

Data, Needs Assessment and Insights Committee
Early Childhood Leadership Commission
Committee Report
8 March 2011

The Data, Needs Assessment and Insights Committee met on February 24, 2011. The Committee made significant progress in establishing a scope of work and methodology for two major charges: the development of a Needs Assessment and Interagency Data System. In addition, Karen Trierweiler, will assume the position of Committee Co-Chair along with Suzie Helburn. Sherri Price was thanked for providing interim co-chair support.

The needs assessment will map county-level data (except where higher or lower density areas motivate a different level of analysis), of a child and family risk indicators that predict poor outcomes across the four domains outlined in the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* in order to assess the degree of risk present in communities. The project will map the availability of supports and services across the four domains in order to compare availability with degree of risk for poor outcomes.

The Committee reviewed how the early childhood interagency data systems work is incorporated into other statewide data systems efforts. New staff in the Office of Information and Technology (OIT) will be leading this effort and will work in partnership with the Data, Needs Assessment and Insights Committee to efficiently incorporate the goals and timeline into the broader Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) project.

Action 1: Discuss New OIT Staff to Spearhead Data System Planning

Discussion: The resignation of Commissioner Micheline Casey has prompted the collaboration with Judy McMurphy (Governor's Office of Information and Technology, SLDS Senior Project Manager) and Ron Huston (Governor's Office of Information and Technology, SLDS Executive Sponsor). Judy and Ron presented SLDS goals and timelines which incorporates Master Data Management, a Business Intelligence and Reporting Tool, and Identity Management.

There are several phases of project management. The LINK phase will allow data to be shared and exchanged across multiple state agencies (as well as district, state and federal levels) to promote accountability, inform policy and ensure a holistic view of student success; create an early childhood data system; and develop a state and regional health information exchange. The foundational infrastructure includes the development and implementation of the Colorado Unique Personal Identifier.

Action 2: Discuss Needs Assessment Methodology

Discussion: A one page document outlining the purpose, mission, and methodology of the Needs Assessment was presented to the Committee. Consensus was generated on the process to identify indicators, determine criteria to rate a community's degree of risk, map the availability of programs, supports and services, and communicate community need and the availability of services.

Action 3: Discuss the Needs Assessment Advisory Group and Expertise

Discussion: The Committee determined that a Needs Assessment Advisory Group will be established in order to guide the work of the Needs Assessment effort. Committee members will compile a list of content experts that will aide in this process. The Committee determined that the Colorado

Department of Public Health and Environment has the expertise to work with the advisory group to design and implement the methodology for completing the needs assessment. An interagency agreement will be developed between the ECLC and CDPHE for this work.