

The logo for the Transition Advisory Group features the text "TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP" in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The text is enclosed within a light blue L-shaped frame that is open on the right and bottom sides.

**TRANSITION  
ADVISORY  
GROUP**

**Transformative Governance,  
Operations, and Funding  
Meeting 3  
August 12, 2021**

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction
- Discuss logistics – Breakout format and GroupMap
- Group discussion and next steps

\* This meeting will be recorded via Zoom. Please prepare to mute your microphone if you are not actively speaking.

# Introduction

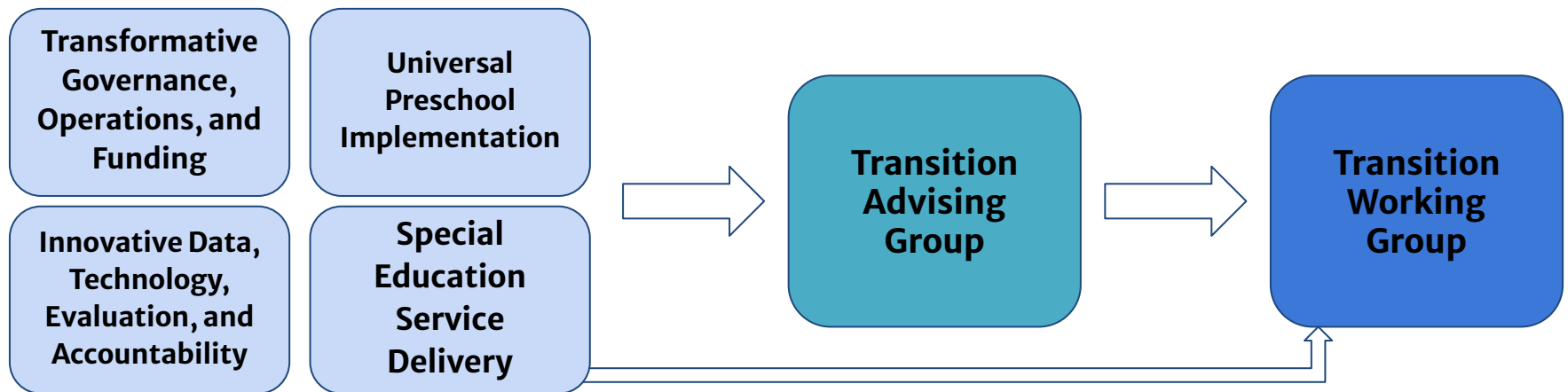
# Background

**HB21-1304** was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor in June 2021. The law requires:

- The creation of a new unified Colorado Department of Early Childhood on July 1, 2022.
  - *To create the new department, the bill requires a transition plan, written by the Transition Working Group (TWG), be submitted by November 1, 2021. The ECLC is to approve the transition plan within 14 days after receiving the plan from the Office of the Governor.*
- A planning process for Colorado's new universal, voluntary preschool program, which will be overseen by the new unified Department of Early Childhood. This new Colorado Department of Early Childhood will also be charged with the implementation of this program, beginning July 2023.

# SUBGROUP STRUCTURE

The ECLC Transition Advisory Group is convening subgroups to offer insights that will guide the creation of a transition plan to the new unified department of early childhood. Each group will offer recommendations from their perspectives or in their areas of expertise.



# Listening Sessions

In addition to the TAG and its subgroups, the ECLC is also convening the following interactive user-centered listening sessions to ensure that the new department will meet the needs of those who are involved in and/or experience Colorado's current early childhood system.

- Provider Experience (August 3)
- Children and Family Experience (August 24)
- Workforce Experience (September 21)

These listening sessions will offer critical insight into the user experience of existing programs and systems. They will be working in tandem with the subgroups to offer insight to the TAG.

*\* Additional information will be available soon!*

# Other Ways to Engage

Stakeholder engagement is a critical component to this process. To offer updated information and gather feedback the ECLC will be managing the following resources for the public:

## Updates

- Monthly Transition Plan [Newsletter](#)
- Monthly Town Halls
- Transition [Website](#)

## Opportunities to provide input

- Feedback [Form](#)
- Statewide Listening Tour (to be scheduled\*\*)

Additionally, a human centered design project will be conducted with design sessions and prototype creations for what the future system should look like.

*\*For more information or to participate, please reach out to Rebecca Peterson, Gary Community Investments - [rpeterson@garycommunity.org](mailto:rpeterson@garycommunity.org)*

**\*\*See ECLC meeting [calendar](#) for updates.**

# Stakeholder Feedback

The ECLC is committed to ensuring that feedback can be provided in a variety of ways. A feedback form has been created on the ECLC website and will be available throughout the process.

- [Share Feedback Here!](#)

You will receive a link to the feedback that has been received ahead of each meeting as part of the pre-read materials. Please take a few minutes to review and consider the feedback being shared ahead of each meeting.

- [View the Feedback that Has Been Shared Here!](#)



# **Transformative Governance, Operations & Funding**

**The Transformative Governance, Operations and Funding Subgroup will focus on the opportunities to align the governance, funding and operations of the new department.**

This group will be tasked with discussing the following topics:

- Meeting 1: Identify programs to move to new department
- Meeting 2: Explore governance structures
- Meeting 3: Consider opportunities for blending/braiding funding
- Meeting 4: Identify local structures needed to support the system
- Meeting 5: Consider ideal enrollment processes
- Meeting 6: TBD
- Meetings 7-8: Needed legislative, regulatory, and budgetary changes

# Meeting Norms

- Come prepared.
- Mute yourself when not speaking.
- Stay engaged (e.g., actively participate in breakout rooms).
- Be mindful of how much “air time” each member receives.
- Always assume good intent.
- All ideas are valued.

# Expectations

## Every meeting you should expect the following:

- Via e-mail:
  - Agenda for meeting
  - Suggested pre-reading
  - Online – ECLC transition subgroup webpages
  
- In meeting:
  - Subgroup Updates
  - Focused discussion around a specific part of the transition plan
  - Closing/next steps

# **Review Guiding Principles and Mission/Vision**

# ECLC Guiding Principles

The ECLC is committed to the following guiding principles in the development of the transition plan and universal, voluntary preschool recommendations:



# Colorado's Department of Early Childhood

## **Vision**

All Colorado children, families and early childhood professionals are valued, healthy and thriving.

## **Mission**

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood champions a comprehensive, community-informed, effective, high quality and equitable early childhood system that supports the care, education and well-being of all Colorado's young children, their families and early childhood professionals in all settings.

# **Review Previous Meeting**

**What about the current governance of early childhood education (e.g., CDE & CDHS Boards, ECLC) is working well versus not?**

Working Well	Needs Improvement	New Ideas that should be considered
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Family Engagement                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDHS family voice council</li> <li>• Providing stipends when feasible for parents/families who are willing to join councils and provide meaningful feedback</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Alignment and communication with K-12/School Districts                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDE – P-3 Office</li> <li>• School District Preschool Advisory Council Members</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Attention to 2-gen/Whole-child approaches</li> <li>4. ECLC Leadership functions well and serves as a central point for budget and policy</li> <li>5. Continued focus on equity and reaching under-resourced communities</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State and County programs should be easier for families, providers, and all stakeholders to navigate/know if they are eligible – contracts, invoicing etc., should be streamlined.</li> <li>2. Councils and local level support varies in staffing, funding, size etc. – families should get the same support in every county</li> <li>3. Tension between local control and a statewide system – will need to find a balance</li> <li>4. All state organizations and boards should have a stronger awareness of preschool structures, programs, and quality measures</li> <li>5. Silo-ing and exclusion among councils, districts, and community providers</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Focusing on family choice and bringing in FFN to Universal Preschool to support culturally responsive learning</li> <li>2. Increased language diversity embedded in the governance structure – expanded to more than just English and Spanish</li> <li>3. Evaluating the contracting for licensing and whether subcontracting should continue or shift</li> <li>4. Is a rule-making board necessary – could ECLC fill this role?</li> <li>5. More equitable resource distribution – whether with a more statewide system or ensuring that governance structure creates statewide equity</li> </ol>



**What factors/criteria should be considered as governance is decided for the new department?**

**Factors/Criteria to Consider (Common themes)**

1. Funding access and efficiency
2. Connection, collaboration, and alignment between state agencies, ECE, and K-12
3. Streamlined governance structure that works for children, families, providers, and other stakeholders – unburdens families with navigating complexities
4. Utilizing system expertise and program knowledge to create a system that prioritizes what is best for children and families first and is responsive to “ground up” leadership
5. Community engagement – empowered family & provider voice, representative leadership that includes families, diverse populations, and marginalized communities.
6. Data systems that are transparent, interoperable, outcome focused, and available to policy-makers, families etc.,
7. Accountability and transparency
8. Whole-child focused

# **Online Tool/ Breakout Rooms**

# Discussion Questions for Today

- What are the successes and challenges in combining and aligning funds in the current system?
- How should the new department improve the funding flow for early childhood in Colorado?

# Sequence of Discussion

1. Orientation to discussion tools
2. Question 1
  - a. Small group discussion
  - b. Large group discussion
3. Question 2
  - a. Small group brainstorming
  - b. Grouping ideas
4. Rate ideas for improving funding flow

# Breakout #1 Discussion Process

## Select a Guide, Mapper, and Reporter

Discuss and document (35min)

- Use the link to access the Group Map for the first question.
- Add ideas to provide input in each area.
- If you see an idea you like, do not repeat – instead use the “thumbs up” button to like it.

We will return to whole group for 10 minutes to share key themes from each small group.



### 1. Guide

Makes sure the group stays on course and support meeting norms

### 2. Mapper

Captures group ideas on the map

### 3. Reporter

Shares small group discussion during the whole group debrief

# Breakout #2 Discussion Process

## Select a Guide, Mapper, and Reporter

Discuss and document (30min)

- Use the links to access the your group's Group Map for the second question.
- Individually brainstorm ideas.
- As a small group, combine similar ideas by theme.
- Rate the groups of ideas.



We will return to whole group for 20 min to share key themes from each small group.

### 1. Guide

Makes sure the group stays on course and support meeting norms

### 2. Mapper

Captures group ideas on the map

### 3. Reporter

Shares small group discussion during the whole group debrief

**Closing/  
Next Steps**

# Next Steps



If you would like to receive meeting materials, including meeting dates, emails and agendas, please subscribe to the Newsletter and update your subscription profile to include information on this subgroup.



Participants of each subgroup are **highly encouraged to attend all meetings of that group** and should be prepared to review approximately 1 hour of materials prior to the meetings.

## Future Meetings for Transformative Governance, Operations, and Funding

- Meeting 4, August 19
- Meeting 5, September 2
- Meeting 6, September 9
- Meeting 7, September 30
- Meeting 8, October 7

## Contact us:

- Early Milestones – [meg.franko@eceinsights.com](mailto:meg.franko@eceinsights.com)
- Marzano– [mike.siebersma@marzanoresearch.co](mailto:mike.siebersma@marzanoresearch.co)
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