



Meeting Minutes: Early Childhood Systems Reform Steering Committee

Date: Tuesday November 21st, 2017, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Metropolitan Mosquito Control District Building, 2099 University Ave. W., St. Paul MN 55104

Attendance

Steering Committee: Melissa Meyer, Loren Groves, Daniel Gumnit, Fartun Weli, Nancy Jost, Patina Park, Bharti Wahi, Zang Vang-Lee, John Soghigian, Danielle Swift, Monica Potter, Barb Fabre, Ikram Mohamed, Ruby Azurdia-Lee, Krishnan Subrahmanian, KaYing Yang, John Soghigian, Laurie Coleman, Vayong Moua, Cisa Keller (Dianne Haulcy's designee)

Project Team and State Attendees: Tracy Roloff, Megan Waltz, Debbie Hewitt, Cody Tuttle, Lauren Dawson, Jim Koppel, Hue Nguyen, Susan Castellano, Jeanne Ayers, Cindi Yang, Jovon Perry

Public: Zanib Haji

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Building on Cultural Identity Discussion

Partner discussion: think about a family with a baby in your life – talk about your hopes, dreams, and worries for this family and baby.

Systems and Reform

What do we mean by Systems?

We are really talking about a system of systems – health, family support, early learning.

What are some of the unique needs of pregnant and parenting families with infants and toddlers?

- Identification of resources
- Diapers
- Formula/food/nutrition
- Health care
- Housing
- Transportation

- Child care
- Community support/relationships (like a neighbor who could help you out, other caring adults)
- Attachment, love
- Social connectedness
- Safety/free of violence
- Culturally-relevant services for infants & families

Question posed to group: What are some strengths that are unique to pregnant and parenting families with infants and toddlers in your cultural and geographic communities? (*Note: strengths brainstormed by committee members were later grouped into themes by project team members. These themes are listed in the chart below.)

Strengths	Themes
Public Health; Health Care; Access to Health Care; Natural Birthing Community; Literacy and Education	Health/Healthcare/Well-being
Family Values; Intergenerational and Extended Family Support; Family Support – culture of family supporting one another; Role of multigenerational child rearing; extended family support; support from large family network; belonging to community; Kinship and FFN care for 0-3; Latino family values; mentoring; continuity; community supports; elder supports	Multigenerational Family and Community Support
Early Head Start; Child Care; Scholarships; Way to Grow; Think Small	Programs and Organizations
Focused concern; resilience; hope/optimism; love/compassion; eagerness to learn; women loving and accepting each other’s individual choices more; ancestral energy; spiritual life; tradition; celebration of littles	Intangibles

Question posed to group: What are some unique opportunities for these same groups? (*Note: strengths brainstormed by committee members were later grouped into themes by project team members. These themes are listed in the chart below.)

Opportunities	Theme
Money; Funding; Invest; More rural resources; streamline funding sources; fund and support people of color/indigenous-led organizations to integrate and do cross-cutting work	Funding
Identification of information resources; Fully integrate all 0-3 services	Navigation
Cultural relevance; Address racism; Increased awareness of structural racism and historical trauma; Network for the development of Children of African Descent; Foster/fund culturally-driven programs that support child/community development and community values; Dual language literacy; Culturally specific p[actices and not just one size fits all; MIWRC has developed a parenting curriculum that is positive, culturally grounded, and addresses families impacted by behavioral challenges	Cultural Relevance
Specialty care clinics; Increased multigenerational mental health services; Expand culturally tailored health care- family home visiting; bring health work/learning to the home; Infant/toddler mental health; Rural area has less access to health care including dental and mental health care	Health/Healthcare

Opportunities	Theme
Quality infant/toddler child care; Extended hours; Access to child care; Early learning access; Increase scholarships and CCAP; Resources-childcare/cultural relevance; Child care, scholarships, home visiting	Child care/ early childhood development
Increase POC workforce; More diversity in government from local to national level	Workforce diversity
Economic security; Self-sufficiency, jobs, earned income	Economic security
Relationship building (community support/relationships); Social connections, social interactions; Support bringing a baby to work, see as a positive not a liability or distraction; Engaged communities, political work	Social connectedness
Community support; Family engagement; ECFE; Early Childhood opportunities (afterschool programs, childcare, etc.); Resource kinship, FFN care; Opportunity to provide access to young parents with children 0-3 with developmental bilingual services; Fund multi-generational wrap-around supports for 0-K age; Trauma-informed services	Family/community support networks
Accountability	Other

What do we mean by Reform?

State programs are the building blocks of the state’s early childhood system; systems change happens at different levels of the system simultaneously. At the most basic level, we are examining how to improve the core programs through issues like funding, improving access and reach, and ease of procedures for end users. At a broader systems level, we are examining and improving coordination and alignment of these individual components of the system. At an even broader level, we are ensuring this coordination and alignment is done with an intentional multi-generational lens. And, we are examining the ingrained system. Through incorporation of diverse world views, we are unpacking the assumptions on which existing programs and policies are based and constructing new basic assumptions to drive ongoing policy, program and practice decisions.

Group discussion about problems with programs and systems, what information we need, what is missing, what are opportunities.

- Demographic data on workforce
- Overall data availability
- Data gaps, questions that need to be answered
- Giving communities lists of programs for easier navigation
- ‘Reform’ means different things to different audiences
- Who are our programs missing and reduplicating services for?

Vision

Vote on two revised vision statements

Revised vision statement: To ensure that children are born healthy, stay healthy, and are prepared for life, partnerships between parents, communities, and the state are utilized to address and eliminate inequities which meet at the intersection of race, class, and geography.

Shared Goals

By lifting out elements from the systems and reform conversation, the group discussed issues/broad themes that could inform future specific goal areas.

Goal Areas	Cross-Cutting Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cultural relevance▪ Family-centered health, mental health, and wellbeing▪ Child care –▪ Economic security (housing, transportation, food)▪ Parent/caregiver education (ABE)▪ Social connectedness▪ Extended family/community support network▪ Diversity in workforce▪ Cultural/family values▪ Safety▪ Recognition of importance of zero to three (vision)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Funding▪ Accountability (includes serving people's needs)▪ Communication▪ Identification (qualifications, eligibility)▪ Navigation▪ Distribution of resources (localities?)▪ Culturally specific practices▪ Availability of data▪ Cooperation between groups▪ Two-generation lens/multi-generation▪ Collaboration▪ Responsibility▪ Child first thinking▪ Brain science

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Metropolitan Mosquito Control District Building, 2099 University Ave. W., St. Paul MN 55104