



**NH Early Childhood Strategy Team 3 – Meeting 3 Notes**  
*Strategic Theme 3: Investment in early childhood programs and services*  
August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 2:00-4:00pm

*GSG Facilitator:* Christine Koehn

*GSG Notetaker:* Olivia Gunthert

**Participants:**

- ❖ Christine Brennan
- ❖ Christina D’Allesandro
- ❖ Joelyn Drennan
- ❖ Julie McConnell
- ❖ Terry Ohlson-Martin

**Summary of team purpose:**

The team will continue to discuss the initiatives brainstormed during the last meeting. They will elaborate on the ideas they brought to the table last meeting and expand on the research brought forward via the strategic initiative background research organization tool.

**I. Discussion of Initiatives:**

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

- *Overarching Principle: Maintain a comprehensive view of early childhood (primary prevention, family support, health) across Initiatives*
  - Essentials for childhood practices

*Initiative 1 – Create a collaborative legislative advocacy strategy/plan*

- May be hard to get more Federal dollars
- New Futures, MomsRising, and Save the Children Action Network (SCAN): thinking about a legislative advocacy strategy across advocacy groups/efforts (public and private)
- Build champions and understanding among legislators
  - To be advocates for the funding
- Hunt Institute - T/A linking States to advocacy groups
  - Identifying an appropriate peer to support (state leadership)
  - CCSFO School Officers
- Align advocacy groups doing this campaign work, collaboration
  - Many groups doing this work
    - Need a facilitator (Office of Early Childhood?)
- Linking with state to get the flexibility that we need with the existing funding streams to maximize them
- Use facts to better educate legislators about the actual amount of funds unexpended

- NH Alliance or Early Childhood Coalition
  - Understand at a grassroots level what the priorities are funds available
  - Align with the Strategic Plan and the CTC

*Initiative 2 – Need to have a plan to leverage, sustain, and use existing dollars, identify funding needs, and secure (new or existing) funding*

- Fiscal mapping process
  - Need to know what funds are coming in and being expended/returned, and gaps
    - Need to expend them in order to get legislators to attribute new dollars
      - Example: Have not spent all the CCDF dollars in the State
  - Does the Childcare Advisory Council do this already?
  - Public and private funding and in-kind investments, loans, etc.
    - ARPA funding for the next couple of years
    - Innovative practices (pods)
- Spending Plan for Existing Funding, including Unexpended Funds
- Development Plan for Needed Funding (public and private)
- Better understanding of our government contracts work, so that they are fully expended (especially for contracts that cycle at different times)
  - Loss of funds when fully expended
- Address contract systems' barriers (e.g., attendance billing, processes, etc.) - Children's Trust efforts
- Pros and cons of funding through government versus private entities (time to secure funds, admin rates, cost/benefit analysis - cost threshold?, time to execute the work, etc.)
- Focus on creativity of funding across funding sources (private and public, including businesses)
  - Quality initiatives in the north country

*Initiative 3 – Establish a Facilitating Organization for Early Childhood*

- Establish a structure to know what we're funding and focus efforts to maximize resources (funding, data, training, etc.)
- Example: FRCs
- Resources
  - [https://www.nmececd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/P5FS\\_NMReport\\_v.3d\\_forWeb.pdf](https://www.nmececd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/P5FS_NMReport_v.3d_forWeb.pdf)
  - <https://www.liifund.org/products/community-capital/capital-for-child-care-facilities/>

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

*Initiative 1 – Engage and empower businesses to support families*

- Cliff Effect Report
  - Set aside ARPA dollars to explore how employers can provide more support for employees

- Look at nontraditional hours (10 pm - 4) → Incentive to child care providers by raising payment rate for nontraditional hours care
    - Someone has an issue with the word incentive/incentivize
- Tax incentives/credits (local and state levels)
  - Match for child care scholarships?
  - Example: Town of Lebanon
- Business as a funding contributor
  - Businesses invest in own child care; when employee leaves what happens to child care?
  - Fund child care slots
  - Support local providers
  - Offer choice to employees
  - Nonmonetary business supports (flexible hours, family-friendly badge, PTO, unsung hero award to business - recognition, etc.)
  - Child care coop (Concord Hospital coop) - cost sharing support
    - Businesses in the same field (medical) or geographic area working together to support child care (pooled or braided)
  - Vital Communities, example - Groups come together as a network regionally (Upper Valley Early Childhood Education Associates), engage business to invest systemically rather than just one to one. UW support?
    - Lebanon has some interesting examples of how this could work
- Unique Partnerships (in Community) – Infrastructure
  - Municipalities as partnerships, e.g., use of buildings, etc.
  - Lending entities providing loan funds (Community Development Finance Authority aka CDFA)
- CBO/church partnerships with business to support families with basic needs (e.g., car repairs for clients at a local shop for discounted rate - Manchester Good News Garage, Grape Vine Family Resource Center)
- Work United (by UW) - Employee Assistance Program, helps employees address barriers getting to work
  - Group of Large Employers invested in this in the UW, allowing smaller employers to come on
  - Economies of Scale
- Massachusetts advocacy approach - housing and child care advocates came together to secure bond funding (additional resources)
- Engaging business associations
  - NH Coalition for Business and Education
  - Businesses for Social Responsibility
    - <https://www.nhbsr.org>
  - Business and Industry Association
  - Main Street Alliance
- Leverage the NH Job Corps program - pull from for workforce

- Organize and support community efforts to support families (grocery stores and nutrition)
- Requires efforts to engage businesses: what's out there now, what's needed?

*Initiative 2 – Engage community members (families, churches) to become child care providers, using evidence-based programming*

- Resources: funding, training, supports
  - More likely to be able to provide nontraditional hour care when given access to these
- They have to be connected to the broader system
- Offering mixed delivery and options to families
- Wisconsin - resource hub for family and neighborhood providers (support each other, business supported them, access to training and Professional Development opportunities, etc.)
  - <https://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/weesn/>

*Initiative 3 – Raise awareness of quality early childhood care resources (targeted to businesses & community) and opportunities to support the early childhood partners in strengthening families*

- Educate the community about:
  - What is available
  - Challenges with the system, and how they can help
  - Benefits of quality early childhood care
    - Education and adult outcomes
    - Partner with kindergarten and 1st care to create a pathway of skills building from an early age
- Support current campaign efforts, unify messaging if possible
  - Children's Trust campaign on Children Scholarship, QRS/designation, etc. targeting parents, providers, community, etc.
    - Child Care Aware
    - Early Learning NH= building economies of scale for child care programs through the State Early Learning Alliance - what would it take to expand those efforts more broadly to benefit FRC's and other family support organizations?
    - CC Advisory Council
  - Children's Development Bureau, PDG
  - Strengthening Families Campaign
  - DOE - Literacy Campaign (littles), PD (teachers, providers, parents), Foundation of Literacy
  - Early Learning NH Public Awareness Campaign
    - Early Learning NH - Children: Bedrock of the Granite State - public awareness campaign. <https://earlylearningnh.org/public-awareness/children-the-bedrock-of-the-granite-state/>
  - 603 Campaign
- Legislature supporting campaigns

- Community investment examples:
  - Portsmouth - Preschool Outreach Coordinator with the School District, to assist families in finding preschool experience for their child (worked with community of providers), aided with transition to Kindergarten
    - Community Outreach and Linkage
  - Kindship navigators from the Trust
  - Community Liaisons
  - Navigators through Family Resources
  - United Way community initiatives (with businesses)
    - <http://www.graniteuw.org/our-work/granite-united-way-initiatives/work-united>
  - Coos County Coalition
    - <https://investincooskids.net/about/>
  - Vital Communities work of the Upper Valley
    - [https://vitalcommunities.org/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1659642479.0631470680236816406250](https://vitalcommunities.org/?doing_wp_cron=1659642479.0631470680236816406250)
- Look at all efforts through an equity lens –
  - Opportunities to support black-owned businesses, loan fund
    - Request to say “person of color owned business” instead
- Community Health Workers model - FRCs, community engagement for specific populations
- Resources:
  - Impact Monadnock Business Ambassadors: <https://www.muw.org/imba>
  - Nebraska example <https://nebraskaeearly.org/family-child-care-educators/>
  - Nevada initiative on family care expansion: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/nevada-opens-one-stop-shop-to-help-quickly-expand-childcare-options-for-families-301502729.html>
  - Vermont start up grants for early childhood: <https://letsgrowkids.org/make-way-for-kids>

## II. **Next Steps:**

The team confirmed that the three proposed initiatives per objective will be the ones presented to the Council. The next step is for the team to review the strategy theme template documents for each objective at their next meeting.

## III. **Important Dates:**

- August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm : next meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82689378627>
- September 6<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm: Subcommittee Meeting for strategic plan development
- September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85488815037>
- September 13<sup>th</sup>, 9-11am: Council for Thriving Children meeting (in-person)