

**Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success
Governance and Data Workgroup
December 5th Meeting**

Location: Oliver Hill Building (102 Governor Street, Richmond VA 23218)
Dial-in information: 866-842-5779 and enter pass code 4399398107

Agenda

- Review and analysis of survey results
- Review of Data Systems led by Bethann Canada
- Review of the current Governance Structure in Virginia led by Rob Krupicka
- Update on outreach to other states about their governance structures
 - Review and discuss question topics for other states
- Questions and next steps related to the topics discussed

Enclosed:

- PowerPoint and one-pager from Bethann Canada
- Flow chart of Virginia's current governance structure
- Summary of survey responses
- Updated member contact information

Data and Governance Workgroup Meeting Notes
December 5, 2014

Next Meeting: CCCS Full Council – January 15, 2014 at 3:00 PM (East Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building: 1111 East Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219).

- I. Discussed survey comments and plans for subgroup (Rob Krupicka, Aleta Lawson, Jim Schuyler, Crystal Coles) to teleconference with Early Childhood departments in Maryland, Georgia, and potentially Colorado.
- II. Noted potential concerns with competition between VPI and Head Start on filling classroom slots and discussed possible solutions. Future options for consideration are to blend classrooms with three-year-olds and provide a “single point of entry” application.
- III. Reviewed Virginia Longitudinal Data Systems: Bethann Canada
 - a. Federation of agencies help retain autonomy and support collaboration
 - b. Departments included: DOE, SCHEV, VEC, VCCS, Dept. of Social Services, and data re: foster care and subsidies expected in Jan.
 - c. Health Department is not included, so we do not have information on birth data, hearing screenings, home visits, etc.
- IV. Discussed data privacy concerns regarding K-12 information and potential solutions for addressing this issue:
 - a. Aria Meier to draft a one-pager for parents/stakeholders regarding privacy safeguards
 - b. Group discussed having all members of VLDS and state agencies sign a voluntary “privacy pledge” to protect sensitive data
 - c. All researchers required to sign Restricted Use Data Agreements
- V. Reviewed “Virginia’s Early Learning Landscape” flowchart and made key edits to current structure:
 - a. Aria Meier to revise and redistribute first draft to workgroup

Attached with these notes:

- 1) A copy of the workgroup survey results and key points
- 2) Jim Schuyler’s notes regarding VPI and Head Start
- 3) Updated list of CCCS Data and Governance Workgroup emails

Data and Governance Workgroup Survey – Key Points

What do you think is working in Virginia’s current early childhood governance system?

- Based on responses, there appears to be a lack of clarity about our current early childhood governance structure or what systems are already in place.
- General agreement that there are agencies in place providing good care and high-quality services to young children, but there is overlapping.
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What, if anything, should we consider changing?

- Overwhelming agreement among surveyed that we need structure and clarity to reduce overlapping goals, miscommunication, and disorganization.
- We need a governance system that can withstand changes in administrations, including legislators, Commissioners, and Governors.
- “There is a need for leadership that can bridge public and private sectors, while also being an official part of state government” and “it would be ideal to have a non-profit organization empowered with an official leadership role.”

What do you think our priorities should be in regards to the use of data in early childhood services?

- Primary question to answer: for what purposes are we collecting data?
- We need a mechanism to not only collect data, but to efficiently share that data across agencies/stakeholders.
- Stronger and more streamlined procedures for utilizing and analyzing data for decision-making.
- It would also be helpful to get a broad understanding of the various agencies providing services for early childhood interests, as well as a description of types of services offered and their impact.

What questions do you think we should answer about early childhood governance?

- What aspects of existing governance structures are strongest and most efficient and where are the gaps? How do we fill those gaps?
- How do we create a strong system of governance that can be maintained across administrations?
- Who will have input or be included (who are our stakeholders)? What are the levels of commitment for participating agencies?
- What additional services are needed that are not yet being met by agencies?

What questions do you think we should answer about early childhood data?

- What are the sources of data on early childhood issues and how might those individual pieces of data be linked (or not linked)?
- How will we share our data systems, both internally and externally?
- How will data be used? What is the quality and availability of this data?

- How will we continue to gather and utilize data?
- Who will maintain and approve research that creates these data points?

What should be our goals in regards to early childhood governance and this work group?

- “Efficiency, excellence, and equity:” Reduce fragmentation, variations in quality and access, and inequality in programs and services.
- Identify participating agencies and secure agency commitment
- Identify key work that has been done in Virginia and determine how to best utilize the building blocks we have.
- Identify areas of overlap and determine how to better streamline those areas and improve access for all families.
- Review Virginia’s early childhood goals: what is the vision for Virginia’s early childhood program? What is the most pressing need?
- Review alternative models of governance and determine how, if at all, these models may improve Virginia’s current system.

Jim Schuyler, Virginia Community Action Partnership

Issue raised by Community Action Head Start providers:

We are hearing from a number of community action Head Start providers that there is competition between Virginia Pre-School Initiative and Head Start for children to fill slots. One Head Start provider has told me that his agency will apply to HHS for a reduction in slots because HS-eligible children are being served by VPI. Another Head Start provider said that VPI has been enrolling four year old children who were served by Head Start at age three. This is a particular problem in areas of the state where there are declining enrollments (i.e. rural areas). This means that certain programs are losing federal dollars for Head Start as the number of classrooms are reduced.

In some jurisdictions, the local VPI/Head Start Collaboration Committee works well and they have developed a “single point of entry” application. A committee with representatives of HS and VPI screen the applications and children are placed according to their needs and income eligibility. At the same time, local schools are concerned about losing their VPI funding if they do not fill their classrooms. A few areas have “blended classrooms” for four year olds—otherwise, some HS providers are concerned that there will not be enough four year olds to fill both programs. HS providers are concerned that no one is enforcing the rule that VPI should be serving children not being served by the HS program.

I have heard that the issue of recruiting and enrolling four year olds for HS is a national concern as well. Many HS programs have had difficulty enrolling four year olds due to the increase in state and local pre-K options. Competition for four year olds strains recruitment resources and makes it more difficult to serve three year olds due to ratio and staffing.

In other parts of the state, there are waiting lists for children who are seeking to be enrolled in the local HS program. Where there is a collaboration agreement that is adhered to and when a single point of entry application has been developed, there are fewer problems with competition.