National Standards for Systems of Care for CYSHCN: Partnership Assessment and Relationship Profile

State: _____   Agency/Organization: _____

Background

A robust system of care for CYSHCN strengthens the overall pediatric health care infrastructure, benefiting all children and supporting the potential for a healthy, productive adulthood.

The National Standards for Systems of Care for CYSHCN is a set of structure and process standards that together represent the necessary components of a comprehensive, quality system of care for CYSHCN. These standards are grounded in the six core outcomes for systems of care for CYSHCN that were developed by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration and based on a comprehensive review of the literature, key informant interviews, case studies of standards for CYSHCN currently in use in Title V, Medicaid and health plans within selected states and consensus from the national work group. A detailed description of how the national standards were developed is available by clicking here.

What is the purpose of the Partnership Assessment and Relationship Profile?

The purpose of the Partnership Assessment and Relationship Profile is to identify strengths and areas of needed growth across partners serving CYSHCN. This tool will aid partners working in systems that serve CYSHCN to do the following:
- Identify previous and current collaborations among partners serving CYSHCN
- Determine the broad strengths and barriers to collaborations
- Create a plan to build on partnership-related strengths and address identified barriers

Ultimately, this tool will enable partners to align their individual efforts and collaboratively work together to improve the system of care using the National Standards as a framework.

Who should complete the Partnership Assessment and Relationship Profile?

This Profile is designed to be completed by members of a **single organization**, e.g., state Medicaid, a single health plan, or the Title V program, to identify and assess collaborations with partner organizations. After all organizations complete the Profile, all stakeholders engaged in serving CYSHCN will share their answers with their state partners to strategically plan a course of action to address the system serving CYSHCN.

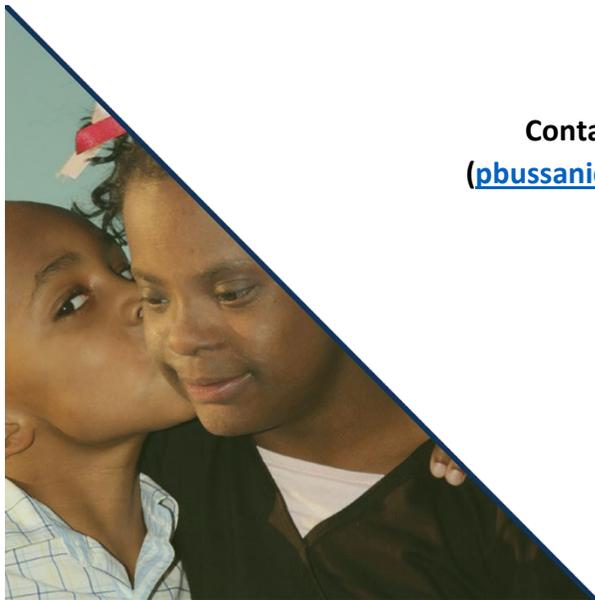**How do I complete the Partnership Assessment and Relationship Profile?**

This tool is to be completed from the perspective of your affiliation and/or organization and should be used in conjunction with the Systems Improvement Alignment Tool. Following completion of the Systems Improvement Alignment Tool, use the Partnership Assessment and Relationship Profile to assess the partners and collaborators identified in the Systems Improvement Alignment Tool in a specific Standards domain, as noted at the top of the tool. This allows you to identify common areas of work, identify related to the domain specified, discuss strengths and barriers to partnerships and develop a plan of action to improve your partnerships and ultimately, the system of care for this population.

Select a partner you wish to engage, list previous and current collaborations with the selected partner in the Shared Ventures column. Using the Five Levels of Collaboration[1] scale below, measure this partnership with the following characteristics in mind:

- **No Interaction** at all
- **Networking**: aware of organization; loosely defined roles; little communication; all decisions made independently
- **Cooperation**: provide information to each other; somewhat defined roles; formal communication; all decisions made independently
- **Coordination**: share information and resources; defined roles; frequent communication; some shared decision making
- **Coalition**: share ideas; share resources; frequent and prioritized communication; all members have a vote in decision making
- **Collaboration**: members belong to one system; frequent communication is characterized by mutual trust; consensus is reached on all decisions

Using the designated columns, provide brief descriptions of unique strengths and specific barriers to your partnership. Using the next to last column, think about potential action steps needed to harness your strengths and overcome challenges to improve the system of care for CYSHCN. The last column is used to indicate which Standards Domains are applicable.

Contact Paige Bussanich at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (pbussanich@amchp.org) with any questions or technical assistance needs related to this assessment tool.

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[1] Frey, B., Lohmeier, J., Lee, S., Tollefson, N. (2006) Measuring Collaboration Among Grant Partners. *American Journal of Evaluation*, *27*, 383. http://www.signetwork.org/content_page_assets/content_page_68/MeasuringCollaborationAmongGrantPartnersArticle.pdf

Partner, e.g., Medicaid, Family Orgs	Shared Ventures: Previous and Current Collaborations	Rank Partnership *Use Collaboration Scale Below*	Describe Unique Strengths of Partnership	Describe Specific Barriers to Partnership	Addressing Barriers: Action Steps	Related Standards Domains
		☐ No Interaction ☐ Networking ☐ Cooperation ☐ Coordination ☐ Coalition ☐ Collaboration				☐ Identification, Screening, Assessment, Referral ☐ Eligibility/Enrollment in Health Coverage ☐ Access to Care ☐ Medical Home ☐ Community-based Services & Supports ☐ Transition to Adulthood ☐ Health Information Technology ☐ Quality Assurance & Improvement
		☐ No Interaction ☐ Networking ☐ Cooperation ☐ Coordination ☐ Coalition ☐ Collaboration				☐ Identification, Screening, Assessment, Referral ☐ Eligibility/Enrollment in Health Coverage ☐ Access to Care ☐ Medical Home ☐ Community-based Services & Supports ☐ Transition to Adulthood ☐ Health Information Technology ☐ Quality Assurance & Improvement

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