Rhode Island Early Learning Council

MARCH 13, 2019
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
SAVE THE BAY CONFERENCE CENTER, PROVIDENCE
**Meeting Agenda**

<table>
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<th>Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Meeting Overview</th>
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**Presentation & Discussion:**
- FY20 State Budget Proposal & 2019 Pending Legislation

**Presentation & Discussion:**
- State Pre-K Lottery & Enrollment Process
- Transition to Kindergarten

**Policy & Program Updates:**
- Child Care Licensing
- Early Childhood Facilities Needs Assessment
- Think Babies

**Announcements:**
- Work Group: Meeting Young Children’s Social-Emotional Needs
- Other?

**Public Comment & Next Steps**
Governor Raimondo’s FY20 Budget Priorities: 3rd Grade Reading Goal

CARA HARRISON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO
High Quality Pre-K Expansion

We will maintain the current 60 State Pre-K classrooms and expand additional classrooms. 540 new high-quality Pre-K seats will be added in a mixed delivery model.

($5.75M to maintain, $4.25M to expand)

$10,000,000

School Success

Ensure all 4-year-olds have access to high quality Pre-K
Investment in Family Home Visiting (FHV)
We will maintain the availability of 1400 family slots in our FHV, which provides families with the resources and skills to help raise children to be healthy and ready to learn.
($650,000 State GR, $650,000 Medicaid waiver match)
$1,300,000

School Readiness
Increase the capacity of family home visiting for children up to age 4 at risk of poor outcomes
Expansion of Tiered Reimbursement for Child Care

Tiered reimbursement will be expanded to family child care. Also, an additional investment in rates for preschool programs to reach the 75th percentile of the market rate. ($150,000 family child care, $697,000* preschool rates)

$847,000

*Included in pre-k expansion funding

School Readiness

Increase number of CCAP providers at higher levels of Bright Stars
School Readiness
Ensure vulnerable infants and toddlers get engaged in evidence based services

Prenatal Expansion of First Connections

First Connections is designed to connect families to the necessary services at the earliest point possible. This investment will allow 1200 prenatal women to be served.

$378,0000
School Readiness
Increase lead screening rates for children at 18 months

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
This investment will be used to meet the goal of decreasing lead exposure and identifying children with elevated blood lead levels as early as possible.
$190,000
Mitigating Adverse Risk Staff Capacity

Additional staff capacity to support DCYF and RIDOH’s joint effort to identify and refer all children up to age 3 who are victims of abuse and/or neglect.

$74,000

Safety Net Services

Respond to the needs of high-risk children
Federal Preschool Development Grant: Birth to 5

Rhode Island has been awarded this one-year grant to help support the development and coordination of early childhood education and family-centered support programs. Funds will be used to conduct the research, planning, and system improvement needed to build a strong, family-centered birth to 5 system. The grant will also allow us to plan and build infrastructure for universal pre-k expansion.

$4,190,000
2019 Pending Legislation re: 
Early Learning and Development (0 to 8)

- H-5106 (Diaz) and S-282 (Crowley) bill to expand CCAP tiered quality rates to school-age children in centers and to increase rates for preschool children and school-age children in 5-star centers to the 75th percentile of the 2018 market rate survey.
- H-5009 (McNamara) directs school districts to establish attendance teams to address chronic absenteeism
- H-5047 (Millea) and S-199 (Gallo) bill to establish a maximum class size of 20 for grades K through 2
- H-5192 (Diaz) and S-198 (Ciccone) establishes and requires funding for world language and dual language instruction
- H-5386 (McEntee) appropriates funds for to pay ½ the cost for teachers to get graduate certificate in dyslexia knowledge and practice.
- H-5426 (Quattrocchi – by request) requires schools to screen for dyslexia and establishes a timeline to get K-6 teachers and reading specialists Orton-Gillingham certified.
- H-5524 (Barros) provides financial support for planning and implementation of community schools.
- Anticipated bills from House and Senate to extend number of weeks and improve wage replacement for the Temporary Caregivers Insurance program (paid family leave)
Pre-K to K Transition Summit
In 2018 RIDE received over $700,000 in PDG supplemental funds to continue and expand work in the Boston Public School Curriculum, Social/Emotional Supports, including training and coaching for teachers and Pre-K to K transition work.
Summit Series

Four day Summit Series consisted of:

◦ One full day meeting for all interested parties led by EDC with special keynote speaker Dr. LoCasale-Crouch
  ◦ Focus on school readiness
  ◦ The nature of transition
  ◦ Building successful transition experiences
Days 2 - 4

Spread out over the school year three districts participated in a series of trainings and exercises designed to improve communication between LEA’s and Community-based programs

- West Warwick, Newport and Woonsocket

- These communities worked to create a transition plan that was unique to their school districts strengths and opportunities.
- This work will be funded through the beginning of the 2019/2020 school year
- There will be a case study to share with all LEA’s at the conclusion of the project that will allow districts to recreate successes.
Lottery 2019/2020
School Year
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<th>Lottery Highlights</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opens in May of 2019</td>
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<td>Runs through July 3, 2019</td>
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<td>All children who turn 4 by September 1, 2019 in eligible communities are allowed to apply</td>
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<td>Recruitment is necessary for the success of the program</td>
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How You Can Help

We need everyone’s assistance to reach families.

While we have some recruiting tactics we are looking for more ways to get the word out.

Please fill out a suggestion card with any and all ideas to reach our families.

These will be compiled, reviewed and shared with all prior to the opening of the lottery.
Child Care Licensing Transition
5 Key Strategy Areas:

**Policy, Procedure and Budget**

Governor’s budget proposes to amend Chapters 42-12, 42-72, 42-72.1, 42-72.11 and adds a chapter 42-12.5 to transition the administration of the child care licensing division from DCYF to DHS for the purposes of improving services and efficiency. Once approved, adjustments in CCAP Policy will need to occur.

**Personnel**

Governor’s budget proposes preservation of the existing personnel structure (8 FTEs) to DHS. State agencies are currently determining whether cost savings could be applied to permit the hire of additional staff to increase legal capacity at EOHHS upon transition.

**Operations**

- DHS to preserve coordination with CPS
- Data System Management (Transition Plan for RICHIST)
- Division of Work (Subsidy v. Licensing)
- Background Check Requirements (CAP)

**Stakeholder Engagement**

- State Legislators
- Federal Partners (ACF, NARA)
- Child Care Providers (Family- and Center-Based)
- Key Advocacy Groups and Stakeholders (SEIU, Kids Count, SAC, RICCDA, BOCA, FCCHRI)
- Consumers

- Prioritize compliance with federally mandated onsite, unannounced monitoring visits Streamline QRIS applications for 1-Star providers with Licensing application
- Pilot/Institute differentiated monitoring dependent upon provider’s QRIS (long term)
- Professional development designed, and prioritized, for licensed providers on corrective action
Assessment will be conducted by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation as an extension of its Rhode Island Child Care & Early Learning Facilities Fund.

Nearly $21,000,000 invested in 142 early learning providers statewide impacting 8,000 children and leveraging an additional $35,000,000.

1000+ hours of dedicated, on-site technical support and capacity building to an average of 80 organizations annually.

Plus, designed and administered the 2014 state-wide early learning facility needs assessment.

100 Outdoor play spaces enhanced through targeted initiative to improve child wellbeing and health-related outcomes with thoughtful space interventions.

Cutting Edge Training featuring leading experts, nationally recognized resource materials and a newly launched online training portal.

Trusted partner, convener and advocate actively engaged in helping to inform state policy.
2019 Rhode Island Early Learning Facilities Needs Assessment Project

- Assessment of overall facility conditions with emphasis on health, safety, compliance, quality
- Evaluation of access gaps and potential solutions with particular eye on Universal Pre-K expansion, quality infant/toddler care
- Comprehensive analysis of financial gaps and needs with corresponding research on policy solutions
- Regulatory review and mapping exercise and validations with corresponding best practice research

= Comprehensive report reflecting current realities and accompanying policy and budget recommendations

Plus simultaneous direct support to organizations, LEAs, municipalities to assess and implement near and longer term facility expansion and development strategies.
Evaluation of Access Gaps – Analysis of possible solutions (pre-k and infant/toddler focus)

ANALYSIS & MAPPING OF SLOTS BY COMMUNITY, TYPE, QUALITY LEVEL

SURVEY INSTRUMENTS AND FOCUS GROUPS

SITE CASE STUDIES
Assessment of Overall Facility Conditions – Emphasis on health, safety, compliance, quality

REFINE SITE ASSESSMENT TOOLS – STUDY AVAILABLE DATA (2014 ECE ASSESSMENT, 2017 SCHOOL BUILDINGS REPORT)

SURVEY INSTRUMENTS AND FOCUS GROUPS

TARGETED AND RANDOMIZED ON SITE ASSESSMENT VISITS
Analysis of Financial Gaps and Needs with Research on Policy Solutions

- Case studies - renovation and construction cost modeling
- Development of cost modeling and financial planning tools for centers
- Survey, focus groups to inform current financial realities
- Best-practice information gathering on what states can do and are doing to support facilities
Regulatory Review and Mapping

Crosswalk of all existing regulations and standards impacting facilities

Best practice research and recommendations

Surveying and focus groups to flag confusions and challenges

Recommendations for alignment, streamlining, improvements
Direct support to organizations, LEAs, municipalities to assess and implement near- and longer-term facility expansion and development strategies

**Prioritized supports to organizations focused on supporting pre-k expansion in September, 2019**

**Prioritized supports to organizations looking to increase offerings of quality infant/toddler programming**

**Exploration of available spaces with LEAs and Municipalities**

**Case studies and building planning supports**

**Chronical Supports to Inform Work of Assessment**
Assessment Structure Recap

TEAM

- Studio MLA Architects
  Lead Architectural Consultants
- LISC Child Care Facilities Team with support from National Policy & Research Offices
- B Boyle Design
  Graphic Design Consultant
- Market Research Partners
  Research & Assessment Consultant

METHODOLOGIES

- Surveying
- Financial Modeling
- Site Reviews & Case Studies
- Data Reviews
- Best Practice Research
## RI’s Policy Targets 2019

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<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Goal</th>
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<td><strong>Paid Family Leave</strong></td>
<td>• Increase # of weeks and improve % wage replacement</td>
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| **High-Quality Child Care**                           | • Implement tiered quality rates for the Child Care Assistance Program for remaining age groups and programs.  
• Adopt national standards and strategies for child care licensing.  
• Develop and implement wage strategy to attract and retain more qualified and effective infant/toddler educators |
| **Evidence-Based Home Visiting**                      | Design and implement a First 1,000 Days of Rite Care initiative to improve services available to families with infants and toddlers:  
• Improve developmental screening rates and connections to Early Intervention  
• Launch screening for maternal depression and provide access to dyadic therapy  
• Sustain and grow Evidence-Based Home Visiting  
• Promote use of DC: 0-5 diagnostic tool |
# Campaign Elements 2019

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<tr>
<td>• Celebration of Young Children Luncheon /Think Babies Policy Agenda – January 28, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Early Learning &amp; Development Policy Priorities</td>
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<td>• Op-Eds</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Promote legislation to extend weeks and increase wage replacement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• New Fact Sheet on Paid Family Leave - with National Partnership for Women &amp; Families</td>
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<td>• Promote expansion and increases for tiered quality rates in Governor’s budget and CCAP legislation through RI Campaign for Quality Child Care &amp; Pre-K</td>
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<td>• Support child care licensing move to DHS as part of Governor’s budget</td>
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<td>• RI Reads to Young Children (Legislators) – Late March/Early April</td>
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<td>• No Small Matter Film Showing &amp; Discussion – with RI Chapter of American Academy for Pediatrics</td>
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<td>• Develop and Advance Infant/Toddler Workforce Compensation Strategy(ies)</td>
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<td>• New Fact Sheet/Policy Brief on Early Learning Workforce</td>
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<td>• New Fact Sheet on Child Care Licensing</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Updated Fact Sheet on BrightStars (High-Quality Care &amp; Learning)</td>
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<td>• Strolling Thunder May 1, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Promote family home visiting funding in Governor’s budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Planning: infant mental health, developmental screenings and referral to Early Intervention, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• New Fact Sheet on First 1,000 Days of RIte Care</td>
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Announcements
Supporting Social Emotional Needs of Children in Early Care Settings - Update

Draft Recommendations to go out to Stakeholders for final feedback via Survey

◦ Survey to be disseminated by 3/22/2019
◦ Please forward to parents, teachers, and other community stakeholders
◦ Closing date 4/5/2019

Input meeting to look at survey results and finalize recommendations (including newly identified stakeholders) by end of April

Presentation of final recommendations and next steps at next ELC Meeting?

In addition, EOHHS currently working to update Kids Connect certification standards

◦ Initial meeting held with Kids Connect providers to begin process
◦ Incorporating these recommendations
◦ Draft standards to be reviewed by larger stakeholder group for input
Public Comment

2019 SCHEDULED MEETINGS AT SAVE THE BAY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

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