



NH Early Childhood Strategy Team 4 – Meeting 2 Notes

Strategic Theme 4: Systems Integration

July 29th, 2022 11:00am-1:00pm

GSG Facilitator: Martha Greenway

GSG Notetaker: Olivia Gunthert

Participants:

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ❖ Sarah Fox | ❖ Hannah Maynard Yung |
| ❖ Dylan Gatta | ❖ Michelle Lewis |
| ❖ Stefanie King | ❖ Molly White |
| ❖ Claudette Mallory | ❖ Steve Zdravec |

Summary of team purpose:

The team is going to identify a small set of strategic initiatives that will achieve the objectives of strategic theme 4. The team will have an opportunity to inform and provide insight on things that will be important in implementation. The final product will be 1-3 transformational, systemic initiatives for each objective; the initiatives need to be specific and precise. Our discussion should focus on things that result in sustained changes in practices and approaches and should target observable, tangible behavior in system and staff behavior.

I. Discussion of Objectives and Success Indicators:

The group discussed the success indicators identified last meeting and commented on any remaining questions or issues.

Objective 1: Increase state, regional, and local level collaboration and program integration

- A lot of duplication and a lack of coordination results from many required convenings of people in local level councils and committees – thinking more strategically about how to leverage the work that is happening but also building on that work in the early childhood space
 - People in the system have to attend fewer meetings regarding integration

Objective 2: Enhance family navigation of integrated programs and services

- Common repository for forms – integrated system where families could access forms required for multiple services
 - Reduce time for families to attain the resources they need
 - Less effort for families to complete required forms

- Establishing a centralized location in schools for families (aka Family Information/Resource Centers) – physically locate some resources there
 - Capitalizing on the role of schools as hubs
- Adding something about intake processes for families → having these things in place could enhance the navigation of resources and outreach to families so that families have a better, more accurate experience
 - Family experience improvement → could result in more families being able to navigate early intervention
 - potential initiative

Objective 3: Increase community voice and influence in design of programs and services

- Regional childcare director network – in the past had a framework for this but do not currently have a formal structure throughout the state; need something more structured in place that includes a feedback loop for local providers or regional networks to be able to inform the department of what the needs are
 - Social media is a way people communicate → Ample opportunities through multiple networks to provide input
 - Regional means something different to every person, agency, department, office, etc. → thinking about how we define regions and making it clearcut
 - The early childhood regions set up by the state are probably what was intended → opportunity to better define the regions so there is more consistency where possible

II. Discussion of Research and Effective Approaches:

The team discussed examples of how the objectives are currently being addressed effectively.

Objective 1: Increase state, regional, and local level collaboration and program integration

- Professional Development (PD) – early intervention matters → could be a way to tie groups together – how do we create these structures to create those opportunities
 - Leverage higher education for PD (Local community colleges, etc.)
- Community Management Teams aka DCLT
 - Milford Thrives
- A system of care focused on children’s behavioral health – could be an opportunity here to tap into since it is a vast network of providers across many agencies, public and private
- Early childhood coalitions
 - Coalition for Young Children and Families
 - Amoskeag Health has project Health – created ASERT team (federally funded TA center)
 - Milford Thrives – huge component of DCLT; ECH through grade 12 (vertical alignment)
 - COAS coalition – doing it across the entire county and including all

- Family Support New Hampshire
 - <https://www.fsnh.org>
- Consider better aligning regions across programs
 - Map of EC regions:
 - https://mypages.unh.edu/sites/default/files/pdg/files/nh_pdg_early_childhood_regions_15july2021.pdf

Objective 2: Enhance family navigation of integrated programs and services

- Unite Us= an effort to coordinate services and make it easier for families to access and facilitate communication across multiple entities and agencies; a national company that will facilitate the referral when there is a request
 - <https://newhampshire.uniteus.com>
- Some community mental health centers are allowing schools to be an intermediary: provide an information-sharing agreement that the parents sign so the center can receive that information and can call the parents to schedule a service
 - <https://nhcsoc.org>
- New Hampshire Connections= child care aware for providers, communities, families
- No Wrong Door
- NH Easy= community members can apply for a lot of different programs like SNAP and child care assistance (for families who need assistance to pay for child care, not finding the child care)
 - <https://nheasy.nh.gov/#/>
- NH Connections helps families find child care
 - <https://www.nh-connections.org>
- Integrated Networks in Rural areas
 - Like the COAS coalition
 - Impact Monadnock
- South Carolina has an integrated intake form
- Quadette
- The Build Initiative= a national organization that advances work on behalf of young children from prenatal to five, their families, and communities
 - Their "Nuts and Bolts" document is an orienting document with lessons learned and recommendations. There are state specific examples on their site:
 - <https://buildinitiative.org/>

Objective 3: Increase community voice and influence in design of programs and services

- Make sure we get to the parents: have tried different approaches in terms of outreach (i.e., housing authorities) but would like to find better solutions to true family engagement with the most marginalized families

- DOE offers the 603 Bright Futures surveys: designed for educational staff, family, and community members
 - Amount of response differs community to community
- DCLTs offer voice and choice on intervention strategies and programs being brought into schools at the micro level so families are able to engage – this is not at large
- Pyramid model in NH – steering leadership committee
 - Grant opportunities to implement the pyramid model
 - Thinks it is integrated well in one elementary school – small pockets of success; there is a family engagement component to this
 - Parents creating classes for other parents – if pyramid models are implemented with fidelity, there is opportunity there
- Dr. Karen Mapp offers dual capacity building framework but not system wide
- Annie Casey foundation – active in the state family connection entities in specific communities and regions; are about getting community voice and customizing programs and services
 - Georgia is an example of this
 - Does require a certain level of funding and investment in order to stand them up because there are professionals behind them, not just volunteers but not a big investment
- Pine Tree Institute– partnered with ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Interface and created a group of coaches who were experts in adverse childhood experiences → for free of charge, the coaches would go out into community entities and spread the word about what adverse childhood experiences are, how to recognize them, how to mitigate them, and how to build up assets

III. **Research and Meeting Notes**

The team is going to send potential research articles and reports to Olivia Gunthert to be posted in the strategy team folder on the Council of Thriving Children’s website: <https://councilforthrivingchildren.org/what-the-experts-say>. Meeting notes will also be posted the council’s website: <https://councilforthrivingchildren.org/past-meetings>.

IV. **Next Steps**

We will send out the research summaries with the ideas that the team identified about each objective. The team’s homework is to review these summaries and the additional articles/links on the council website. The team also needs to review the stakeholder input summary related to system integration. At the next meeting, the team will start to brainstorm the strategic initiatives. If you find other research, exemplar practices, or website links, send them to Martha Greenway martha@greenwaystrategy.com and we will update our summary research sheets for each objective.

V. Important Dates

Strategy Team 4 meetings:

- August 8th, 12:30-2:30PM: next team meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2710800069>
- August 25th, 12:30-2:30: team meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2710800069>
- September 8th, 1-3pm: team meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2710800069>

Subcommittee Meeting for strategic plan development: September 6th, 10am-12pm

Council for Thriving Children meeting (in-person): September 13th, 9-11am