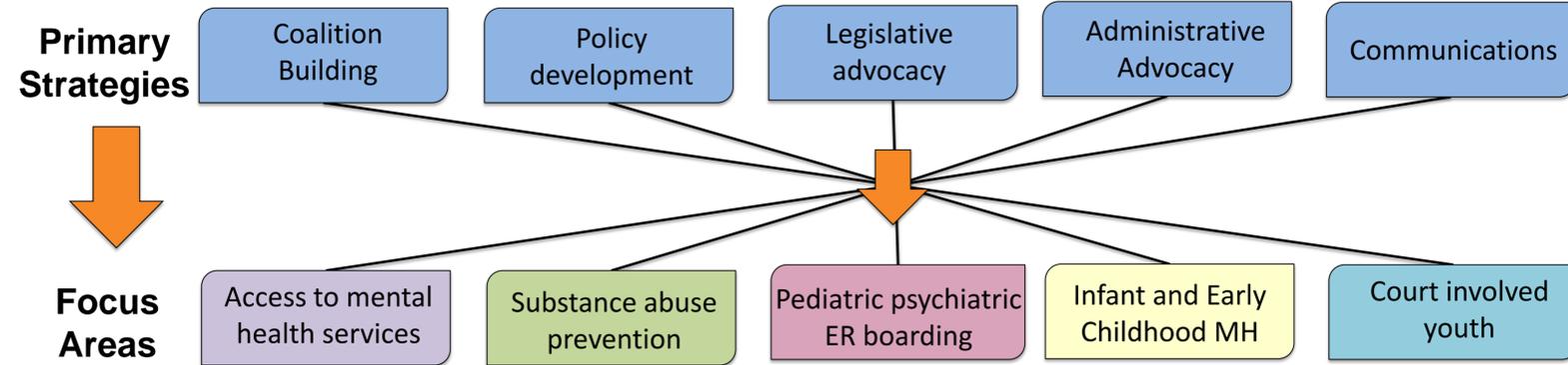




The Children's Mental Health Campaign through the years: Using a policy and advocacy coalition to move the needle on kids' mental health

About the Campaign and its history: The Children's Mental Health Campaign ("the Campaign") is a coalition of families, advocates, health care providers, educators, and consumers from across Massachusetts dedicated to comprehensive reform of the children's mental health system. The Coalition is led by five partner organizations – the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Boston Children's Hospital, the Parent/Professional Advocacy League, and Health Law Advocates - and includes more than 140 supporting organizations. It was initially founded through a collaboration between Boston Children's Hospital and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Today the campaign has 5 major focus areas and uses 5 key strategies for effecting change:



2006
 "Children's Mental Health In The Commonwealth: The Time Is NOW" white paper published that enumerates issues facing children in MA with mental health needs. The campaign's policy agenda is launched.
 Coalition Expands: PPAL, HCFA and HLA join

2007
 HA HEALTH CARE FOR ALL
 PPAL PARENT / PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY LEAGUE
 C.F. Adams Charitable Trust

2008
 Omnibus Mental Health Law Passed Chapter 321, An Act Relative to Children's Mental Health creates a structure for enhancing early identification, treating children in the most appropriate setting, enhancing coordination among state health care agencies and establishing mechanisms for oversight of and input into the state's children's mental health system.

2010
 Insurance Coverage for Autism: Chapter 207 of the Acts of 2010, relative to insurance coverage for autism, is passed.

2011
 Infant and Early Childhood Mental Healthcare: Convened stakeholder workgroup to identify legislative and budget priorities for IECMH.

2012
 Health Care Costs are addressed through Chapter 224, whose passage was supported by Campaign advocacy.
 Boarder Project: The Campaign begins its work around pediatric psychiatric emergency room boarding. Boston Children's Hospital is conducting a state-wide data collection project that will inform our policy efforts and advocacy.

2014
 H. 1807 extends the Health Policy Commission's authority to review insurer and behavioral health transactions. Ensures ongoing access to care.
 H. 789—Wraparound Care: Requires commercial insurers to cover broad range of community-based services currently only available to children with MassHealth and their families. Provides community-based care for all Massachusetts children. Keeps youth at home with their families and out of high cost care.

2015 and ongoing
 Safe and Supportive Schools: Chapter 284 is passed focusing on gun control. The provision requires schools to develop an action plan for creating safe and supportive environments and also establishes a commission and program to assist and advise schools.
 H. 1808 Children's Mental Health Ombudsman: Calls for an ombudsman position to monitor and ensure compliance with relevant child mental health statutes, regulations, rules, and policies and receive, investigate, and resolve complaints filed on behalf of a child.
 Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project (MCPAP), H. 1798. Requires commercial insurers to contribute to the funding of MCPAP, which provides primary care physicians, psychologists and/or social workers to consult with in order to diagnose and treat mental illness. MCPAP was originally included in Chapter 321 of 2008 to address the lack of access to child psychiatry in MA and is now a national model of care.

CHINS system is replaced by FACES:
 The Campaign leads the drive to replace the state's failing CHINS (Child in Need of Services) system with for coping with children with serious disciplinary issues (many of whom suffer from mental health problems) with a new FACES (Families and Children Engaged in Services) system. FACES offers families access to community-based mental health treatment, special educational assistance and other services to keep children out of the juvenile justice system.

Logos: the time is NOW Children's Mental Health Campaign, m.s.p.c.c. Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Boston Children's Hospital Until every child is well, CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION, ADDICTION FREE FUTURES PROJECT, SBIRT.

