

*APHL Messages, June 2006: State Public Health Laboratories and Newborn Screening*

**Main Message:**

**It's about helping children. Accurate testing is an important part of the process.**

<p><b><i>1. SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Much more than isolated lab tests: Involves sampling, screening, notification, confirmation, treatment, counseling, education, training, and follow-up.</li><li>• State labs part of team that includes public health staff, birthing center staff, primary care physicians, metabolic specialists, educators, and families.</li><li>• Coordination is key:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ between public health laboratory and MCH staff</li><li>○ primary care physicians and medical specialists</li><li>○ public health, medical community, and families.</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><b><i>2. STATE LABS ARE CRITICAL</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct 97% of testing of the four million babies born in US each year.</li><li>• Assure high quality, accurate test results in collaboration with CDC.</li><li>• Ready to do more when authorized by state legislatures.</li><li>• Do not set screening panel. Follow recommendations of state advisory groups which include parents.</li></ul>
<p><b><i>3. PROCESS IS DYNAMIC</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing number of state labs utilize MS/MS (currently 43 labs)</li><li>• Advancing technology has led to expanded screening (MS/MS, microarray, chip)</li><li>• Expanded process detects more children with treatable disorders.</li></ul>	<p><b><i>4. FUNDING IS NEEDED</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labs ready to expand testing when funding is available.</li><li>• MS/MS requires expensive analytical equipment and specially trained personnel.</li><li>• Funding must cover comprehensive, coordinated program of testing, treatment and follow-up.</li><li>• Dodd-DeWine bill would provide funding to CDC to assure accuracy of tests.</li></ul>