The Curators of the University of Missouri
(2010 Grantee)

Overview
Boone County Project LAUNCH serves children and families in Boone County, Missouri. Demographic data reveal Boone County (population: 154,365) to be a young community, with a median age of 30 years. Twenty-two percent are under age 18, and 6.1 percent are under age 5. While three-quarters of the county’s residents live in the urban area of Columbia, a quarter live in the outlying rural areas. Many children who are eligible for early intervention do not receive these services, due to a lack of providers. Through a partnership between the University of Missouri’s Department of Psychiatry and community and state agencies, Boone County Project LAUNCH is addressing the disproportionate lack of services in rural areas, specifically reaching children who are not currently receiving the array of services they need to optimize their development.

Successes
Boone County Project LAUNCH’s Wellness Council is highly collaborative, representative of community stakeholders, and dedicated to the goals of Project LAUNCH. Boone County Project LAUNCH continued collaborating and networking with area initiatives, such as Columbia Cares for Kids, Putting Kids First, Youth Community Coalition, Central Missouri Rapid Response Autism Collaborative, and Coordinating Board for Early Childhood. Also, Boone County Project LAUNCH provided ongoing social-emotional development training and coaching for child-care providers, including home-based providers, using the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning model. The Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Third Edition (ASQ-3) and ASQ’s Social-Emotional component (ASQ:SE) train-the-trainer sessions attracted physicians, child-care providers, nurses, educators, and more. The Wellness Council has established work groups on the topics of developmental screenings, home visiting, mental health consultation, and the integration of behavioral health into primary care in order to coordinate ongoing efforts and reduce duplication of services.

Lessons Learned

Developmental Assessments
Boone County Project LAUNCH recognized the need for training guidelines and referral support after completing the train-the-trainer event for the ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE developmental screenings. Guidelines have now been developed to disseminate to trainers. Referral decision tools have also been developed for primary care providers and child-care providers and educators who are trained to use ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE.

Mental Health Consultation
Several local agencies are providing mental health consultation, and the Wellness Council realized that its efforts were best used to coordinate services and reduce duplication of services. Part of this process involved analyzing alternate definitions and models of mental health consultation and developing a unified vision for Boone County Project LAUNCH.