Increasing Access, Quality, and Affordability of Early Care and Education through Systems Building and Change Management

July 25, 2019
Purpose

• Highlight the work of three states focused on making meaningful progress towards implementing a long-term vision for a comprehensive B-5 system

• Begin a conversation with PDG B-5 grantees and CCDF state administrators on ways to troubleshoot common barriers and elevate successes and best practices through peer learning
Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and Third Sector: Engaging Stakeholders to Establish Sustainable Intra- and Inter-Agency Initiatives


New York State and The Ounce: Including ALL Parts of the Early Childhood System

Q&A and Closing Remarks
Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Welcome and Opening Remarks

Shannon Christian
Director of the Office of Child Care at HHS’ Administration for Children and Families
Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and Third Sector
Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and Third Sector: “Engaging Stakeholders to Establish Sustainable Intra- and Inter-Agency Initiatives”

Beth Bye
Commissioner
Office of Early Childhood

Christine Kang
Manager
Third Sector
Mission

To support all young children in their development by ensuring that early childhood policy, funding, and services strengthen the critical role families, providers, educators, and communities play in a child’s life.

Early Care and Education Division

Programs and Funding:

- $350 million annual budget
  - 82% of funding being overseen and monitored by the Early Care and Education (ECE) Division
- Program areas and core functions of ECE include state and federal early childhood grants, contracts, and subsidies
To create a shared vision for early care and education across key stakeholder groups, OEC partnered with Third Sector and hosted statewide Action Sessions.

- Reviewed and synthesized raw feedback collected since 2014
- Prioritized promising solutions identified by stakeholders
- Designed sessions to provide level setting and encourage dialogue
- Engaged in cross-agency partnerships to make services better for families
- Tested short-term programming and data collection approaches to inform policy

**Priority Areas**

- Licensing Requirements and Enforcement
- Access and Rates
- Workforce, Technical Assistance, and Training
- Communication, Information, and Collaboration
OEC is addressing pain points related to Access and Rates and Communication, Information, and Collaboration

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<tr>
<th>Access and Rates</th>
<th>Communication, Information, and Collaboration</th>
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<td>• Lack of affordable infant and toddler care in CT</td>
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<td>• State funding for preschool is disjointed</td>
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<td>• Some families (e.g., children with special needs, behavioral health, teen parents, shift workers, etc.) are not getting the support they need</td>
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<td>• Family voice has not been sufficiently driving decisions</td>
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<td>• Need for continuous feedback loops between OEC and providers, advocates, and other stakeholders</td>
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Access and Rates

Long-Term Vision: Balance investments between infant and toddler and preschool care to build foundation for 0-5 early care and education system

1. Increased Care 4 Kids reimbursement rates (CCDF Child Care Subsidy Program)
   • Rate increases for infant and toddler slots in center-based settings
   • Family child care rates increased to incentivize and support providers to build capacity
   • Built predictive models to assess impact of rate increases on applications, caseloads, and waitlists
     ○ Intentional about waitlist for providers and families
   • Solicited feedback from local and national early care and education stakeholders related to rates and impact on access
     ○ Supported policy decision to prioritize infant and toddler rate increase
Access and Rates

Long-Term Vision: Balance investments between infant and toddler and preschool care to build foundation for 0-5 early care and education system

2 Launched Staffed Family Child Care Networks grants as a strategy to address need for infant and toddler care capacity, and access for families who lack transportation
  • 7 grantees piloting flexible, non-prescriptive network models responsive to local community needs
    ○ Collecting data to learn the value of specific network supports and interventions - to inform decisions about investments that help stabilize fiscal operations, raise/maintain quality, and reduce provider turnover
Communication, Information, and Collaboration

Long-Term Vision: Build infrastructure for transparent communications that lead to collaborative direction setting between agency divisions, as well as external stakeholders

3 Partner with other agencies to support CT children and families
   - Example: Governor Lamont’s Initiative on Preventing Homelessness (Launched July 2019)
     - Improve outcomes and conserve resources by coordinating and prioritizing services for households facing homelessness who use the most social service supports across state agencies
     - Match data from Homeless Management Information System, Department of Children and Families, Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction, and Department of Correction to identify households
Office of Early Childhood’s Next Steps

✔ Continue to focus on expanding access for infants and toddler through scaling of family child care networks

✔ Implement quality improvement system that works across care types and communicates with families about quality

✔ Continue to collaborate with Dept. of Children and Families to support children with behavioral health challenges and their families and providers

✔ Establish Parent Cabinet to have a regular feedback from families
Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and Third Sector

Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families and BUILD
Washington Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families and BUILD: Advancing an Integrated, Equitable, and Responsive Early Learning System

Kelli Bohanon  
Director of Early Learning Programs  
Washington DCYF

Susan Hibbard  
Executive Director  
BUILD Initiative
PDG B-5

- State-focused
- Strengthen what exists
- Intended Beneficiaries: young children and their families who are low-income and/or far from opportunity

- Assess needs
- Align & coordinate services
- Strengthen collaboration
- Share best practices
- Create efficiencies
- Improve quality
- Extend parent knowledge and participation

www.buildinitiative.org
Washington’s Approach

Washington made great strides with the Early Learning Challenge. State leaders turned PDG B-5 into an opportunity to:

• Use data more effectively at the systems level
• Strengthen partnerships with Tribal Communities
• Focus on the needs of DLLs
• Increase supply of infant and toddler care
• Create more inclusive classrooms
• Enhance provider capacity to support EC mental health (mental health consultants, trauma-informed supports)
• Improve systemic coordination of IECMH
• Focus on ECE providers as businesses
Foundations and Key Characteristics of WA’s System

- Prenatal through 3rd grade
- Mixed delivery
- Equity
- Prevention
- High quality
- Whole child, whole family
- Community
Building system and caregiver/provider capacity to be responsive to the unique needs and cultural preferences of the children and families in our state.

Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families

www.dcyf.wa.gov
“Experience has a structure. Change the structure and you change the experience.”

-Steve Zuieback
Advancing Equity in the System

- Recognition of inequity in many forms
- Commitment to interrupt patterns of inequity
- Conscious and intentional design (processes, practices, policies)
- Individual and collective learning, commitment building
- Opportunity to create an environment of co-creation
Building a Responsive System

• Significant focus on building adult capacity/capabilities
• Creation of a trauma-informed/healing-centered system
• Strengthening partnerships and coordination in new ways
• Ensuring providers have access to critical tools and supports
• Creating mechanisms that support sustainability
• Addressing key service gaps
Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and Third Sector

Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families and BUILD

New York State and The Ounce
New York State and The Ounce of Prevention Fund – “Including ALL Parts of the Early Childhood System”

Jenn O’Connor  
Director of Policy & Advocacy  
Prevent Child Abuse New York

Kristin Bernhard  
Senior Vice President, Advocacy & Policy  
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Home Visiting: An Integral Part of the Early Childhood System

State Early Childhood Development System

All children need comprehensive health services that address vision, hearing, nutrition, behavioral, and oral health as well as medical health needs.

Early Learning

All children should have access to early care and education opportunities in nurturing environments where they can learn what they need to succeed in school and life.

Health, Mental Health and Nutrition

All children with special needs should be identified as early as possible, assessed and receive appropriate services.

Special Needs/ Early Intervention

All families should have economic and parenting supports to ensure all children have nurturing and stable relationships with caring adults.

Including Home Visiting in PDG B5

Understanding the Barriers & Benefits
Including Home Visiting in PDG B5: New York

Getting the Team Together
Including Home Visiting in PDG B5: New York

Developing a Successful Collaborative

- Time
- Resources
- Training
- Data
Including Home Visiting in PDG B5: New York

Developing Shared Goals

“The New York Home Visiting Leadership Group is comprised of partners across state agencies that support, fund, deliver, and oversee home visiting. We are committed to identifying and recommending policy and program solutions that help achieve our shared vision for a collaborative, seamless, and universal home visiting system.”
Including Home Visiting in PDG B5: New York

Sharing Lessons Learned
Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and Third Sector

Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families and BUILD

New York State and The Ounce

Q&A
Takeaways from the PDG B-5 Work

Change Strategies across States:

- Consolidated efforts to bring together early learning agencies within states – Offices of Early Learning and Interagency Councils that reflects recognition of mixed delivery approach
- Braiding/Blending/Layering of funds with states to support children and families
- Re-igniting and utilizing Early Learning Councils to strengthen stakeholder involvement
- Strategic coordination of professional development
- Recognizing alternative intervention as solutions – Trauma Care, Pyramid Behavioral Intervention
Welcome and Opening Remarks

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Q&A

Closing Remarks
Closing Remarks
Please view the live webcasts of STAM 2019, including sessions on:

-- Partnering for Child Health and Well-Being

--“What’s PDG B–5 Got To Do With It?” How the CCDF Program Supports State and Territory PDG B–5 Efforts

--The Early Advantage: What We Can Learn About Early Childhood Systems from Six High-Performing Countries

and much more!

Invitations with details for viewing the webcasts are forthcoming.
Thank you for your participation! Please feel free to reach out with any additional questions.

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Susan Hibbard, BUILD Initiative – shibbard@buildinitiative.org

Kristin Bernhard, The Ounce – kbernhard@ounceofprevention.org
Appendix

Third Sector

BUILD Initiative

The Once
Our mission is to accelerate the transition to a performance-driven social sector

Third Sector is a nonprofit organization that collaborates with governments, community organizations, and funders on how to unlock public sector innovation to solve pressing challenges such as economic mobility for all and the well-being of our children.

Our proven approach is to collaborate with our clients to define impact, draw actionable insights from data, and implement outcomes orientation. When our work is complete, organizations entrusted to use public and private funds will have the systems, tools, and data to do more and do better for the people they serve.

Founded in 2011, Third Sector has worked with over 40 communities to deploy more than $455 million of government resources towards programs and policies that measurable improve the lives of individuals served.

For more information, please visit: www.thirdsectorcap.org
BUILD Initiative

**BUILD** is a national effort that advances state work on behalf of young children (prenatal-five), their families, and communities.

**BUILD** envisions a time when all children reach their full potential. Race, place, and income are no longer predictors of outcomes.

**BUILD** staff partners with early childhood state leaders focused on early learning, health, mental health, and nutrition, child welfare, and family support and engagement to create the policies, infrastructure and cross-sector connections necessary for quality and equity.

For more information, please visit: http://www.buildinitiative.org/
Vision: High-quality early learning opportunities from birth that prepare children for success in school and in life are an integral part of our nation’s education system.

Mission: The Ounce of Prevention Fund gives children in poverty the best chance for success in school and in life by advocating for and providing the highest quality care and education from birth to age five.

For more information, please visit: www.theounce.org