



COUNCIL FOR
**THRIVING
CHILDREN**

June 5, 2023

Meeting agenda

Agenda

Meeting Purpose/Goals:

- Hear legislative updates as they relate to early childhood
- Provide input on next steps for Strategic Plan (workplan inventory, alignment, and measures of success)
- Learn about New Hampshire's Paid Family Medical Leave program. Consider areas for alignment

Time	Topic	Leader(s)
10:00-10:30	Welcome & Council Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Council business	Christina Lachance Christine Brennan, DOE Deputy Commissioner Tricia Tilley, DHHS Public Health Director
10:30-10:45	Legislative Updates	Senator Whitley, Representative DeSimone
10:45-11:15	NH Paid Family Medical Leave	Richard Lavers, Deputy Commissioner New Hampshire Employment Security
11:15-11:45	Strategic Plan/work plan alignment presentation	Christina Lachance
11:45-12:00	Public input & closing	Christine Brennan, DOE Deputy Commissioner Tricia Tilley, DHHS Public Health Director

Council business & updates

Approve meeting minutes

Meeting recordings

Abt Associates evaluation/survey

New Hampshire Early Childhood Governance System



Decision-Making and Operationalization Role

Data driven policy and program coordination, integration, and development, increasing performance and resource accountability



Communication Role

Ensure effective communication across the Governance structure with and through designated members from each quadrant



Interagency Coordination

Formal infrastructure to support Interagency Coordination



Advising and Strengthening Role

Sharing emerging trends for children, families, communities, workforce and business, while generating learning and capacity

Abt Associates -NH PDG evaluation

- The Council for Thriving Children represents a significant change in the ECCE governance structure in NH, Abt is requesting that you, as members of the Council, complete a short survey.
- The survey will ask you to share your point of view on the results of your participation in the Council and also how the ECCE system may have changed or evolved in the three years since NH received the PDG grant.
- The survey will take no more than 10-15 minutes.
- You should expect to receive the survey link on or about July 10th and Abt would appreciate you complete the survey by the end of July.
- The link will be sent from the NH PDG Abt evaluation team.
- Questions about the survey? Contact the Abt evaluation team at NHPDG@abtassoc.com.

Coming up next

- Legislative updates
- NH Paid Family Medical Leave
- NH Strategic Plan for Early Childhood

NH Strategic Plan for Early Childhood next steps

**Plan
alignment and
coordination**

**Measures of
Success**



Vision: All NH families are afforded comprehensive and responsive supports, so they are healthy, learning, and thriving now and in the future.

Priority Outcomes

- Increase families' partnership in, knowledge of, and choices for their child's development
- Increase families' access to integrated quality early childhood opportunities and services
- Increase comprehensive wellness of young children
- Ensure children achieve early childhood developmental and educational goals
- Increase providers' and educators' knowledge and access to resources for quality programs and services

Themes	Objectives	Initiatives
<p>Strategic Theme 1 Quality, consistent, equitable access to opportunities and services for all NH families</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase early intervention and primary prevention 2. Increase accessible childcare and early learning options 3. Increase family awareness, voice, influence, engagement and knowledge 4. Enhance quality of early childhood programs and services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1a. Normalize utilization of early intervention and primary prevention services among all families 1b. Increase provider awareness of and collaboration with all available primary prevention and early intervention services 2a. Expand eligibility for childcare assistance costs, increase the amount of assistance for each family, and increase awareness and utilization of NH Child Care scholarship assistance 2b. Expand options for and access to childcare and early learning statewide, particularly in areas where options are limited 3a. Establish a Statewide Family Engagement Framework including feedback loops 3b. Expand universal home visiting to every baby in New Hampshire 3c. Expand NH parent/caregiver access to family support/Family Resource Centers (FRCs) 4a. Increase participation in NH QRIS 4b. Increase family awareness of quality care and early learning options
<p>Strategic Theme 2 Early childhood workforce capacity and quality</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase workforce 2. Increase workforce knowledge regarding early childhood development 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1a. Promote early childhood careers and career path 1b. Promote the availability of workforce incentives and tax credits and expand them beyond early childhood education to include family support and health 2a. Equip the early childhood workforce with knowledge of child development and evidence-based practices to meet the needs of children and families
<p>Strategic Theme 3 Investment in early childhood programs and services</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leverage and sustain new and existing funding 2. Increase business and community support for early childhood programs and services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1a. Create and implement a comprehensive early childhood system funding plan including federal, state, local, and private sources 1b. Develop and implement a comprehensive study of compensation, benefits, and incentives across the various roles within the early childhood field 2a. Create and implement a plan to increase businesses' financial investment in the early childhood system 2b. Create and implement a plan to increase community awareness of and engagement in building the capacity of the early childhood system
<p>Strategic Theme 4 Systems integration</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase state, regional, and local level collaboration and program integration 2. Enhance family navigation of integrated programs and services 3. Increase community voice and influence in design of programs and services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1a. Affirm and institutionalize the early childhood regions and networks, ensure ongoing support, and foster collaboration with families and local communities 1b. Formalize, strengthen and broaden local early childhood coalitions that integrate with regional and state structures 1c. Establish a shared, compatible early childhood data system to inform decision-making 2a. Establish and promote a comprehensive and inclusive system leveraging existing tools for families to navigate and access resources 2b. Increase individualized support for families in navigating the system 2c. Build cultural and linguistic competence of the early childhood system and professionals to better support families 3a. Create approaches to specifically engage under-represented groups to influence decisions about programs and services that affect them
<p>Strategic Theme 5 Office of Early Childhood</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure a cohesive and collaborative approach to a mixed-delivery, early childhood system 2. Expand public understanding of the importance of quality early childhood experiences for all children 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1a. Establish a collaborative process to define the role of the Office of Early Childhood, including authority, functions, structure, and resources 2a. Coordinate messaging across key early childhood champions to ensure a diverse set of voices that will expand public understanding of the importance of early childhood experiences for all children and families 2b. Clarify and communicate roles and responsibilities of the early childhood system to include early childhood agencies, families, policy makers, and service providers

NH's Early Childhood Strategic Plan

Crosswalk and Meta-analysis of
State-Level Plans



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Pear Associates



Lara Quiroga, M.Ed., Senior Consultant, is a results-oriented professional with an established record of cultivating strong cross-disciplinary teams and cross-sector relationships, system-building, and managing change efforts to promote organizational effectiveness and efficiency. She brings more than 20 years of experience in leadership, project management, systems building, grant writing, and strategy development. Lara has a B.S. in Early Childhood Education Administration and M.Ed. in Child Development. She previously served on the Council for Thriving Children from 2020 through 2022.

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State-level Entity	Plan Name	Dates	Reports, Updates
NH ED	ESSA Consolidated State Plan	2019	
NH ED	IDEA Part B State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report	2021	FY 2019
NH ED	IDEA Part C State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report	2021	FY 2019
DHHS DCYF	Child and Family Services Review	2020-2024	
DHHS DCYF	NH Family First Title IV-E Prevention Plan	2021	
DHHS DPHS	Maternal and Child Health Services Title V Block Grant	FY 2023	2021
DHHS	NH 10-Year Mental Health Plan	2019	
DHHS	Child Care and Development Fund Plan	FY 2022-2024	
DHHS DPHS	Regional Public Health Network Community Health Improvement Plans	2022	
DHHS DPHS	WIC State Plan	FY 2022	
NH Wellness & Primary Prevention Council			
NH Child Care Advisory Council			

Questions and Suggestions

- Who do you represent on the Council for Thriving Children?
- Is there a federal/state plan referencing young children or families with young children?
- Is there a federal/state plan that connects to the Strategic Priorities?
- Is there a strategic/annual workplan that impacts young children or families with young children?
- Is there a strategic/annual workplan that connects to the Strategic Priorities?
- Is your Plan listed but its updated or written progress reports (quarterly or annual) exist?

Brainstorm:

- Employment Security
- National School Lunch Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Housing/Homelessness
- WPPC
- Child Care Advisory Council
- Others?



Measures of Success

- ❑ Focus on Priority Outcomes
 - ❑ Priority Outcomes = specific, collective results or conditions to achieve
- ❑ Use Performance Measures to assess the impact of the strategic plan implementation (including initiatives) on Priority Outcomes
- ❑ A governing structure would need to oversee the process of defining outcome-based measures, involving the appropriate stakeholders in that process, and regularly reporting progress on the indicators
- ❑ Consider available data, coordinate and align

Priority Outcomes

- Increase families' partnership in, knowledge of, and choices for their child's development
- Increase families' access to integrated quality early childhood opportunities and services
- Increase comprehensive wellness of young children
- Ensure children achieve early childhood developmental and educational goals
- Increase providers' and educators' knowledge and access to resources for quality programs and services

Priority Outcome

Increase families' partnership in, knowledge of, and choices for their child's development

Potential Performance Measures

Percentage of families aware of early childhood services for families with young children

Percentage of eligible families receiving state-funded DHHS Home Visiting*

Number of families who receive home visiting through DHHS Maternal Infant and Early Childhood, through Healthy Families America, Family-Centered Early Supports and Services*

Number of children enrolled in preschool special education*

Number of children ages 3-5 enrolled in special education*

Percentage of families who understand the process for special education services*

* Denotes a "Measure of Success" from 2020 NH Strategic Plan for Early Childhood

Priority Outcome

Increase families’ access to integrated quality early childhood opportunities and services

Potential Performance Measures

Ratio of the average cost of childcare to median income for families with young children (or for two parent family with two young children)

Number of licensed childcare providers*

Number of DHHS-licensed childcare providers, by county*

Ratio of the number of spaces to enrollment in Early Head Start and Head Start, for the state and by county

Number of children receiving Child Care Scholarships*

Percentage of childcare programs rated highly on QRIS or Percentage of licensed “plus” providers” *

* Denotes a “Measure of Success” from 2020 NH Strategic Plan for Early Childhood

Priority Outcome

Increase comprehensive wellness of young children

Potential Performance Measures

Percentage of women receiving prenatal care*

Percentage of children born with low birth weight

Percentage of children with asthma

Percentage of children with one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions

Percentage of children with special health care needs

Percentage of young children who have experienced two or more adverse experiences

* Denotes a “Measure of Success” from 2020 NH Strategic Plan for Early Childhood

Priority Outcome

Ensure children achieve early childhood developmental and educational goals

Potential Performance Measures

Percentage of young children not enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten, by poverty status

Number of children enrolled in preschool special education*

Number of children ages 3-5 enrolled in Special Education*

Percentage of children performing well on Kindergarten readiness assessments

Percentage of 3rd grade children proficient or above proficient on state Reading and Math assessments

Percentage of 4th graders scoring proficient in 4th grade Reading on NAEP assessments

Denotes a “Measure of Success” from 2020 NH Strategic Plan for Early Childhood

Priority Outcome

Increase providers' and educators' knowledge and access to resources for quality programs and services

Potential Performance Measures

Number of Pre K – 3rd grade staff with certifications*

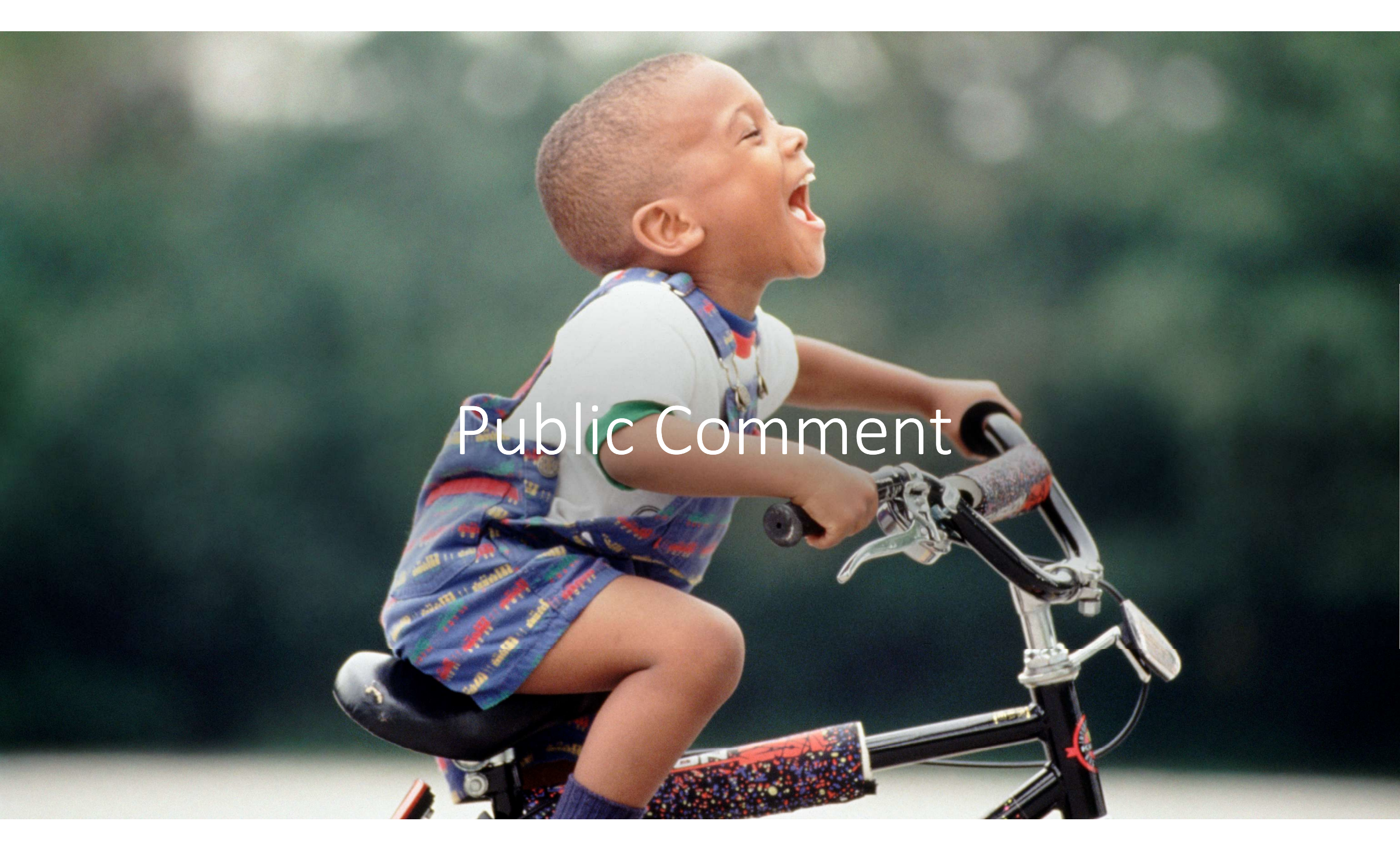
Percentage of childcare providers participating in QRIS

Percentage of childcare providers meeting qualifications outlined as steps in QRIS, including a high-quality Learning Environment

* Denotes a "Measure of Success" from 2020 NH Strategic Plan for Early Childhood

Recommendations for Stage 1 Launch in 2023

Theme	Initiative
2. Early childhood workforce capacity and quality	1a. Promote early childhood careers and career path
3. Investment in early childhood programs and services	1a. Create and implement a comprehensive early childhood system funding plan including federal, state, local, and private sources
4. Systems integration	2a. Establish and promote a comprehensive and inclusive system leveraging existing tools for families to navigate and access resources
1. Quality, consistent, equitable access to opportunities and services for all NH families	2a. Expand eligibility for childcare assistance costs, increase the amount of assistance for each family, and increase awareness and utilization of NH Child Care scholarship assistance
5. Office of Early Childhood	1a. Establish a collaborative process to define the role of the Office of Early Childhood, including authority, functions, structure, and resources
5. Office of Early Childhood	2a. Coordinate messaging across key early childhood champions to ensure a diverse set of voices that will expand public understanding of the importance of early childhood experiences for all children and families



Public Comment