Every Child Ready Chicago Working Group Meeting

February 2021
Grounding in the Purpose
Mayors Office Vision

• **Purpose:** Every Child Ready Chicago is an initiative to build a coherent prenatal to five system that provides equitable access to the supports and services families need.

• **Process:** With support from School Readiness Consulting and Start Early, the Mayors office is convening a working group in a series of meetings representing a broad base of stakeholders to:
  – IDENTIFY and BUILD on existing efforts underway
  – Collectively identify strategic priorities

• **Goal:** Co-design a strategic plan for implementation of a strong system that ensures equitable access to quality services and positive outcomes for all children.
REFLECT ON FEEDBACK

**Revisiting the Structure**
Concerns were raised about the role and composition of the Steering Committee. Specific requests for broader representation to include family and provider voice, and to consider racial and linguistic diversity.

**Revising Timeline**
Desire to extend the overall timeline allowing for more ongoing engagement, opportunities for collaboration and to gather input from a wider range of stakeholders. Request for more information about the “big picture.”

**Connection to Existing Early Childhood Context -- both state and citywide**
Call to create opportunities in the strategic planning process to recognize existing system strengths and challenges and align with efforts currently happening in the early childhood field.

**Balancing Current Needs with Long-term Goals**
A need to address the issues impacting the current landscape, such as COVID-19, with long-term priorities needed to reach the initiative goals.

**Opportunities to Strengthen Relationships and Build Trust**
More focus on fostering a space to encourage relationship building, promote trust and transparency, as well as highlight expertise from the group.
Updated ECRC Working Group Process
Mayors Office

- Convenor
- Coordinator of vision & strategy
- Who: Sybil, Jennifer, Nataly

Planning Committee

Working Group

- Inform vision and governance
- Expand landscape analysis
- Identify strategic priorities
- Who: Key early learning stakeholders from the public and private sectors

Updated ECRC Working Group Process
February 2021 – July 2021

- Meeting supports, logistics & agendas
- Who: SRC, Start Early, Working Group members
Proposed Advisory Council Structure
Summer 2021 and beyond

Advisory Council: City-wide Reach

- Support the implementation, coordination, accountability and communication for strategic plan
- Ensure ongoing engagement and collaboration of a diverse group of ECE stakeholders
- Direct line of communication to MO and city agencies; Inform and elevate policies and programs for systemic improvements, act as a sounding board to consider new initiatives and promote innovation.

Subcommittees
Formed based on the strategic priorities identified through the strategic planning process; develop action plans for meeting goals and objectives.
Looking Ahead

6 Month Timeline

February
*Working Group Meeting*
- Review landscape analysis
- Discuss alignment with vision and values

March
*Working Group Meeting*
- Planning for next steps in the strategic planning process

April
*Working Group Meeting*
- Deep-dive into Strategic Priorities
- Shared Learning Journey #2: Workforce Development

May
*Advisory Council Planning & Implementation*
- Establish Advisory Council to lead strategic plan implementation
- Shared Learning Journey #3: Early Intervention & Special Education

June-July
Finalizing the Vision and Values
OPTION A. Young children in every Chicago neighborhood thrive in the care of strong families, supported by quality programs, and upheld by communities that put children first.

OPTION B. Families in every Chicago community have what they need for their young children to grow strong, live joyful lives, and realize their greatest potential.

OPTION C. Every child in Chicago is supported by strong families, effective programs, and well-resourced communities so they can learn, achieve, and step into a bright future.
Draft Value Statements

- **Transparency**
  Building trust through communication, integration of family and community voice, and clear decision-making processes that prioritize children and families

- **Diversity & Inclusiveness**
  Ensuring that stakeholders across all roles, identities and interests have a seat at decision-making tables

- **Equity**
  Breaking the barriers that have kept early childhood opportunities and positive outcomes out of reach for many of Chicago’s children and families

- **Accountability**
  Establishing clear roles, time-bound actions, and measurable benchmarks of progress toward shared and meaningful goals

- **Transformation**
  Partnering with families and communities to improve the system and bring lasting change
Finalizing the Vision & Values

STEP 1: Reflecting alone, review the vision and value statements

STEP 2: Discuss the following:

What questions do you still have? Which vision and value statement most resonates with you? Why?

STEP 3: Large group reflections

STEP 4: Voting - pick the vision statement that most resonates with you
WHAT?
75-minute overview & discussion on key topics identified by Working Group

OBJECTIVES
- Leverage the knowledge and expertise of Working Group members to add to landscape review of local and state early childhood initiatives
- Ensure all Working Group members have a shared knowledge and understanding of key initiatives
- Begin to explore how these initiatives will inform the ECRC strategic plan (including potential areas for strategic overlap)

TOPICS
- Prenatal to Three (PN3) Initiative (April)
- Early Childhood Workforce Partnership (May)
- Special Education & Early Intervention (June)

NEXT STEPS
- Complete live poll: How familiar are you with the PN3 initiative?
- We will be sending a poll to determine availability for the week of April 12th
As we share next steps, please add a gratitude to your colleagues in the chat

• Calendar invitations for the March and April Working Group and planning meetings

• Poll to secure dates for April Learning Journey