



Acknowledgements

Faculty Mentor:

Alan Kurtz

LIA Mentor:

Nancy Cronin

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Maine Statute 34-B § 6001, The Autism Act of 1984, outlines the Maine Autism Strategic Plan and requires the Departments of Health and Human Services and Education to report out every two years on the progress made in implementing the plan. In preparation for compiling the upcoming biennial report, the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council organized and conducted a summit of stakeholders to discuss the progress to date, recognize highlights, identify continuing challenges, and develop a process for moving forward on the next iteration of the strategic plan and report.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN



PROGRESS MADE



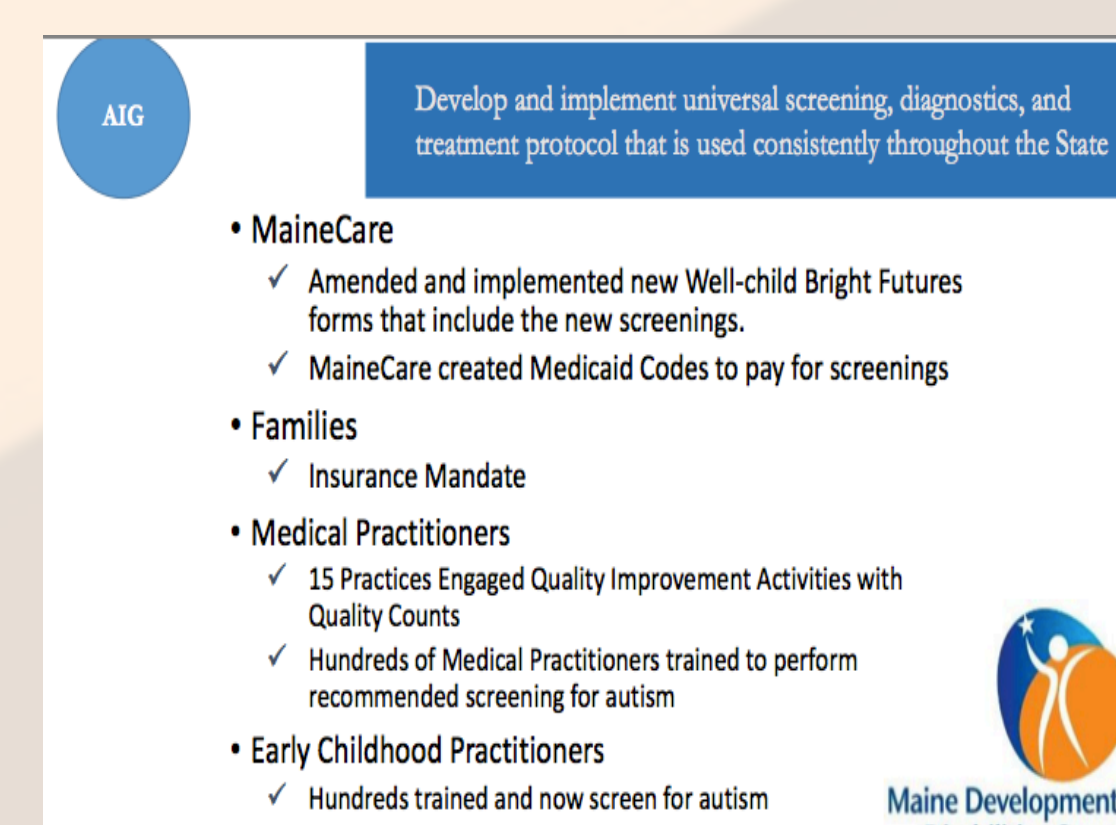
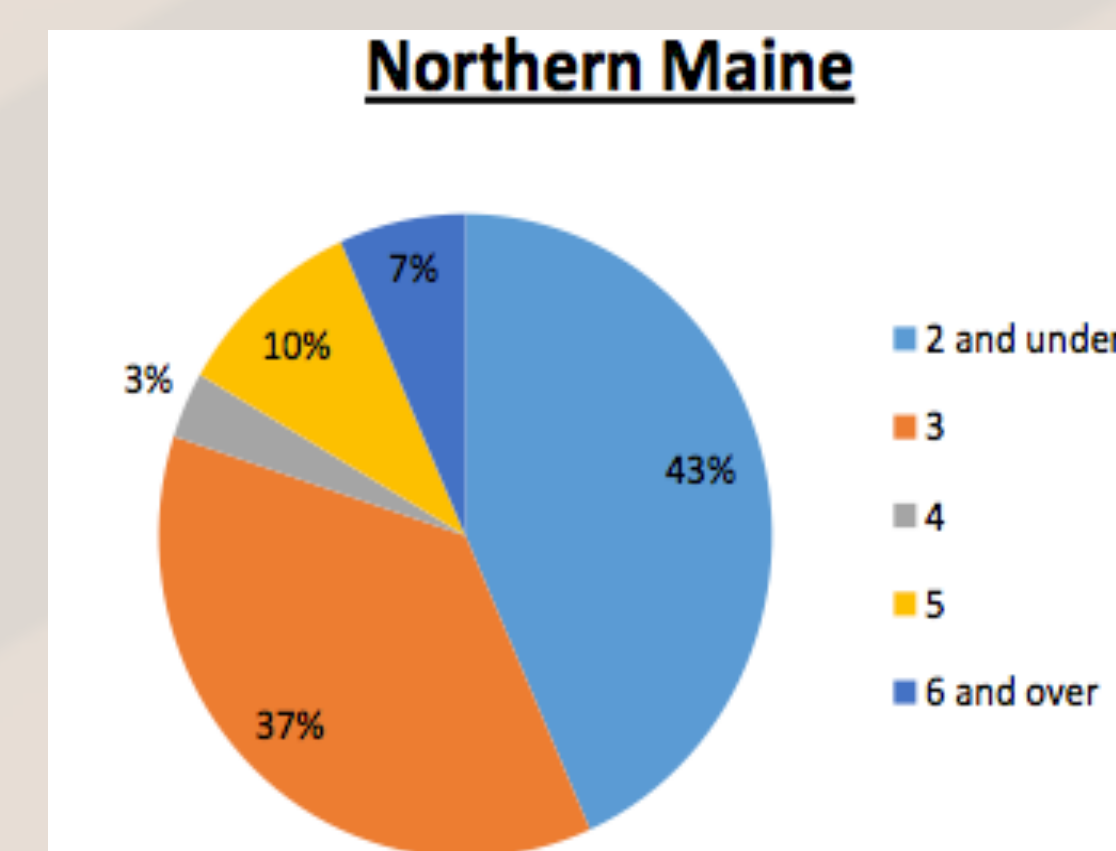
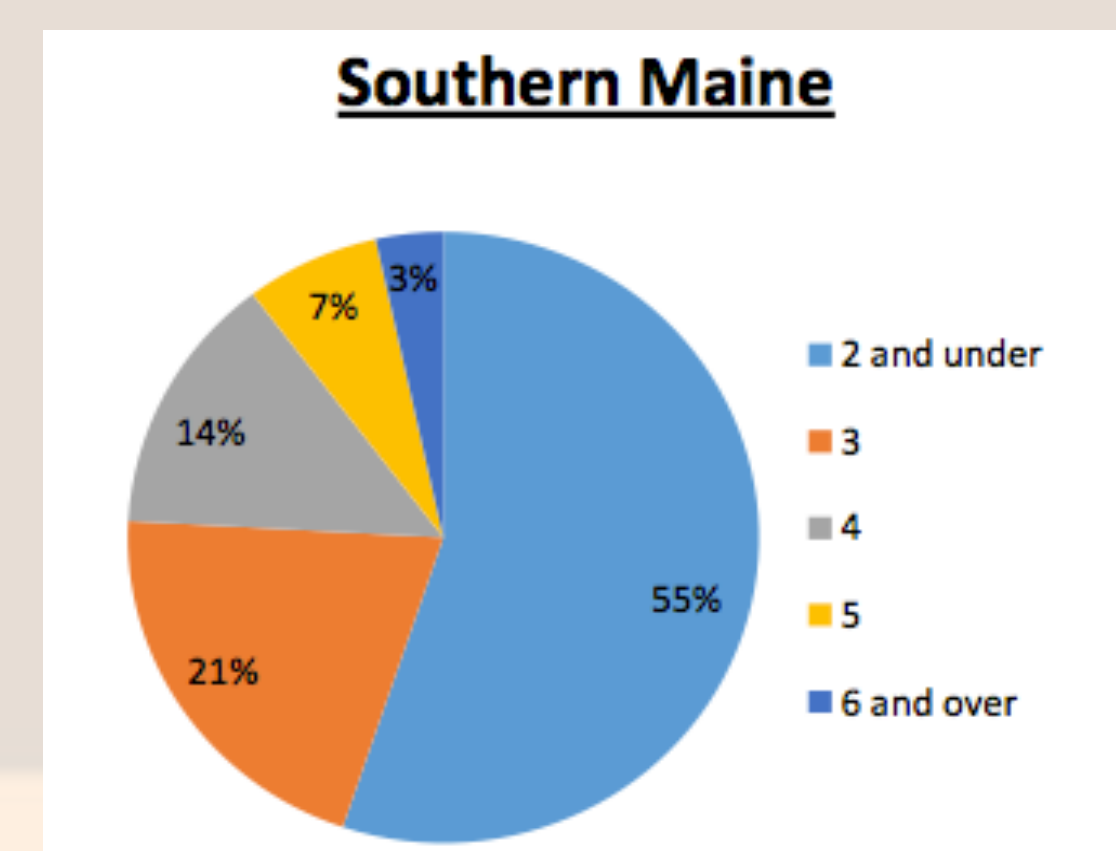
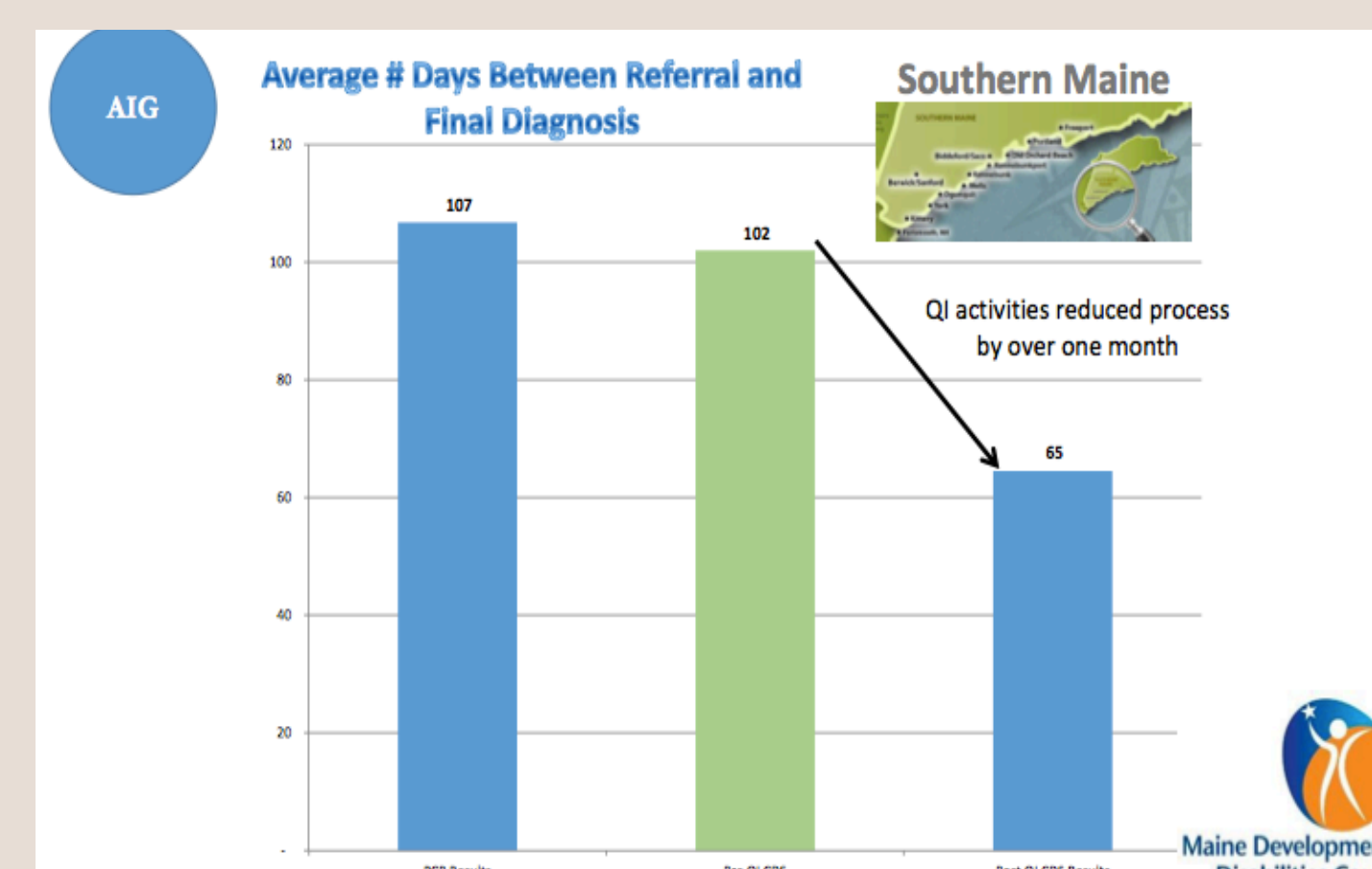
NEXT STEPS

Policy/Systems Change

- Medical care
- Treatment
- Improved efficiency
- Collaboration between state entities
- Joint policy
- MaineCare
- Planning

Information Training/ Technical Assistance

- Provide training/technical assistance to multiple entities
- Develop a web-based resource
- Sponsor public awareness campaign



Demographics/ Early Intervention

- Improve data collection and links between DOE, DHHS, MaineCare
- Family support/education
- Improve education-medical communication
- Decrease regional disparities

Health

- Improve comprehensive assessment, diagnosis, medical issues
- Improve follow-through to honor families' desires
- Increase availability of qualified professionals
- Better address oral health

Employment/Transition

- Foster paradigm shift
- Transportation
- Streamline groups/Department for transition/employment
- IEP, PCP planning reflect individuals desires
- Improve access to post-secondary education

Access to Services

- Transportation
- Improve family support/education
- Improve community connections
- Improve/Increase workforce

Leadership Development: An effective leader understands the importance of developing a vision and generating a path toward that vision, at the same time she recognizes that change is best facilitated when using a systems approach. From the integration of my LIA experience and LEND classes, I have begun to use systems thinking in my problem solving and solution-focused efforts.