

Alaska Early Childhood Joint Task Force

November 6, 2019 – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Anchorage Hilton – Aspen Room – Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting Summary

PARTICIPANTS

In-person: Stephanie Berglund (thread), Janice Braden (DEED), Betsy Brenneman (AASB), Lori Grassgreen (AASB), Abbe Hensley (Best Beginnings), Christina Hultquist (DEED), Meghan Johnson (Learn+Grow), Panu Lucier (thread), Christie Reinhardt (DHHS), Elizabeth Schultz (Help Me Grow), Ira Slomski-Pritz (Anchorage Mayor’s Office), Trevor Storrs (ACT), Carmen Wenger (Help Me Grow), Scott West (Southcentral Foundation),
Phone: Supanika Ackerman (DEED), Ashley Christopherson (DHSS Commissioner’s office), Maureen Harwood (DHSS), Kristen Spencer (DEED).

Facilitation team: Denali Daniels, Britta Hamre, Sara Perman, Erin Willahan.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Joint Task Force (JTF) met with the intention of providing further guidance on the statewide strategic plan for early childhood in Alaska. Participants introduced themselves and shared one word describing their personal connection to early childhood. Responses were captured in a circle:



RECAP: OCTOBER 2, 2019 JOINT TASK FORCE MEETING

Participants revisited discussions from the Oct. 2 meeting. At that meeting, the JTF resolved to create a North Star 10 Year Vision and develop a five-year strategic plan for early childhood in Alaska. The October 2nd JTF meeting also included the identification of principles for framing Alaska’s strategic plan and a focused conversation about stakeholder engagement.

TRANSITIONING FROM NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO NORTH STAR 10 YEAR VISION

At the Nov. 6 JTF meeting, participants received an updated draft version of the McDowell Group’s Needs Assessment of Alaska’s Mixed-Delivery System of Early Childhood Care and Education for reference. AASB shared that they are still working with McDowell Group to finalize the needs assessment and while the comment deadline has passed, any critical input can still be considered. Participants were asked to review the

draft report and answer worksheet questions about how the needs assessment can be built upon in the planning process. Participants shared their observations with their tables before each table reported out to the wider group. The individual worksheets for this activity were collected and will be referenced as the strategic plan is developed.

“WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL FIVE-YEAR ALASKA EARLY CHILDHOOD STRATEGIC PLAN?”

Decision-making: Following the needs assessment review, the group was tasked with defining the elements of a successful strategic plan. Each participant wrote down three elements that were important to them and shared these with their tables. These “elements” were captured on a sticky wall and discussed together as a whole. Through a consensus process, the group sorted their responses into categories then labeled them.

Results + Indicators	Enables Action	Comprehensive
Specific agreed-on metrics	Achievable	Gives insight to services + determinants
Data informed	Menu of services/direction (prioritized by value/direction)	Includes all sectors of early childhood
Scaffolded design	Actionable	Data informed
Evaluation tool	Prioritization	Cross-sector
Benchmarks for success	Annual action plan	Comprehensive
Shared vision for goals + evaluation	Plan for sustainability	Includes all Alaskans
Identified positive child outcomes	Attainable, realistic	

Family + Community Focused	Sustainable Structure	Communication
Birth - 3 focus	Teeth - way to hold leadership accountable	Helps us see + communicate more effectively
Locally motivated and inclusive	Plan for sustainable funding	Communication plan
Family lens	It is coordinated by paid staff	Transparent - strong communications + plan
Reflects family needs/visions	It has a home	Broad buy-in
Early learning everywhere all the time	Cross sector accountability	Visual representation of system

System Clarity	Data Integration	Culturally informed, [or culture, culturally responsive, culturally appropriate]
Clearly articulates system	Data alignment	Culturally appropriate
Addressing specific system changes	Other Assets/Strengths Based	

NEXT STEPS

This work will be incorporated into the strategic planning framework currently in development. Stakeholder engagement is beginning with coordination of potential meetings in Bethel, Kodiak, Nome and Kotzebue. JTF partners are encouraged to share any early childhood activities or contacts in those communities.