healthcare providers, and early childhood educators



## Developmental Screening

- Short test using a validated screening tool
- Helps identify if further evaluation is needed
- Conducted by healthcare providers, teachers, or others with specialized training



# Learn the Signs. Act Early.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” program aims to improve early identification of children with ASD/DD so children and families can get the services and support they need as early as possible.



Health  
Education  
Campaign.

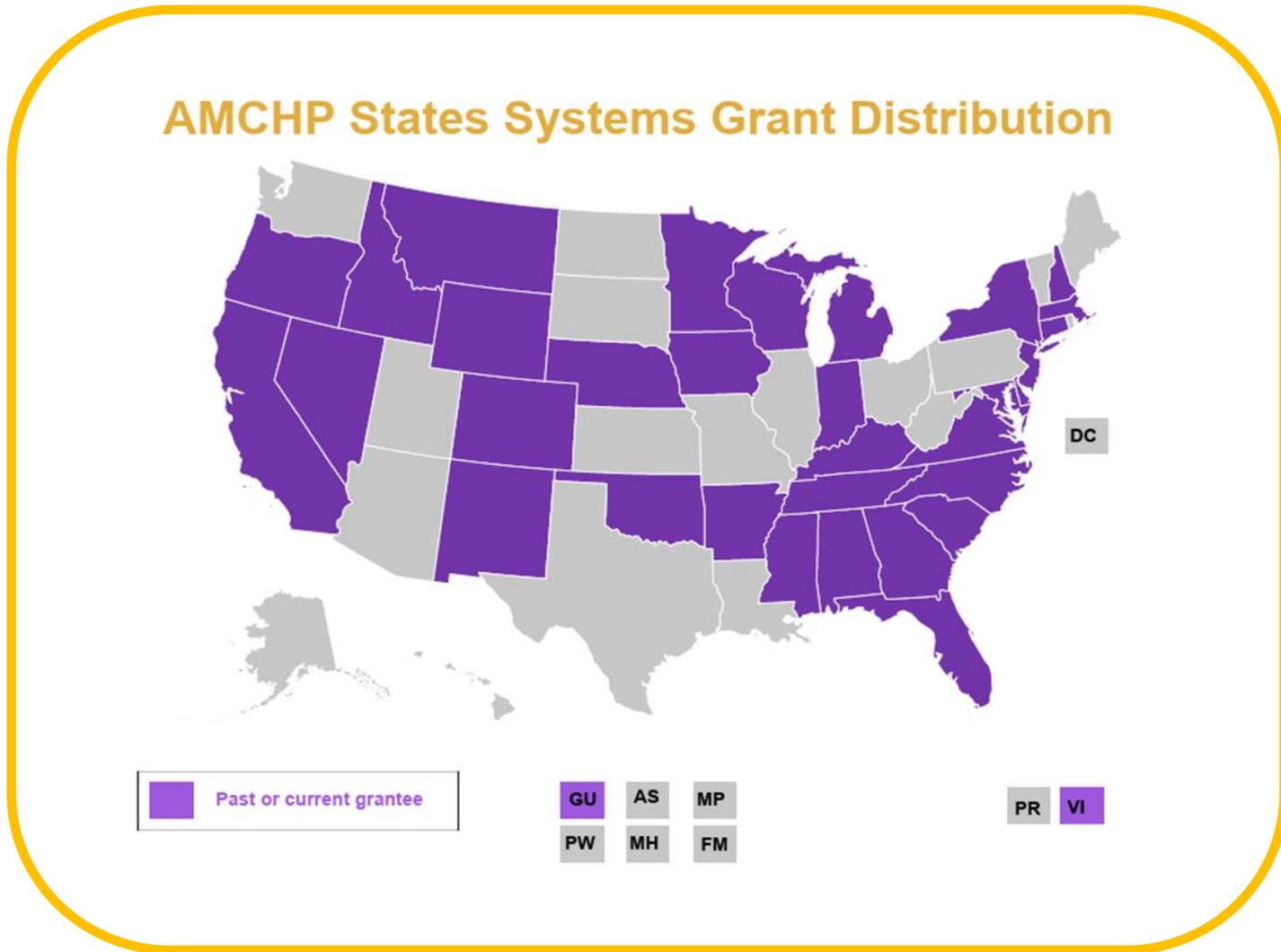


## Act Early Initiative.



Research &  
evaluation.

# So, who are the LTSAE grantees?



# LTSAE Grantee Spotlights



Launch

Midpoint

Current

**2011**

**2013**

**2018-19**

# Massachusetts 2011

- Cultural competency clinician tip guide
- Referral resource listing
- M-CHAT-R/F autism screening tool
- Vietnamese, Haitian-Creole, Chinese, and Spanish translations

Considering Culture in  
Autism Screening

Massachusetts Act Early

[www.MAActEarly.org](http://www.MAActEarly.org)  
[www.cdc.gov/actea](http://www.cdc.gov/actea)  
1-800-CDC-INFO

The main image shows a male doctor in a white lab coat smiling and pointing towards the camera while holding a young child. Below this are four smaller, square images of diverse children: a baby laughing, a young boy looking forward, a child drinking from a cup, and a young girl in a pink shirt.

# New Jersey 2013

- Parent Educators trained 15 FQHCs
- Early Screening and validated tool usage
- Shared experiences:
  - Developmental screenings
  - Referrals
  - Diagnoses
  - Helpful services and support
- LTSAE materials, community-specific resource binder

New Jersey  
Federally Qualified  
Health Centers

**Quick**facts

Our Community, Your Health, Our Commitment.





# Watch Me!

A free training for early educators

[cdc.gov/WatchMeTraining](https://cdc.gov/WatchMeTraining)



## Tennessee 2018-19

- Early care and education system collaboration
- Integration of “Watch Me!” training modules into professional development for child care professionals
- Extra credit coursework for higher education

# Engaged Caregivers and Providers

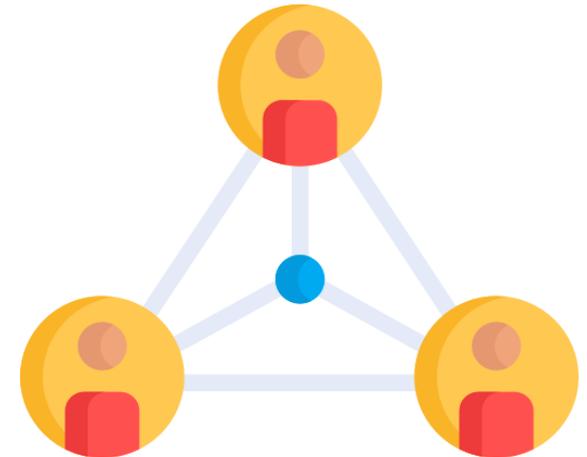
**Knowledge,  
Awareness,  
Expertise**



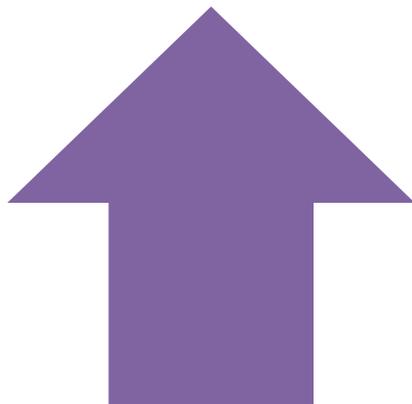
**Parent  
engagement and  
Regular  
screenings**



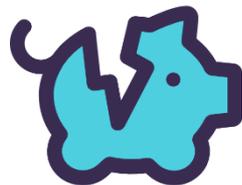
**Multi-sector  
connectedness**



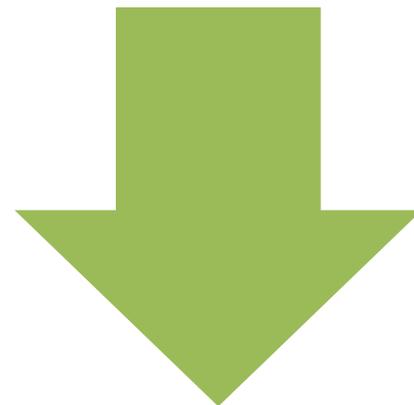
# Sustainability



**Partnerships**



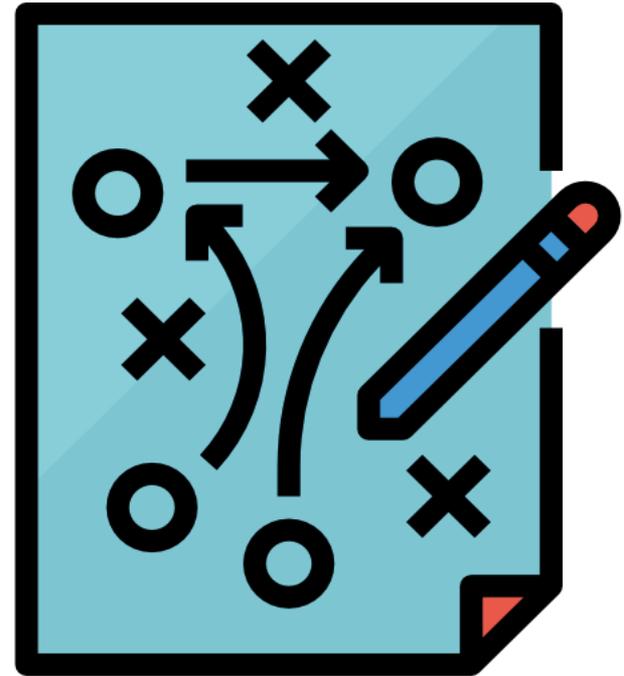
**Workforce  
Capacity  
Resources  
Funding**



# Lessons Learned



**Strengthen existing partnerships and establish new connections**



**Strategies can achieve short and long-term goals**

# What questions, insights, or comments do you have?





# Thank you!

*Please take a moment to fill out the session evaluation. We greatly value your input!*

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