

**Early Childhood Collaborative Funding Working Group  
of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission (ECSR)  
Minutes for meeting on August 8, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Introductions:** Senator Kefalas, Rep. Schafer, Anna Jo Haynes, Bridget Kaminetsky, Debbie Wagner, Dan O’Connell, Evie Hudak, Gloria Higgins, Jennifer Corrigan, Judy Williams, Kathy White, Kathryn Hammerbeck, Lexi Kuznick, Madeleine Replogle, Mark Kling, Marie Hueston, Maro Zagoras, Megan Davis, Megan Wagner, Molly Yost, Rich Jones, Sheryl Shushan, Terry Scanlon, Thamanna Vasani

**Economic Well-Being Index:**

Senator Kefalas proposed the idea of having an Economic Well-Being Index, created by Legislative Council staff, to inform how the state is making a difference in families lives. This idea does not require legislation. Memos from Legislative Council explaining this Index can be found at the ECSR website and attached in this email.

Several stakeholders encouraged outreach to other organizations doing similar work on indicators to minimize redundancy, and understand where there are recurring indicators. There was agreement that stakeholder outreach is critical but time is of the essence as well.

**Next Steps regarding Index:**

- **Continue the discussion**
- **Presentation by Legislative Council staff on August 26**
- **Connect with others working on indicators (Children’s Campaign, Data Committee of the ECLC, Piton, Mile High United Way)**
- **Understand Wisconsin’s Poverty Measure (see attachment)**

**Family Resource Centers (FRC):**

Family Resource Center Association proposes reaching additional families by increasing the number of family development workers and collaborating with other organizations to avoid duplication of services. The FRC model fits in the Family Support domain, with families voluntarily seeking them out for services. FRC’s have an existing infrastructure at the local level, and can work collaboratively with various entities in the local area to align services for families. Locally, this means being rooted in a school district or a non-profit organization if not their own FRC. FRC’s have been measuring their results, via OMNI, to demonstrate the success of the program. Request is for \$2.5M to reach additional families, and Family, Friend & Neighbor (FFN) providers, and to study expansion locations around the state. Please see attached for revised FRCA proposal.

As FRC’s work directly with families, stakeholders encouraged FRCA to work with the FFN stakeholders to align the work and identify FRC’s role to augment services for FFN caregivers/providers.

**Next Steps regarding Family Resource Center proposal:**

- **Presenting same proposal to the Family Support Working Group August 11**
- **FRCA to work with other stakeholders to broaden its collaboration**

- **Address stakeholder questions: Would proposal fund only FRCA members or all FRC's even if not part of association? Demonstrate where savings are achieved as a result of FRC's services, e.g. homeless moving to stable housing.**

### **Tax Credits for Child Care Professionals:**

Currently, there is a gap in addressing compensation for early childhood education (ECE) professionals who earn between \$8-13/hour. Professionals migrate toward higher pay scales available in the public school or head start systems. Louisiana used a refundable tax credit to put more money in the pockets of ECE professionals. Only ECE professionals that are part of the Louisiana professional development system are eligible for the tax credit. The Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado is spearheading this proposal.

Stakeholders commented that a similar credit in Colorado could be focused on professionals who work with children in lower income communities, and reducing migration of professionals. Data from Louisiana's (or states offering these type of tax credits) was requested to inform this proposal. The working group requested the Quality Work Force Working Group take the lead on this idea as compensation is an issue related to professionals attaining further education.

### **Next steps regarding Tax Credits for Professionals proposal:**

- **Inquire with Summit County about their tax credit for ECE professionals**
- **Gather data supporting success of this type of tax credit**
- **Keep this funding working group apprised of progress**

### **Family, Friend & Neighbor/PASO:**

Colorado Children's Campaign and Clayton are involved with FFN stakeholders to create a more comprehensive approach. A broad, statewide approach is preferred with what exists (e.g. FRC's, PASO) but not limited by that either. These FFN stakeholders are reviewing other states' FFN efforts. A proposal is not currently available but there could potentially be a proposal within the ECSR timeline. FFN group is identifying how to be inclusive with FFN providers and the work that is already underway, e.g. EC Learning Guidelines. FFN work in the state is funded through foundation grants.

Working group stakeholders posed questions for the FFN stakeholders to consider. What if FFN providers don't self identify as such, then how do we create policy to support them? How can public dollars be used if FFN providers are not licensed? Can television programming be a vehicle to communicate with FFN's? Stakeholders also asked the FFN dialogue include the business community, libraries, Family Leadership Training Institute, and Alliance for Grandfamilies among others.

### **Next steps for FFN proposal:**

- **Continue to engage stakeholders in FFN conversations**
- **Hold a place for a possible proposal at the August 26 meeting**
- **Respond to stakeholder questions**

## **Promoting Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit:**

Stakeholders agreed this tax credit is a good mechanism asking people to donate to child care centers. EPIC (Executives Partnering to Invest in Children), the advocate of this idea, raised two issues; many businesses do not have sufficient net taxable income to receive this credit, and the credit is not refundable. EPIC believes donors have been lost as a result of these two issues and asked whether the tax credit be carried back 3 years and forward 5 years, or whether it can become refundable? EPIC also suggests a promotional campaign to re-ignite interest in this tax credit. EPIC has not submitted a formal proposal and wanted to get initial feedback to the idea. For more details see attached Tax Credit Memo from Legislative Council.

Additional information was requested by stakeholders including data to show: the tax liability is too low to qualify for the credit; carry-forward vs. new dollars applied each tax year; more depth regarding business vs. individual contributors; the federal tax credit and how it interacts with the state credit; and the type of provider that is receiving the donation.

### **Next steps regarding Contribution Tax Credit proposal:**

- **Review the Tax Profile & Expenditure Report in January to learn more about 2013 tax credits and possibility of becoming a refundable tax credit.**
- **Identify means to promote the tax credit, e.g. Piton Foundation**
- **Respond to stakeholder questions**

### **Other proposals- moved to different working groups or longer-term work**

This process of presenting proposals has shown that some ideas may take longer than a 60-day time frame to develop or may need to be heard in a different working group. These following ideas were initially discussed but will not continue in this working group.

TANF proposal from CCLP will be heard in the Family Support working group and CCLP will provide an update at our August 26 meeting. Nurse Family Partnership does not have a forthcoming proposal. Ideas on Economic Development and Preschool Funding Alignment will continue through the year and perhaps be proposed at a future point.

### **Finalize priority of proposals:**

The FRCA proposal and possible FFN idea are the two proposals that may need legislation. Ideally, these two may align under one proposal. Ideas that do not require legislation are the Economic Well-Being Index and the Contribution Tax Credit. Both ideas will continue to be discussed as they relate to funding in early childhood.

### **Next steps for working group:**

**Specific next steps are identified for each proposal. The next meeting of this working group is Tuesday, August 26, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in SCR 356.**