Transformative Governance, Operations, and Funding
Meeting 4
August 19, 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.
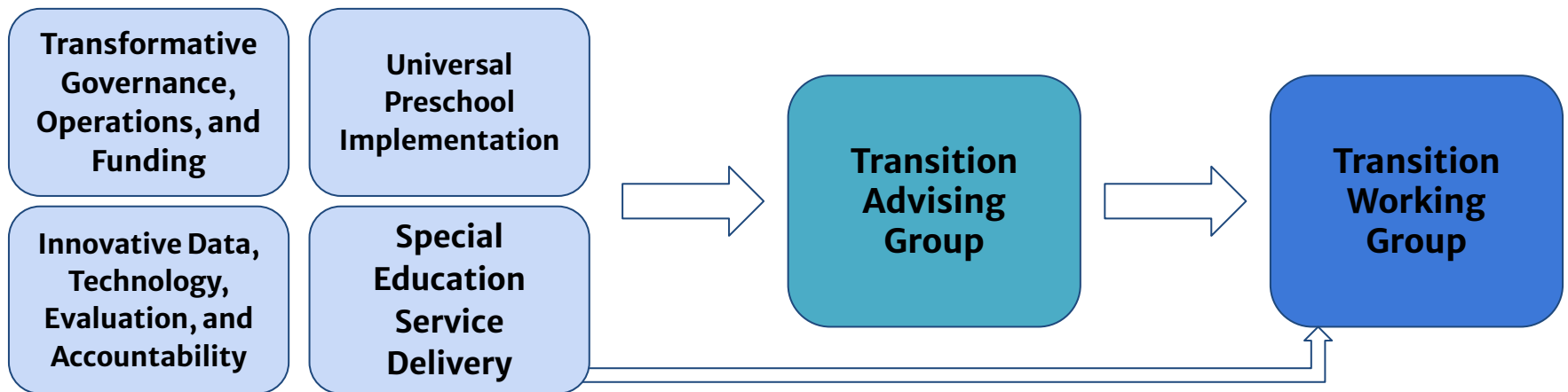
Introduction

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.

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.

Transformative Governance, Operations, and Funding	**Universal Preschool Implementation**	**Transition Advising Group**	**Transition Working Group**
Innovative Data, Technology, Evaluation, and Accountability	**Special Education Service Delivery**		

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

**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.

Review Previous Meeting

MEETING 3 REPORTING

Currently, local providers and families must often braid funding together to access services. Brainstorm how that could be improved to maximize the use of public dollars. What factors/criteria should be considered when deciding how to align funding sources?

Factors to be Considered around Blending and Braiding Funding
Acknowledgment that no funding stream is capable of providing all that children need and that blending and braiding of funds is necessary.
Current system is complicated for providers and families; we need a streamlined system with easy applications and alignment of requirements/eligibility.
Equity should continue to be prioritized with funding being targeted to the most at-risk and a range of age groups (3-year olds) served.
Engage programs outside of traditional preschool including home visiting and FFN providers.
Opportunities to braid funds across sources including non-education-specific funds to support the whole-child, private-pay, public and private funding.
Funding should be easy and move the burden off of providers and families; streamline the processes for application and eligibility.

MEETING 3 REPORTING

Currently, local providers and families must often braid funding together to access services. Brainstorm how that could be improved to maximize the use of public dollars. What factors/criteria should be considered when deciding how to align funding sources?

Ideas for Aligning Funding Sources & Improving Funding Flow
Develop one philosophy around funding that funds based on the cost of quality care and reimburses accordingly.
Funding tailored to families and to help families with needs beyond preschool including transportation and scheduling needs.
Funding that is aligned at the state-level and minimizes burden and county by county differences for providers and families.
Technological solutions to support blending and braiding of funds, attendance tracking, and application processes for families.
Stable funding for providers that acknowledges family choice and allows families/children to move around when needed.
Equitable funding that is responsive to the needs of working families and available to different provider types.

Online Tool/
Breakout Rooms

Discussion Questions for Today

- What local entities do families interact with to access services in the current system?
  - Early care and education
  - Family supports
  - Health and wellbeing
- What about the local structures serves families effectively and efficiently? What can be improved?

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 discussion
   b. Large group sharing
   c. Prioritizing ideas

Breakout #1 Discussion Process

<u>Select a Guide, Mapper, and Reporter</u>

Discuss and document (20 min)

- 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.

<u>1. Guide</u>

Makes sure the group stays on course and supports meeting norms

<u>2. Mapper</u>

Captures group ideas on the map

<u>3. Reporter</u>

Shares small group discussion during the whole group debrief

Breakout #2 Discussion Process

<u>Select a Guide, Mapper, and Reporter</u>

Discuss and document (35min)

- Use the links to access the your group's Group Map for the second question.
- Individually brainstorm ideas.

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

Following the large group discussion, you will have a chance to highlight ideas that are most important to you around governance in particular.

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**.**

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

Contact us:

- Early Milestones – meg.franko@eceinsights.com
- Marzano– mike.siebersma@marzanoresearch.co
- ECLC - kristina.heyl@state.co.us