



NH Strategy Team 1– Meeting 1 Notes

Strategic Theme 1: Quality, consistent, equitable access to opportunities and services for all NH families

July 26th, 2022 12:00-2:00pm

GSG Facilitator: Margaret Brackett

GSG Notetaker: Olivia Gunthert

Participants:

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| ❖ Marianne Barter | ❖ Joelle Martin |
| ❖ Annie Censullo | ❖ Aurelia (Lia) Moran |
| ❖ Robin deAlmeida | ❖ Christine Morrissey |
| ❖ Dylan Gatta | ❖ Shirley Tomlinson |
| ❖ Richard Lavers | |

Summary of team purpose:

We reviewed the strategic planning framework adopted by the Council and are learning about our work of developing strategic initiatives.

I. Future Meeting Dates

Future meeting dates were set to accommodate the majority of team members. Meetings will be held on:

- August 1st, 12-2pm – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2622399395>
- August 8th, 12-2pm – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2622399395>
- August 15th, 12-1:30pm – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2622399395>
- September 7th, 1-2:30pm – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2622399395>

II. Next Steps

The group will examine research and best practices for each objective and share at the next meeting, before brainstorming potential initiatives. The group decided on who would work on which objective:

- Objective 1: Lia Moran, Robin deAlmeida
- Objective 2: Christine Morrissey, Marianne Barter
- Objective 3: Joelle Martin, Shirley Tomlinson
- Objective 4: Annie Censullo, Richard Lavers

III. Document Sharing Mechanism

The team discussed mechanisms for sharing and collaborating on documents. DHHS members cannot access external file sharing systems. Greenway Strategy Group is pursuing a solution.

IV. Discussion of Objective Success Definitions

The team brainstormed key factors that would signal success on each objective.

Objective 1: Increase early intervention and primary prevention

- Lack of waitlist for services
- Increase in enrollment/engagement in early intervention and services program
- Increase in school readiness numbers for kindergarten
 - Decrease in behavioral challenges in kindergarten
- Increase in screenings for early intervention services—health and educational
- Decrease in neglect cases/ reports of neglect/ negative incidents
- Decrease in negative behavioral interventions for parents

Objective 2: Increase accessible childcare and early learning options

- Increase in availability of safe spaces for children and increase in participation in those safe spaces
- Less staff turnover in programs and more consistent care with consistency in caregivers
 - Best achieved through wage increase to motivate people to enter the field
 - Would allow more parents to get into the workforce and afford the things they need
- More parental involvement
- Increase in in school readiness and decrease in behavioral issues due to being school ready
- Accessible family-friendly work practices, which would contribute to childcare options becoming more sustainable
- Increase in affordable options/ increases in flexibility, whatever affordable means for the family
- Increase the use of the childcare scholarship funds

Objective 3: Increase family awareness, voice, influence, engagement, and knowledge

- Increase in parental or caregiver confidence
- Increased comfort and use of services
 - Measuring increase in awareness
- Increased support for parents
- Increased connections for parents with other parents, with caregivers
- Enhanced sense of connection and sense of belongings at these programs
- Increased referrals to programs and services
- Increased access to programs and services and increased participation in services

- Increase in systemic family engagement: seeing systems increase their use of family engagement frameworks, having families involved in the systems, involving families in their systems
 - Increased engagement of families in forming programs and services – programming service design and quality improvement
- Decrease in need for intervention by agencies (DCYF in particular)
- Increased understanding of what does kindergarten readiness look like well before kindergarten starts

Objective 4: Enhance quality of early childhood programs and services

- All of the things already mentioned including:
 - longer workforce retention
 - higher engagement
 - increased referrals to primary prevention
 - decreased behavioral health and DCYF referrals
 - increased school readiness
- Better outcomes for children—both educational, pre-kindergarten, and also health outcomes
- More engaged, vibrant workforce with a steady supply of highly trained / engaged caregivers
- Decrease in turnover among workforce
- Caregivers earn higher wages—because wages are an indicator of quality
- Increased demand for those jobs
- Increase preparedness/readiness for entering into Kindergarten or 1st grade; improved outcomes and school readiness

Additional comments, which might apply to success on any or all of the objectives:

- Increased data on who is involved and engaged and participating/ receiving services and on who is not, including whose voice isn't at the table?
- Increased access and participation on all fronts would include geographically-- consistent geographical coverage – across the state
- more universal than broad offerings where access is needed to meet the needs, whatever the needs might be
- systematic issue of caregiver involvement and ability to influence the system
- more clear and consistent communication