

Appendix E. Chair of State Child Wellness Council Interview Guide

We have revised the interview guides to tailor them to each respondent type, to eliminate questions deemed unnecessary for the evaluation based on earlier data collection, and to add questions as a result of what we learned about the Project LAUNCH program in the earlier data collection and address emerging issues such as health reform and new federal programs and initiatives. All new questions fall within the domains covered in previous interview guides. Overall, the revisions made to the interview guides reduce the burden on respondents, because both the number of questions in each interview guide is reduced and questions are more specific. Table 1 below outlines the new questions we have added by domain.

Table 1
New Questions by Domain

Domain	Questions
Role in LAUNCH	6) In addition to you being the chair of State Child Wellness Council, does your agency have additional involvement in LAUNCH? 7) [If yes] Please describe your agency's role: 11) What motivated you to collaborate with LAUNCH?
Child Wellness Council	18) Are there other major advisory groups at the State level with a similar charge as that of the Child Wellness Council? If yes, please describe and explain. 19) [Ask if the respondent said yes to Question 18] What is the relationship between the State Child Wellness Council and this/these group(s)? 20) On a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being having relatively no influence, and 4 being having a lot of influence, how would you rate the council's current level of influence on initiatives that promote young children's socio-emotional health? 21) Are there particular topics or areas where your State Child Wellness Council has more influence than others (e.g., home visiting programs, universal screening programs, early care and education systems, etc.)? 24) How does the Child Wellness Council ensure that the needs of local communities are taken into consideration? What are the successes and challenges related to this? 27) Has the state council worked on any special initiatives in the last year?
Systems Change	32) On balance, looking across all of the LAUNCH-supported efforts, is your project's overall focus on promotion, prevention, or treatment? Has this focus shifted since the beginning of LAUNCH? If so, how and why? 34) Have health care reform or major changes in the states' approach to health care for low-income families with children affected the implementation of LAUNCH? If so how? 35) Has the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) initiative affected the implementation of LAUNCH? If so, how? Are any of the agencies funded by LAUNCH or other major stakeholders also recipients of this funding? If yes, which agencies? 36) Looking across all LAUNCH activities, have there been special efforts to focus on/include parents with children who are 5-8? If yes, please describe. 37) With respect to LAUNCH's efforts to focus on school-age children (5-8) what, if any efforts have been made to reach out to/include school districts in LAUNCH activities? What are the barriers? How have you addressed these barriers?

Sustainability	33) What aspects of LAUNCH do you think run the highest probability of being sustained? What are the reasons that they are likely to be sustainable?
Final Thoughts	36) From your perspective, what has been the most surprising or unexpected aspect of being involved in LAUNCH? 37) Is there anything that I did not ask you about but think I should know to understand how LAUNCH is being implemented at the state level?

Project LAUNCH
Chair of State Child Wellness Council Interview Guide
(Site Visit Only)

Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health) is a Federal grant program administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The program’s goal is to promote the social, emotional, behavioral, and physical health and cognitive development of young children from birth to 8 years of age. We are conducting a national evaluation of Project LAUNCH on behalf of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and SAMHSA, which are part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The goal of the evaluation is to collect information related to state, tribal, and community systems development; implementation of evidence-based services in local communities; and service and system outcomes for children, families, and providers. Findings from the national evaluation will be used by ACF and SAMHSA to guide future program directions and to report on program implementation and outcomes.

Participation in this interview is voluntary and any information you provide will be kept private to the extent permitted by law. The interview will require approximately 75 minutes of your time. Any questions you may have about this burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing this burden should be directed to Laura Hoard (202-401-4561) at ACF.

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Site:

Respondent(s) (Name, Organization, role):

Abt Interviewer(s):

Date:

A. State Context

- 1) What overall (general) early childhood initiatives existed within the State at the time you received the Project LAUNCH grant? *[Probe to determine if initiative comes out of Governor’s office, State Legislature, Federal government, private foundation, advocacy coalition, executive branch leadership (e.g. Secretary or Commissioner), etc. Probe for location of initiatives – e.g., how widespread, in LAUNCH community, etc.]*
- 2) What state-level early childhood initiatives existed within the five service strands prior to the start of Project LAUNCH? *[Probe for initiatives related to: home visiting, family strengthening, mental health consultation in ECE, mental health consultation in primary care, and developmental screening/assessment. Probe for location of initiatives – e.g., how widespread, in LAUNCH community, etc.]*

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- 3) Are there other early childhood initiatives that have been started since the State received the Project LAUNCH grant? *[Probe for initiatives related to: home visiting, family strengthening, mental health consultation in ECE, mental health consultation in primary care, and developmental screening/assessment. Ask for the year each initiative was started. Probe for location of initiatives – e.g., how widespread, in LAUNCH community, etc.]*
- 4) What is the relationship between each of these other initiatives and Project LAUNCH? *[Probe for relationship between LAUNCH and ECCS and the extent of coordination with ECCS and with other initiatives.]*
- 5) Why did the State decide to apply for a Project LAUNCH grant? *Probe to determine if the decision was initiated by Governor, State Legislature, Federal government, private foundation, advocacy coalition, executive branch leadership (e.g. Secretary or Commissioner), etc.*

B. Role in LAUNCH

- 6) In addition to you being the chair of State Child Wellness Council, does your agency have additional involvement in LAUNCH?
 Yes
 No
- 7) *[If yes]* Please describe your agency's role:
 My agency receives LAUNCH funding *[Ask questions 8-10]*
 My agency receives services provided by consultants and others that are supported by LAUNCH funds *[Ask questions (11-14)]*

[Ask if respondent's agency receives LAUNCH funding]

- 8) What, specifically, are your activities that are funded by LAUNCH?
- 9) What have been your successes in terms of implementation of these services? Why do you think you were successful?
- 10) What have been the challenges in terms of implementation of these services? How have you worked to overcome these challenges?

[Ask if respondent's agency receives services supported by LAUNCH]

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- 11)** What motivated you to collaborate with LAUNCH?
- 12)** Were there any ways that you had to adapt/change your services in order to receive the additional enhancements offered by LAUNCH? [*ask questions 13 and 14 if yes*]
- 13)** In what ways did you have to change the way your services were implemented? [*Probe for changes in coordination, monitoring/oversight*]
- 14)** Have any adaptations you made in order to receive the enhancements offered by LAUNCH affected your cost/level of effort to provide the services you program offered before LAUNCH? (If yes, probe for more details.)

C. Child Wellness Council

15) Was the State Child Wellness Council newly formed for Project LAUNCH?

- Yes
- No

If yes, What has been the advantage of starting your own council rather than having an existing advisory group [provide name of other advisory group, if known] assume this role for Project LAUNCH?

16) Does your State Child Wellness Council served as an advisory body for any other state initiatives, either now or in the past, for instance ECCS or Head Start?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe and explain.

17) Has the Council's involvement in other (non-LAUNCH) initiatives changed since the beginning of LAUNCH?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe and explain

18) Are there other major advisory groups at the State level with a similar charge as that of the Child Wellness Council?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe and explain.

19) [Ask if the respondent said yes to Question 18] What is the relationship between the State Child Wellness Council and this/these group(s)?

20) On a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being having relatively no influence, and 4 being having a lot of influence, how would you rate the council's current level of influence on initiatives that promote young children's socio-emotional health?

- 1 - Relatively no influence
- 2 - Influence on a few important decisions
- 3 - Influence on a moderate number of important decisions
- 4 - Influence on a fairly large number of important decisions

Has this changed since LAUNCH was first funded? If so, how?

21) Are there particular topics or areas where your State Child Wellness Council has more influence than others (e.g., home visiting programs, universal screening programs, early care and education systems, etc.)?

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22) Have there been major changes to the composition of your state council in the last year?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe and explain.

23) How does the Child Wellness Council ensure that the voices of parents/needs of families are taken into consideration? What have been the successes and challenges related to this?

24) How does the Child Wellness Council ensure that the needs of local communities are taken into consideration? What are the successes and challenges related to this?

25) Is there representation of the local LAUNCH community on the State Child Wellness Council?

- Yes
- No

26) *[Ask if respondent answered "yes" to question 25]* Has he/she attended meetings in the last year? What role has he/she played?

27) Has the state council worked on any special initiatives in the last year?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe the most important initiatives (up to three)

Initiative 1:

- a. What was the issue that was to be addressed
- b. How was it addressed
- c. What was the progress made toward addressing it
- d. What were the notable successes and challenges

Initiative 2:

- a) What was the issue that was to be addressed
- b) How was it addressed
- c) What was the progress made toward addressing it
- d) What were the notable successes and challenges

Initiative 3:

- a) What was the issue that was to be addressed
- b) How was it addressed
- c) What was the progress made toward addressing it
- d) What were the notable successes and challenges

28) In addition to what you just described, what have been the major successes of the Child Wellness Council?

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29) What have been its major challenges and how have you worked to overcome them?

D. Systems Change

30) (a) In terms of systems change, what have been your major areas of focus in the last year?

(check all that apply) *[Site visitors should know a lot of this already but confirm that the site isn't doing each of the things where you don't think there is any activity Note: if they say something about changing policies or regulation, drill down to what the policy or regulation is designed to do.]*

- Improving **the quality of direct service programs** (e.g., ensuring that programs are evidence-based, are implemented with fidelity)
- System-wide implementation of LAUNCH-supported program enhancements** (e.g., cultural enhancements such as addition of staff who speak the language of targeted families, materials in other languages, conducting screening/assessment in Spanish; family partners/case management)
- Implementation of developmental screening/assessments**
 - Across programs within a single setting (e.g., home visiting, family strengthening, etc.)
 - Across settings and programs
- Creating **data systems** to support care coordination, referral systems, evaluation
- Implementing **standardized training/accreditation for providers community-wide** (beyond what LAUNCH is doing related to training/supporting providers for specific direct services)
- Enhancing 211 and other **information and referral systems**
- Increasing **collaboration/linkages** among systems/service providers/stakeholders
- Other [specify] *[Ask whether the activities you've asked about capture all of the systems change activities that LAUNCH is involved in within the community, or if there are other activities. If you are in doubt if it's really a systems change, document it anyway.]*

For each box checked

Indicate Topic Area _____

- (b) What is the ultimate goal of this systems change? (Probe for: to implement the systems change across programs within a setting, to implement the systems change across programs throughout the entire county, other)
- (c) What has been accomplished to date?
- (d) Are you on schedule, ahead of schedule or behind schedule?
- (e) If ahead or behind, probe for why (e.g., changes in leadership at the state or local level, changes in available funding, new program opportunities)
- (f) To what extent has LAUNCH been responsible for the systems change (check one):
 - LAUNCH initiated and leads the systems change activity
 - Systems change activity began prior to LAUNCH and LAUNCH is a participant along with other agencies/stakeholders

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- Systems change activity began after LAUNCH and LAUNCH is a participant along with other agencies/stakeholders

(g) On a scale from 1 to 4, what has been LAUNCH's role in the systems change activity:

- 1 (minor role)
- 2 (more than a minor role, but not a significant role)
- 3 (significant role, but not the lead)
- 4 (lead role)

[Important note: Prior to the interview, format your guide by copying and pasting question 30(b)-(g) for all of the systems changes you know about, with at least two more blank sets. Label each of the changes according to the bolded words in 30(a)]

- 31) What has been the role of State Wellness Council in each of the systems change activities named above?
- 32) On balance, looking across all of the LAUNCH-supported efforts, is your project's overall focus on promotion, prevention, or treatment? *[Promotion: Efforts to enhance any individuals' socio-emotional development. Prevention: Interventions or activities targeting individuals or subgroups at high risk or higher risk than average of developing mental or behavioral health disorders. Treatment: Services provided to individuals with a diagnosed disorder or behavior problem.]*
- Has this focus shifted since the beginning of LAUNCH? If so, how and why?
- 33) What external factors, if any, have affected the direction of LAUNCH within the state? *[Probe for: the recession, political factors, state budget cuts, new federal or state legislation, new funding streams, staff turnover, changing needs of families, etc.]* How have these factors affected overall LAUNCH implementation?
- 34) Have health care reform or major changes in the states' approach to health care for low-income families with children affected the implementation of LAUNCH? If so how? *[Ask this question if not previously covered. If covered, after interview write response in more than one place]*
- 35) Has the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) initiative affected the implementation of LAUNCH? If so, how? Are any of the agencies funded by LAUNCH or other major stakeholders also recipients of this funding? If yes, which agencies?
- 36) Looking across all LAUNCH activities, have there been special efforts to focus on/include parents with children who are 5-8? If yes, please describe.
- 37) With respect to LAUNCH's efforts to focus on school-age children (5-8) what, if any efforts have been made to reach out to/include school districts in LAUNCH activities? What are the barriers? How have you addressed these barriers?

E. Media Campaign /Statewide Outreach

- 38)** In the last year, have there been statewide media campaigns or other outreach activities supported by LAUNCH?
- 39)** What is the purpose of the campaign/outreach activity?
- 40)** Who is the target audience?
- 41)** What types of media and/or products are parts of the campaign/outreach activity?
- Brochures and other paper materials
 - Radio PSAs
 - Television PSAs
 - Social media
 - Public meetings/forums
 - Web site (Name: _____)
 - Other

F. Sustainability

[Provide/summarize your understanding of how the grantee is approaching sustainability and ask any questions related to sustainability to fill in gaps.]

- 42) Do you have a sustainability plan?
- Yes
 - No
- 43) Have there been changes in your approach to sustainability from last year in each of the following areas?
- Funding
 - Workforce development
 - Infrastructure development
 - Promotion
 - Other
- 44) What have been your accomplishments to date in terms of meeting your strategies to achieve LAUNCH sustainability?
- 45) What aspects of LAUNCH do you think have the highest probability of being sustained? How are they likely to be sustained?
- 46) What aspects of LAUNCH do you think run the highest risk of **not being** sustained? Have you made special plans/taken particular approaches in regard to these?

G. Final Thoughts

- 47) *[Ask only if SAMHSA has plans to fund a new cohort.]* As you may know, SAMHSA is funding an additional cohort of grantees. From your experience, what are the top three lessons that you have learned that you would want to share with them to enhance their prospects for being successful in meeting their goals?
- 48) From your perspective, what has been the most surprising or unexpected aspect of being involved in LAUNCH?
- 49) Is there anything that I did not ask you about but think I should know to understand how LAUNCH is being implemented the State level? (If yes probe for what it is and why.)