

NH Early Childhood Strategic Initiative Background Research

Strategic Theme: Systems integration

Objective 2: Enhance family navigation of integrated programs and services

A. Are there New Hampshire study groups and/or recommendations about this area that should be considered?

- At the micro level, have some community mental health center switching the way they do intake – allow the school to be an intermediary to 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>
- Have to ask and seek out your own services in rural areas since there is so little there
- Two large rural communities that span multiple counties have some integrated networks ☐ what is the impact/influence of this? Includes family resource centers
 - o Like the COAS coalition
 - o Impact Monadnock
- The Build Initiative= a national organization that advances work on behalf of young children from prenatal to five, their families, and communities
 - o 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/>
- Unite Us= a national and state-wide effort that is not state sponsored. It is a database to help identify and locate resources.
 - o Website: <https://uniteus.com>
- First Things First has a very comprehensive website that is a nice example.
 - o Website: www.firstthingsfirst.org
- NH has been good about supporting family navigation in the form of Kinship Navigator. It helps workers in research and community health centers, which is an important element.
 - o Link: www.nhchildrenstrust.org/kinship
- Maneuvering the Maze is a document that outlines the family needs of those with health needs.
 - o nhfv.org/publication/maneuvering-through-the-maze/
- Massachusetts has a strong community outreach program.
- Other shared links:
 - o www.dhhs.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt476/files/documents/2021-11/closing-cliff-effect.pdf
 - o challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/Pyramid/overview/index.html
 - o sites.google.com/education.nh.gov/social/family-engagement
 - o positiveexperience.org

B. What ideas emerged from the recent focus groups?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish one-stop-shops for families and organizations to utilize while being careful of duplicating effort of other coalitions that are currently not being used or supported. • Having multiple systems increases the burden on organizations to stay updated and valid, which means we should focus on the resources already available. • District offices are available to families who have questions about resources and assistance programs • Schools are resources families can use to gain information, however, many families won't utilize schools as resources if they don't have school aged children
<p>C. What is currently working well in NH to support this objective, even if it is not done uniformly or consistently? What has been done in the past in NH that positively affected this objective that is no longer happening?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Integrated across a lot of different spaces – there is a fee, but some school districts are looking to pilot • https://newhampshire.uniteus.com • New Hampshire connections – child care aware for providers, communities, families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Currently building it out so would be worth it to have a conversation meaning not just child care but other things within DHHS in terms of accessing – helps families find child care • https://www.nh-connections.org • No Wrong Door • NH Easy (a state DHHS site) – where community members can go to apply for a lot of different programs (SNAP, child care assistance); for families who need assistance to pay for child care, not finding the child care (NH Connections helps families find child care) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For these who don't qualify for those services, there is not anything for them • https://nheasy.nh.gov/#/ • Personal experience: live in a school district in an area where there wasn't a lot of child care so the district created family groups (for all ages) with parent nights in order to educate on the supports available and create a cohort of families to form connections
<p>D. What Early Childhood practices are occurring in other states that are effective in supporting this objective?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Carolina has an integrated intake form
<p>E. What do research studies conclude about effective practices to reach this objective?</p>
<p>F. Are there any parallel processes in other systems that we could adopt? (Higher education, business, community organizations?)</p>

Follow up assignments for completion by next meeting:

Task	Person Assigned

