



Best Beginnings State Advisory Council

October 7, 2015 – 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

October 8, 2015 – 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Red Lion Colonial Hotel – 2301 Colonial Drive
Helena, Montana

MISSION

The Best Beginnings Advisory Council's strategic goal is to ensure Montana has a comprehensive, coordinated, early childhood system that provides a governance structure and leads to strong collaboration in order to best meet the needs of Montana's youngest citizens.

October 7, 2015

AGENDA

8:30-9:00	Continental Breakfast – Networking
9:00-9:45	Welcome, Introductions, Kathy Rich and Julie Benson-Rosston, Facilitator
9:45-10:15	Presentation Dr. Cindy O'Dell, Dean, SKC Division of Education and Jeanne Christopher, Early Childhood Services Director
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-11:30	Presentation Ali Bovingdon, the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff and Sarah Corbally, Administrator Family and Children's Services - Governor's Protect Montana's Kids Initiative
11:30-12:00	Presentation Sara Groves, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Montana State Library
12:00–1:00	Hosted Lunch and networking
1:00–2:15	Workgroup Accomplishments
2:15–2:30	Break
2:30-4:30	Roundtable/Community Café Discussions with Grant Leaders (MIECHV, HSCO, ECCS, Pre-K Grant, HMTP, Montana LAUNCH)
4:30-4:45	Requests for New Workgroups from Roundtable discussions
4:45-5:00	Public Comment
5:00	Meeting Adjourned

Orange = resource to attach to notes

Purple = action item

Best Beginnings State Advisory Council

MEETING NOTES

Welcome, Introductions

Kathy Rich and Julie Benson-Rosston, Facilitator

- Review of ground rules
 - No additional ground rules added

Presentation

Dr. Cindy O'Dell, Dean, SKC Division of Education and Jeanne Christopher, Early Childhood Services Director

- Online platform to support Bachelor's degrees in Early Childhood
 - www.earlyedualliance.org
- Secretary Burwell visited in August
 - 2 focuses for visit
 - Tribal health and human services
 - Early childhood environment
- Questions and Additional Information
 - Would like to collaborate with R&Rs and Early Edge
 - Hybrid delivery of classes – in person and online
 - The plan is to expand the program to other universities in the state
 - How would we explain the process?
 - SKC receiving resources for free as part of a pilot. The tuition still has fees to attend
 - Data collection
 - Student numbers and courses
 - Assessment
 - Open to feedback on data to track
 - Will share data
 - No definitive timeframe for the end date of the pilot program
 - Supports the P3 certification program
 - 3 institutions in MT are accredited to offer it
 - SKC, UM Western, UM
 - 32 applications for the P3 endorsement
- P3 and Leadership Assistance
 - Through Preschool Development Grant
 - 5 priority areas for eligibility to receive financial assistance
 - Applications will be posted on ECP's website on October 19th
 - 63 students currently
 - Need not determined through FAFSA
 - Integrated through financial aid offices
 - SKC, MSU Bozeman, UM, UM Western (bulk of students this round are at UM Western)
 - 4 years grant
 - Year 1 ends this year
- MPDG not in the current budget for 2017-2018

Presentation

Ali Bovingdon, the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff and Sarah Corbally, Administrator Family and Children's Services - Governor's Protect Montana's Kids Initiative

- <http://dphhs.mt.gov/protectMontanaKids>
- <https://governor.mt.gov/Newsroom/ArtMID/28487/ArticleID/1844>

Workgroup Accomplishments

Best Beginnings State Advisory Council

A.C. Rothenbuecher: Sustainability for HMTTP

- 9 contractors
- Funding currently goes through 2017
- Recommendations from work group are being put into the sustainability plan along with an annual report at the end of this month

Tyson Krinke: Preschool Development Grant Needs Assessment

- Annual needs assessments
- Developed a list of questions as a work group at the BBAC meeting in June
 - Logic model format
- Surveys are included in BBAC packets
- Question: is there a definition of preschool vs. child care?
 - Not at this point
 - This can be part of the discussion during work group time

Carrie Leu: CCDF

- Expulsion/suspension work group
 - Discussion on definition, training, referral, etc.
 - WebEx in July
- Special needs work group
 - Discussion on definition and provider reimbursement
- Policy work group
 - Did not convene between June and now
- Homelessness
 - Interested in stakeholders
 - Providers, head start, licensing involvement

Becky Fleming-Siebenaler: Child Care Licensing

- Reorganization within the bureau to support changes in CCDF reauthorization
- Consumer education
 - Lead on work group moved to ECSB
- Reviewing national standards and recommendations for rules
 - Proposals for rule changes
- Drafted training plan to new providers and staff

Brie Oliver: Trauma-informed messaging for the ECCS grant

- ECCS: Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant
- Would like to look into marketing strategies with a specialist

Lucinda Burns: Professional Development Opportunities

- 7 providers now on the registry with ECP
- Working with the R&R in Miles City on trainings
 - Recently training on evacuations plans
- Upcoming training with Christy Hill Larson on the Pyramid Model
- Intro to early childhood education is now offered through the college
 - Free class
- Meeting with the Governor's Office in November
 - Tour of N.C. offices and child care centers

Sally Tilleman: Assessment for MPDG

- CLASS, Dial 4, ECERS were selected
 - Almost done with cohort 1
 - Outside team comes in and provides assessment
 - Assessments in the fall and spring
- Tara Ferriter-Smith will send out a poll for availability to discuss the KEA assessment
- Programs are deciding which social-emotional assessment they would like to use

Kathy Rich: Head Start Collaboration Office Strategic Plan Review

Best Beginnings State Advisory Council

- Strategic plan process has happened
- Worked primarily via email
- Strategic plan is in the BBAC folder

Kathy Rich: Recruitment

- Recruiting parents
 - LAUNCH grant required 10% of group as parents
- Physician – pediatrician
 - Recruited a doctor from the Billings area
- Continuing to try to bring in tribal partners

Remember that work groups are fluid and dynamic.

How can you support a work group? How can a work group support the work you do?

Invitation to ask for a work group and to participate in one

Roundtable/Community Café Discussions with Grant Leaders

(MECHV, HSCO, ECCS, MPDG, HMTTP, Montana LAUNCH)

Requests for New Workgroups from Roundtable discussions

- No requests made for new work groups

Public Comment

- No public comment given

October 8, 2015

AGENDA

8:00- 8:30	Continental Breakfast
8:30-9:00	Welcome and Announcements
9:00-10:00	Presentation Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief - CCDF
10:00-10:15	Break
10:30- 12:00	Collaborative Work Group Discussions
12:00-1:00	Lunch and Presentation Dr. George Haynes, LAUNCH Evaluator
1:00-2:00	Work Groups Collaborative Response
2:00- 2:15	Break
2:15-2:45	Work Groups report back
2:45-3:00	Public Comment
3:00	Adjourn

MEETING NOTES

Welcome and Announcements

Best Beginnings State Advisory Council

- Introductions – how does everyone bring information back to the people and groups they represent?
 - Through email, meetings, verbally, and in many other ways

Presentation

Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief – CCDF

- PowerPoint presentations – CCDF and STARS
- Flow charts for new providers and caregivers
 - Training online
 - Tracked through ECP

Question/Answer Session:

- Opportunity prior to an expulsion referral – someone to provide social/emotional support
 - 17,000 kids in the children's mental health system
 - Early intervention is vital
- Increase in training hours – will some of the trainings be free?
 - Only free trainings right now are through STARS for STARS-required trainings
 - Free for everyone
 - Even if the training is free, providers have to pay for staff to attend
 - Mixed delivery of training: online and in person
- What does the resource sharing look like between other states?
 - Multiple webinars
 - State administrators listserv
 - Meetings
- High risk families – frame these changes around trust and building trust
 - Relationship building
- Background check regulations – where are they located?
 - Current state plan
 - In QAD rules
 - When do they go in effect?
 - Officially in 2017, but QAD is looking at dates for implementation

Work Group Discussions

- MPDG Needs Assessment Survey – Kathy Rich
- LAUNCH – Miranda Briggs
- CCDF – Carrie Leu
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Leslie Lee and Dianna Frick
- Local Coalitions Communication Plan – no group lead

Discussion points:

- Work group plans
- Solutions
- Challenges

2 groups not meeting today:

- HMTTP
- HSCO

Presentation

Dr. George Haynes, LAUNCH Evaluator- LAUNCH Evaluation Plan
LAUNCH PowerPoint

Best Beginnings State Advisory Council

Work Group Reports

- Local Coalitions
 - Structure quarterly conference calls a month before BBAC
 - Discuss key points to bring to group
 - Would like to be able to present at each BBAC as part of the meeting
 - Conference calls after BBAC to report what was learning and provide information to the coalitions that were not present at the BBAC
 - Would like meeting notes 1-2 weeks after the BBAC
 - Reaching out to local coalitions that are not present at BBAC
 - Would like to see how to get them more involved
 - Would like to continue a ½ day meeting beforehand
 - There are alternative ideas if this will not work
 - This way, they can be involved in the other work groups
 - Advocacy efforts in communities are very important
 - Would like to have an intern review all of the strategic plans to see what rises to the top
 - This group will work on it
- MPDG Needs Assessment Survey – Kathy Rich
 - Will go out through the coalitions
 - Reviewed all four of the surveys
 - Focused on parent survey
 - Discussion about income on the survey
 - Discussed definition of preschool
 - Decided that Kathy would look at how preschool is designed in other programs and work on a definition to send to the group
 - Changes to language to adapt reading level (mostly to parent survey)
 - Changes to the structure to more drop down selections and categorizing (mostly to parent survey)
- CCDF – Carrie Leu
 - Review of draft expulsion policy
 - Next steps:
 - Group will continue to meet
 - Training
 - Developmental screenings
 - Worked on special needs procedure
 - Next steps:
 - Training and coaching
 - Identification
 - Will meet to discuss vulnerable populations
 - **Work group request**
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Leslie Lee and Dianna Frick
 - Group met this morning to talk about how different programs can share information
 - Avoiding duplication of effort
 - Looking into ways to develop universal consent forms
 - Training
 - Capacity building
 - Want to know: Who is using ASQ, and in what way(s)?
 - Would like to continue meeting as a work group
 - Joined with LAUNCH for afternoon session
 - Implications of comparing ASQ data
 - Discussion on LAUNCH and how to universally use ASQ
 - Next steps:
 - Look into the intended use of ASQ
 - Would referral system in L&C County be useful for LAUNCH?

Best Beginnings State Advisory Council

- Would like to continue meeting as a work group

Public Comment

- No public comment given

Next Meetings:

- February 10-11, 2016 - Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena
- June 28-29, 2016, Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena (June 22-23, 2016 were the decided upon dates, no venues available)
- October 5-6, 2016, Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena



BEST BEGINNINGS

STARS to Quality

Highlights



- **STARS to Quality participation as of 9/11/15:**
 - **TOTAL NUMBER: 207**
 - Billings: 31
 - Bozeman: 24
 - Butte: 19
 - Glasgow: 3
 - Great Falls: 28
 - Havre: 6
 - Helena: 25
 - Lewistown: 2
 - Miles City: 5
 - Kalispell: 28
 - Missoula: 36
- **Increase participation in STARS to Quality:**
 - Increase participation in STARS, at any level, from 200 (currently participating) to 300, incrementally, by June 2017.
 - **What does this mean for STARS programs?** There will be an increase in the number of participating programs which will increase the general knowledge of STARS trainings, coaching/mentoring, and other related supports. More programs will be ‘speaking the same language’ and providing higher quality care.
 - **Timeline:** June 2017



- **Outreach/Marketing of STARS to Quality:**
 - Requested bids from 5 marketing companies around Montana to provide outreach and marketing services for STARS to Quality.
 - **What does this mean for STARS programs?** There will be marketing materials created to help educate families, providers, and the community about STARS to Quality and the importance of quality in child care.
 - **Timeline:** Work will begin in October 2015.

- **Support for Accreditation:**
 - We will be gathering information on successes and challenges around the accreditation process from the 11 currently accredited sites. We will compile this feedback with best practice information to create supports for sites wishing to seek accreditation through either NAEYC or NAFCC specifically for programs seeking STAR level 5.
 - **What does this mean for STARS programs?** If you are interested in seeking accreditation of your program there are financial supports and will be learning-communities available to support you in the process.
 - **Timeline:** January 2016



- **Outdoor Environments mini-grant and training:**
 - A mini-grant to support outdoor environments in participating STARS programs. A supplemental training to support the mini-grant will also be released.
 - **What does this mean for STARS programs?** There will be financial support available for STARS programs to improve outdoor environments in programs to enhance creative and open-ended outdoor play. For example, adding or improving family/community gathering places, natural materials (wood, plant-based, etc.), and shade structures/trees.
 - **Timeline: Mini-grant application** released in April 2016 and awarded by June 1, 2016.
 - **Timeline: Outdoor Environment Training:** March 2016 (required to complete prior to receiving mini-grant funds)

- **Infant/Toddler program support:**
 - The state plan includes an increased focus on infant/toddler care. We will intentionally support programs to increase availability of quality infant/toddler care in Montana.
 - **What does this mean for STARS programs?**
 - Access to an infant/toddler specialist.
 - Increase the reimbursement rate for infants and toddlers in STARS programs
 - Create an expert track for training and professional development
 - » **Timeline:** Under development/ongoing



- **Enhance the STARS data site at Early Childhood Project:**
 - Data collection and reporting capabilities
 - Program driven
 - **What does this mean for STARS programs?** Access to program information and capability of self application. An expanded platform for program information in one place.

- **Coaching Project:**
 - Coaching the Montana Pyramid Model in classrooms and with classroom teachers.
 - Coordinated efforts
 - Valid and Reliable assessments using the TPOT
 - **What does this mean for STARS programs?** Support for teachers and children in social and emotional domain. Improved outcomes for children in school readiness

- **Slot Care support for EHS/CC Partnerships**



CCDF



CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Patty Butler,
Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief

All About That CCDF...



- **What is CCDF Reauthorization?**
- **Scope of Reauthorization**
- **Key Features of Reauthorization**
 - **Health and Safety Requirements for Child Care Providers**
 - **Transparent Consumer and Provider Education Information**
 - **Family-Friendly Eligibility Policies**
 - **Activities to Improve the Quality of Child Care**
 - **Tribes**
 - **Other Provisions**

What is CCDF Reauthorization?



- The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-186) was signed into law November 19, 2014. Reauthorizes the CCDF program for the first time since 1996.
- CCDF is a \$5.3 billion block grant program that provides funding to States, Territories, and Tribes to provide access to child care services for low-income families and improve the quality of child care.
- The CCDBG Act of 2014 renews authority for CCDF through FY 2020 and represents an historic re-envisioning of the program.
- Focused on better balancing dual purposes – to promote economic self-sufficiency for low-income families and support healthy development and school readiness needs of children.

Scope of Reauthorization



- **Reauthorization brings significant advancements to the program:**
 - Makes child care safer by defining health and safety requirements for child care providers, requiring background checks, and inspection of facilities.
 - Provides more stability for parents and children through family-friendly eligibility policies.
 - Helps parents better understand child care choices available to them by improving accessibility and transparency of information about providers.
- **Includes a significant number of changes, some of which are straightforward to implement, while others are complex and will be phased-in over several years.**

Key Features of Reauthorization



- **Health and Safety Requirements for Child Care Providers**
- **Transparent Consumer and Provider Education Information**
- **Family-Friendly Eligibility Policies**
- **Activities to Improve the Quality of Child Care**
- **Tribes**
- **Other Provisions**

Health and Safety Requirements for Child Care Providers



- Requires States to establish health and safety requirements in 10 different topic areas (e.g., prevention of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), first-aid, and CPR).
 - **Montana – Included in new Pre-service and Orientation Criteria prior to caring for children. All providers must receive CPR and First-aid training. 24 hours of training.**
- Child care providers serving children receiving assistance through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program must receive pre-service and ongoing training on such topics.
 - **Montana – New providers must have inspection and training as pre-service. Increase number of hours of ongoing training. 8-16-24-30**
- Requires States to conduct criminal background checks for all child care staff members, including staff members who don't care directly for children but have unsupervised access to children, and specifies disqualifying crimes.
 - **Montana – include FBI checks**
- Requires States to certify child care providers will comply with child abuse reporting requirements.
 - **Montana – no changes. (Mandatory Reporting training a requirement at pre-service.)**

Health and Safety Requirements for Child Care Providers



- Requires States to conduct pre-licensure and annual unannounced inspections of licensed CCDF providers and annual inspections of license-exempt CCDF providers.
 - Montana – yearly inspections of all child care providers including Legally Certified Providers. (exempt relative providers)
- States must establish qualifications and training for licensing inspectors and appropriate inspector-to-provider ratios.
 - Montana – currently in decision making process
- Requires States to have standards for CCDF providers regarding group size limits and appropriate child-to-provider ratios based on the age of children in child care.
 - Montana – currently in decision making process
- Requires emergency preparedness planning and statewide disaster plans for child care.
 - Montana – is developed and will be in policy/rule

Transparent Consumer and Provider Education Information



- States must make available by electronic means, easily accessible provider-specific information showing results of monitoring and inspection reports, as well as the number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of substantiated child abuse that occur in child care settings each year.
 - **Montana creating system to track and report**
- Requires States to have a website describing processes for licensing and monitoring child care providers, processes for conducting criminal background checks, and offenses that prevent individuals from being child care providers.
 - **Montana – current with plans for additional information**
- Funds a national website to disseminate consumer education information that allows search by zip code and referral to local child care providers, as well as a national hotline for reporting child abuse and neglect.

Family-Friendly Eligibility Policies



- Establishes a 12-month eligibility re-determination period for CCDF families, regardless of changes in income (as long as income does not exceed the federal threshold of 85% of State median income) or temporary changes in participation in work, training, or education activities.
 - **Montana – new policy in place**
- Allows States the option to terminate assistance prior to re-determination if a parent loses employment, however assistance must be continued for at least 3 months to allow for job search.
 - **Montana – new policy in place**
- Eligibility re-determination should not require parents to unduly disrupt their employment.
 - **Montana – current with on line application and renewal**
- Provides for a graduated phase-out of assistance for families whose income has increased at the time of re-determination, but remains below the federal threshold.
 - **Montana – policy created with 1 year extended assistance up to 200% of poverty**
- Requires procedures for enrollment of homeless children pending completion of documentation, and training and outreach to promote access to services for homeless families.
 - **Montana – currently in decision making process**

Activities to Improve the Quality of Child Care



- Phases-in increase in minimum quality set-aside from 4% to 9% over a 5-year period. In addition, requires States to spend minimum of 3% to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers.
 - **Montana – plans are included in STARS strategic planning framework**
- Requires States to spend quality funds on at least 1 of 10 specified quality activities, which include developing tiered quality rating systems and supporting statewide resource and referral services.
 - **STARS to Quality program**
- Requires establishment of professional development and training requirements with ongoing annual training and progression to improve knowledge and skills of CCDF providers.
 - **Montana – Early Childhood Project, current with plans for increased training opportunities**
- Requires States to implement Early Learning and Development Guidelines describing what children should know and be able to do, appropriate from birth to kindergarten entry.
 - **Montana – current with Montana Early Learning Standards**
- Includes provisions on social-emotional health of children, including providing consumer and provider education about policies regarding expulsions of children from early care and education programs and developmental screenings for children at risk of cognitive or developmental delays.
 - **Montana – Vulnerable populations defined. Policy being developed. Screening tools identified and training plans**

Tribes



- **Tribal set-aside: Establishes a set-aside of not less than 2% (prior law said up to 2%) for Tribes.**
- **The law does not indicate the extent to which many of the new provisions apply to Tribes¹.**

¹ The Office of Child Care will issue policy guidance on how provisions apply to Tribes after consultation with Tribal Leaders and administrators.

Other Provisions



- *Equal Access*
 - Requires States to conduct a market rate survey, or use an alternative methodology, such as a cost estimation model, and describe how payment rates will be established based on results of the survey or alternative methodology, taking into account cost of providing higher quality services.
- *Supply-building*
 - States must develop strategies for increasing supply and quality of services for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children in non-traditional hour care—which may include use of grants/contracts and alternative reimbursement.
- *Provider payment practices*
 - States must establish policies that reflect generally accepted payment practices for child care providers, including (to the extent practicable) paying for absence days, and timely reimbursement for child care services.
- *Technical assistance set-aside*
 - Establishes a set-aside of up to ½ of 1% for technical assistance on administering the CCDF program.
- *Research set-aside*
 - Establishes a set-aside of up to ½ of 1% to conduct research and demonstration activities, as well as periodic, external, independent evaluations of the CCDF program.
- *Plan period*
 - Changes CCDF Plan period from 2 to 3-year Plan cycle.