



## **NH Early Childhood Strategy Team 3– Meeting 1 Notes**

*Strategic Theme 3: Investment in early childhood programs and services*

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 9:00-11:00am

*GSG Facilitator:* Christine Koehn

*GSG Note Taker:* Fran Cowart

### Participants:

- ❖ Joelyn Drennan
- ❖ Ben Hoffman
- ❖ Christina Lachance
- ❖ Debra Nelson

### **Summary of team purpose:**

This team will work on identifying initiatives to achieve objectives that have been approved.

### **I. Future Meeting Dates**

- Friday, July 29, 9-11
- Thursday, August 4, 2-4
- Tuesday, August 16, 1-3
- Wednesday, September 7, 1-3

### **II. Next Steps**

The team discussed deliverables; team norms; defining success, homework (ensure approaches/initiatives make sense); and sets of criteria.

### **III. Document Sharing Mechanism**

### **IV. Discussion of Objective Success Definitions**

The team discussed key factors that would signal success on each objective:

#### **Objective 1: Leverage and sustain new and existing funding**

- We know what services are needed, and there is timely and adequate funding and resources available, accessed, and sustained to support those services

- What do we want to do to improve? What services needed?
- Timely, so no waitlists.
- What are we sustaining (services)? So we know what funding we need?
- Increased access of available funding and resources that haven't been used before (private and public)
  - Efficient use of funding
  - Need to know what funding exists now (funding sources, levels, from all sources)
  - Towns forgiving property tax bills for child care providers (free rent, use of space)
  - Think broadly about all services these families need (e.g., transportation)
- Coordination of funding and resources across sources to support needed services (private - philanthropy, business; and public - Federal, State, and Local)
  - Braided funding across sources
  - Consolidation of data to allow us to know what we need, what's available, and what what's being accessed - to inform decisions
    - Like with the FRCs (shared data system)
  - Office of Early Childhood?
  - Strengthen the funding partnerships across Departments (including DOE)
- Services are sustained beyond the PDG grant with new and existing funding and resources (Federal, state, and local public and private - philanthropic, business)
  - Some will come from CDHSC
  - Funding from the state and other funding streams as well
    - Have missed out on Federal grants because the State hasn't been investing
  - Policy
    - Does it support the strategic work going forward

**Objective 2: Increase business and community support for early childhood programs and services**

- Businesses are more family-friendly
  - HR in businesses are sharing information about early childhood supports and services available
  - Family friendly business badge (offer benefits like flexible work schedules, etc.)
  - Businesses receive a tax incentive to subsidize child care
    - Towns are doing some of this now
  - Businesses offer incentives (donate time or resources) SELA
  - Increase engagement of businesses

- We need a baseline of what's happening now, identify promising practices and replicating those
  - Sustain the support that businesses have been forced to provide due to the pandemic to hire workers
  - Work, Stay, Play - Education/Media Campaign
    - Strengthening families business model
    - Educate businesses about what it means for business to strengthen and support families
  - Policy in practice versus dollars
    - Non-cash benefits vs. cash opportunities
    - In terms of education and developing a rationale for additional funding
  - increasing business and community support → make them aware of the gap so they can be engaged to help make a difference
- Communities are more supportive of families
  - Social norms change (Longer-term effort)
    - Hard in NH with a culture that pull yourself up by your bootstraps
    - Promote strengthening families, universal support
    - Look at areas that do this well (North County)
      - They collaborate well (Early Learning Coalition and the FRC Network)
  - Universal preventive and supportive services are available, not just prevention
    - More investment in primary prevention
      - Connection to community is a protective factor
    - Families and children thrive
    - Enhance home visiting (universal home visiting and other services)
    - Transition from one set of services to another (PreK to kindergarten)
  - Communities are knowledgeable about what families need, know about, and can offer/suggest resources
    - Libraries - librarian suggests good books on child development
    - State support of FRCs - embedded in communities and providing support broadly to community
      - Funding is hodgepodge
      - Looking for sustained funding, especially through the State
  - Identify nontraditional partners and maximize/promote their efforts
    - Grocery stores - healthy foods campaigns
    - Home Depot - projects kids can do