

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 consists of a horizontal line at the top left, a vertical line on the right side, and a horizontal line at the bottom right.

**TRANSITION
ADVISORY
GROUP**

**Transformative Governance,
Operations, and Funding
Meeting 2
July 29, 2021**

Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction
- Breakout and discussion of key questions for Meeting 2
- Whole group discussion
- Closing and Next Steps

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

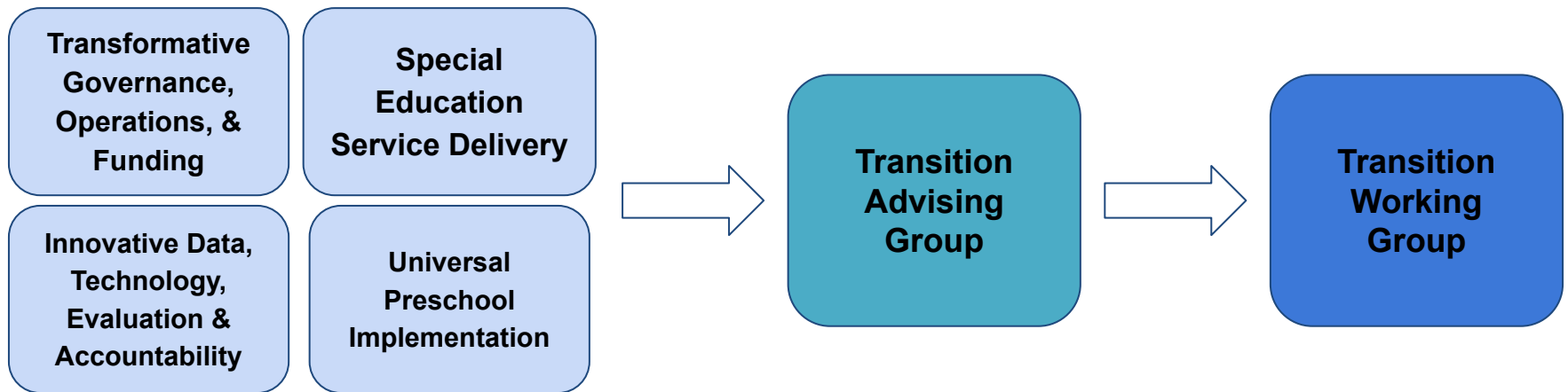
Introduction

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.



Stipends may be available for parents and members of the early childhood workforce to participate fully in the meetings - please reach out to Kristina.Heyl@state.co.us for more information.

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.

- **Children and Family Experience**
- **Provider Experience**
- **Workforce Experience**

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 (to be scheduled**)
- 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*

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 (July 22)
- 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

What programs should be part of a truly unified early childhood system to meet the needs of families? What factors/criteria should be considered when deciding which programs should be part of the new department?

Programs *(as ranked by subgroup participants)*

- **Head Start State Collaboration Office (1)**
- **Professional Development Information System (PDIS) (2)**
- **Quality Initiatives (e.g., Colorado Shines) (3)**
- **Early Childhood Councils (4)**
- **Early Childhood Leadership Commission (5)**
- Child Care Resource and Referrals (CCR&R) (6)
- Colorado Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP) (7)
- Child Care Automated Tracking System (8)
- Licensing and Administration (9)
- Early Childhood Mental Health Services (10)
- Early Intervention Colorado (11)
- Federal Opportunities (e.g., Preschool Development Grant) (12)
- Workforce Development (13)
- Fostering Well Being (14)
- Home Visiting Programs (15)
- Colorado Preschool Program and additional school-system administered preschool funding sources (16)
- Family Strengthening (17)
- ECE Teacher Certification (18)
- Early Childhood Assessment Results Matter (19)
- Child Maltreatment Prevention (20)
- **Preschool Special Education (21)**
- **Child and Maternal Health (22)**
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program (23)**
- **Child Welfare (24)**
- **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (25)**

What programs should be part of a truly unified early childhood system to meet the needs of families? What factors/criteria should be considered when deciding which programs should be part of the new department?

| Program (as grouped for breakout discussions) | Things to Consider |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Councils (4) • Child Care Resource and Referrals (CCR&R) (6) • Federal Opportunities (e.g., Preschool Development Grant) (12) • Early Childhood Leadership Commission (5) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would moving require more work, re-writing of contracts, monitoring etc.? • Grants should exist in the same department as core programming • More support/stronger voice for councils • Concerns around streamlining the leadership structure of the new department |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing and Administration (9) • Professional Development Information System (PDIS) (2) • Workforce Development (13) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would it make sense to break up some programs i.e., licensing for child care centers and homes separate from school-age camps/24-hour programs/non child care programs • Need to align with K-12, Higher Ed, and CDLE • Could bring cabinet level attention to the workforce crisis • Licensing should align with quality rating systems |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (25) • Child Welfare (24) • Child and Adult Care Food Program (23) • Child and Maternal Health (22) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General concern about alignment for programs that serve more than early childhood • Child and Maternal Health is part of the public health system and leverages funding at CDPHE – maybe a joint appointment could bridge these initiatives with early childhood • Concerns around moving programs connected to funding sources and programs at other agencies (SNAP/energy assistance/USDA; CDE/HCPF) • Do federal and state regulations allow some of these programs to move? • Whole-child approach/continuum of care throughout development |

**What programs should be part of a truly unified early childhood system to meet the needs of families?
What factors/criteria should be considered when deciding which programs should be part of the new department?**

| Program (as grouped for breakout discussions) | Things to Consider |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP) (7) • Quality Initiatives (e.g., Colorado Shines) (3) • Child Care Automated Tracking System (8) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs that are linked will have to move as a group i.e., Colorado Shines, CCCAP, and CHATS • Moving could help with alignment and help providers blend CCCAP and UPK funding – tuition assistance programs should stay in the same place as should the quality programs (Shines) that help inform reimbursement • CCCAP and CHATS impact families beyond early childhood – will that create administrative burden for families? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Intervention Colorado (11) • Head Start State Collaboration Office (1) • Colorado Preschool Program and additional school-system administered preschool funding sources, including ECARE, Title I, etc. (16) • Preschool Special Education (21) • ECE Teacher Certification (18) • Early Childhood Assessment Results Matter (19) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there legal issues with moving some programs (Preschool Special Education) and funding sources? • Could be a challenge if Part B and Part C remain separate • Children and families enrolled in EI need easy access to the continuum of early childhood services • It will be important to look to other states with a department of early childhood and what they have included • Alignment and easy blending/braiding of funds should be a priority • Alignment with K-12 • Concerns around inclusive classrooms if SPED is separated from K-12 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering Well Being (14) • Family Strengthening (17) • Child Maltreatment Prevention (20) • Home Visiting Programs (15) • Early Childhood Mental Health Services (10) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for clear definitions of programs, what is involved, and who the program serves • Opinions of the staff should be considered – do the current professional in each program feel that moving would help them better serve families? • Early childhood mental health should be carved into all of the programs in the new department and more broadly included • Continuation of alignment/overlap with behavioral health programs at CDHS • Whole-child, whole-family, whole-community approach |

Online Tool/ Breakout Rooms

Discussion Questions for Today

- What about the current governance of early childhood is working well? What could be improved?
- What factors/criteria should be considered as governance is decided for the new agency?

Sequence of Discussion

1. Orientation to Group Maps
2. Breakout discussion of question 1
 - a. Whole group share out and discussion
3. Breakout discussion of question 2
 - a. Whole group discussion and rating

Current Governance Structures

1. Colorado State Board of Education
 - a. Elected board
2. Colorado Department of Human Services Board
 - a. Governor-appointed board
3. Early Childhood Leadership Commission
 - a. Governor-appointed commission

Breakout 1 Discussion Process

1. Opt into a discussion group.

1. **Assign a single “Mapper” for your group**

A. Discuss and document (30min)

- Use the link to access the Group Map for the first question.
- Add ideas to document your experiences and reflections on current governance structure.
 - Please be sure to specify the agency in your note (e.g. *CDE- The state board is very committed to the best interests of its stakeholders*).
 - If you see an idea you agree with, do not repeat – instead use the “thumbs up” button to like it.

1. We will return to whole group to review, group by themes, and reflect.



Breakout 2 Discussion Process

1. You will be sent to a random group.



1. **Assign a single “Mapper” for your group**

A. Discuss and document (25min)

- Use the link to access the Group Map for the second question.
- Provide ideas for the criteria that should be used in making decisions about the governance structure of the new department.
- There is no need to repeat ideas, there will be an opportunity to prioritize criteria in the next step.

1. We will return to whole group to review and use dots to prioritize criteria.

**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 3, August 12
- Meeting 4, August 19
- Meeting 5, September 2
- Meeting 6, September 9
- Meeting 7, September 30
- Meeting 8, October 7

Contact us:

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