

Early Pathways. Lifelong Benefits.

# 2018 Annual Report



Dear Friends,

Twenty-six years ago, my husband and I walked out of the neonatal intensive care unit with our first daughter with no guidance on accessing developmental information or services. Today, I still meet families that are missing out on opportunities to increase their knowledge and capacity to support their children's development. What we all have in common is the desire to see our children reach their maximum developmental potential.

In communities across Colorado, too many parents of children under 5 feel anxious, alone and confused. They aren't sure how to name their concerns as they watch their children struggle and fall behind. The stress, worry and challenge of caring for their children takes a toll, causing some to miss work and others to suffer from depression and financial hardship.

At ABCD, we envision a different Colorado, where all children with social, emotional and developmental needs are identified by age 5 to ensure they get help when it matters most. Primary care, early childhood and community agencies work together seamlessly, effectively referring and connecting families to the resources and services they need. Aided by that support, parents are empowered to address their children's developmental needs. Their children start kindergarten ready to learn and succeed in school and in life.

ABCD's work proves that we can make a difference. In 2018, 30,000 children had been served by agencies that have received our model of customized consultation to improve their early identification and referral processes, 250 early learning professionals participated in our trainings and have increased their knowledge of child development, and referrals from primary care providers to early intervention services increased by 1,200% since 2006.

As we reflect on what we have accomplished, we recognize there is much more to be done. Our success depends on our partners to advocate for and collaborate with ABCD. Together we can ensure that every child in Colorado has an equal opportunity to thrive.

Eileen Auer Bennett **Executive Director** 

...because every Colorado child deserves an equal opportunity to thrive.

# The Challenge

Without the right information and help, children and families face serious challenges that can affect all areas of their lives.



Colorado's rate for recommended developmental screenings for kids birth to age 3 on Medicaid and CHIP was 41.8%.



12-15% of all children have some type of emotional or behavioral problems or developmental delays. In Colorado alone, approximately 35,000 children under age 3 are affected by those challenges.



Early identification and intervention are critical because research shows that human brains grow faster in the first three years of life than at any other point in the human lifespan.



#### **Cost Savings**

For every dollar communities invest in early identification and intervention, they see a \$4 to \$9 reduction in long-term societal costs.

# **Our Work**

Working in partnership with frontline providers, ABCD helps bring the lifelong benefits of early identification and intervention for developmental needs to all Colorado children and families.

## We **Educate**, **Equip** and **Partner** with:



**Primary Care Providers** 





# We Offer:



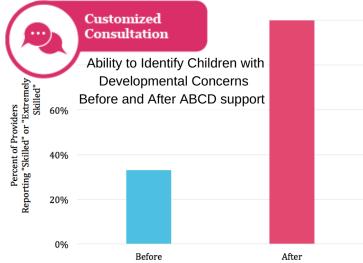
# **Our Impact**

ABCD is a trusted name when it comes to child development and early intervention. Partners agree we are connecting families and children to the services they need.



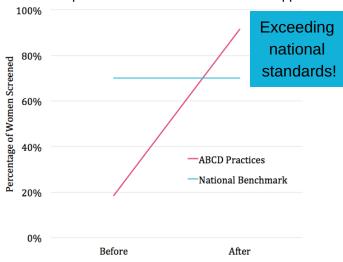
Pediatric medical providers who partnered with ABCD improved the rate of referred children who followed through to evaluations by ...

20%!



"We were not aware of how or where to get started with creating a system for screening and referral... ABCD supported the entire process, offered mentoring and coaching and support related to understanding the referral process." Paige Helm NP, Banner Drake

Women Screened for Pregnancy-Related Depression Before and After ABCD support



#### HealthySteps

From 2013-2018, HealthySteps has served 2,135 children between the ages of birth-36 months.

Over 1600 children are currently enrolled in HealthySteps, over 1/3 of whom were enrolled in 2018!

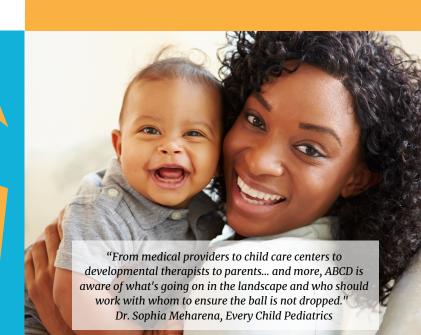
# **Community Systems-Building**

Denver Health Lowry Family Health
Center has improved screening
rates for Non-English, Non-Spanish
speaking children from
54% to 77%

"ABCD's support has been absolutely vital to our success in providing technical assistance support to early learning centers." Tri-County Health Department

"With the implementation of the screening program, we screened 330 students ages 18 months to 6 years old... and it gave excellent baseline information on the child's development."

Amy Boss, Little Blessings



### **Many Thanks to Our Supporters**

### **Foundations and Government Donors**



COLORADO Department of Public Health & Environment







Department of Education









### **Individuals**

Cynthia Auer Richard & Norma Auer Luff Family Fund Dr. Stephen Berman Trish Blake Mindy Craig Dr. Peter & Joan Dawson

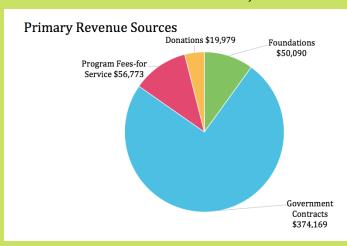
John & Martha Gart Ilene Goldman Connie Carroll-Hopkins Aline Maddux Jennifer Merkley **Neusteter Family Fund** J. Noble Martha Shwayder

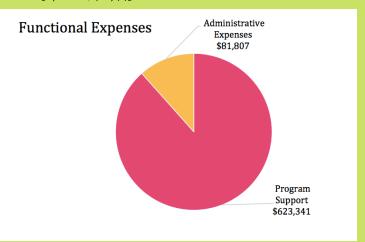
### **Board of Directors**

Sharla Fellers Sara Mattie Sophia Meharena, DO Hanna Nichols Jessica Perrill **Catherine Pluss** Mary Ruparel Victoria Sulmeisters Mark Zeiden

# FY2018 Financial Highlights

Notes: Numbers based on unaudited 2018 financial statements Projected Net Assets December 31, 2018 \$412,443





### Help us make an impact!

Our impact is felt by Colorado families whose children are thriving thanks to the early intervention they received from the primary care, early childhood and community agencies we serve.

#### Vision

Colorado's children reach their maximum development potential.

#### Mission

To align and mobilize pediatric and community agencies to improve early childhood development outcomes.

