



NH Early Childhood Strategy Team 1 – Meeting 3 Notes

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

August 9th, 2022 12:00-2:00pm

GSG Facilitator: Margaret Brackett

GSG Notetaker: Kecia Rouse

Participants:

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ❖ Marianne Barter | ❖ Christine Morrissey |
| ❖ Annie Censullo | ❖ Shirley Tomlinson |
| ❖ Robin deAlmeida | ❖ Rachel Valladares |
| ❖ Katherine Leswing | |

Summary of team purpose:

During today’s meeting, the team will discuss findings from resources and research reports and discuss what these materials mean for each objective under this strategic theme. Then the team will consider all of these findings as they brainstorm potential initiatives.

I. Research Takeaways Discussion:

Team members discussed the primary finds from various resources they had reviewed and how that pertained to each objective:

Objective 1: Increase early intervention and primary prevention

- Primary takeaway: the timing of the intervention matters; first steps need to be taken before risk factors are developed, including with regard to school readiness, health concerns (physical/mental), level of parental involvement, stable home environment, access to language services, help for any adverse conditions and experiences, ability to access services, access to technology and ability to navigate technology,
- How are we defining “early intervention”? Intervening prior to pre-school; identifying timely solutions
- Another takeaway concerns equity. What are these resources asking us? Who isn’t at the table? Are we collecting demographic information to ensure diverse perspective? Are we promoting awareness of primary prevention and early intervention programs? Are providers in sync with parental involvement? Are all systems the child is involved in connected? Are we ensuring public-facing materials/and materials for families are accessible (reading levels, translated)? Pre-conception – working to get perspectives of

future caregivers and parents. Culturally sensitive interventions – are we modifying our conversations and language to ensure the message is effectively being communicated?

Objective 2: Increase accessible childcare and early learning options

- There are many resources for potential initiatives – so much work is being done on this already – in and out of NH
- Report from National Women’s Law Center – comprehensive on what needs to happen to expand childcare
- NJ Initiatives
- Every paper speaks of workforce as the priority – importance of stable, well-paid workforce with benefits and how no comprehensive impact can be made on access if we are not addressing the workforce.

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

- Data from state and regional focus groups were reviewed
- Hearing from families that they need to learn about and connect with services and supports in places where they are and when they need them (ex. birthing centers, town hall, pediatrician office)
- Early childhood convening held last Friday – we asked what’s working in our state? To engage families, increase voice and access to information? Two main themes emerged: FRC’s and Early Childhood Coalition/Regions
- No wrong door and a systemic approach for coordinated sustainable, scalable pathways for family engagement
- Parent, family community engagement framework that’s used by Head Start – has been adapted for use in NH – 2019 family engagement gap analysis for families and youth in NH – points to gaps in family engagement and voice environment.
- Implementation Science in Early Childhood – how to manage successful implementation of initiatives in short amounts of time with implementation teams
- Welcome Baby Program and KC Family Programs Issue brief – point to solutions and things we should consider for initiatives

Objective 4: Enhance quality of early childhood programs and services

- There are many initiatives in NH already that enhance quality
- Looking to expand of initiatives that are in place
- How can we get Granite Steps of Quality in more hands of providers and families to know more about Granite Steps of Quality?

II. Brainstorming Potential Initiatives:

Objective 1: Increase early intervention and primary prevention

- Improved inclusivity in marginalized communities and underserved populations through in-home visits to reach more families; recruit multi-lingual home visitors

- Expand communication access across service providers of early intervention and prevention services across the state (through personal development and more diverse hiring process)
- Strengthen the referral system to increase access across provider system (education, health, etc.); connect existing groups that are working with very young children and families
- Improve collaboration across agencies based on who they serve
- Increasing family-friendly policies and work practices, among businesses, government, private employers, etc.
- Strengthening and retaining workforce through livable wages, wellness opportunities, growth opportunities, personal development, and respect for the role they play
- Reduce stigma

Objective 2: Increase accessible childcare and early learning options

- Decreasing co-payment costs for families at 150% of poverty level and above
- Increase amount of assistance for each family (decreasing co-payment costs for families at 150% of poverty level – caps at 20% of income but needs more support)
- Expand eligibility for child-care assistance costs
- Increase awareness and utilization of NH Childcare scholarship assistance in general (currently underutilized); use of statewide navigators to assist families in applying
- Incentivize childcare providers to accept more families on assistance (childcare scholarship, enrollment-based reimbursement, and cost-of-care reimbursement)
- Increase all childcare providers access to knowledge and services available, screenings, etc. (NJ Hub and Spoke model, NH CACFP model); improve food insecurity
- CA has stages of childcare assistance – transitions from high level to low level – implement stages of assistance model or tiered model of assistance; receive discounted childcare if already receiving services for higher needs
- Reduce cliff effect impact on families receiving early childhood assistance

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

- Establish state-level family engagement leadership team (build out work that’s already been done through PDG) statewide framework that’s prioritized and funded; develop and implement strategies to increase family awareness, voice, influence, engagement, and knowledge across the system (Resource: PFC framework that Head Start uses, DHHS and DOE joint policy statement on family engagement in the early years and Implementation Science Research)
- Expanding Welcome Baby for all NH newborns and parents through home visiting and other programs
- Expand NH parent/caregiver access to family support/family resource centers

Objective 4: Enhance quality of early childhood programs and services

- Expand communication outreach to programs not already part of GSQ
- Increase family awareness early-on on the importance of quality care for children

III. Rating of Initiatives:

The team used the Initiative Rating Tool to rate the proposed initiatives to help each objective group consider how to refine and tweak draft initiatives. Margaret will share the results with everyone following the meeting.

IV. Next Steps:

The team's homework is to narrow down their initiative brainstorming to 1 to 3 initiatives per objective and complete the template documents with your team member(s) for each initiative. These templates will be finalized during the next meeting, as we prepare to present the proposed initiatives to the sub-committee during the meeting on September 6th.

V. Important Dates:

- August 15th, 12-2pm: next team meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2622399395>
- September 6th, 10am-12pm: Subcommittee Meeting for strategic plan development
- September 7th, 1-2:30pm: team meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2622399395>
- September 13th, 9-11am: Council for Thriving Children meeting (in-person)