

# Joint Task Force Partnership Agreement

## Background

Three new initiatives in Alaska have decided to join leadership efforts to accomplish two major, common goals: A Needs Assessment; and A Unified Strategic Plan. In support of this, the Impact Project, the Preschool Development Grant, and the South Central Foundation Indigenous People Project Launch, are establishing a short-term Joint Task Force to guide and advise these important shared goals for strengthening and aligning Alaska's Early Childhood System. Creating the Joint Task Force is an essential part of our early stages of implementing these new initiatives. Our hope is that this strong guiding coalition of task force members will advise the strategic direction and commit to shared action toward these shared goals. The timeline for this Joint Task Force is January 1, 2019 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Task Force Leads

- Administration and oversight of Task Force
- Identify scope of work
- Develop agendas and set meeting times with input from task force members as applicable
- Lead discussions around decision making to gather input from Task Force
- Final decision making
- Identify communication platform and keep it updated with current information
- Engage and communicate with stakeholders keeping them informed of progress

### Task Force members

- Attend and actively engage in regularly scheduled meetings
- Provide recommendations and decision making when applicable
- Support of all consensus decisions made by the Task Force
- Strategize on specific tasks and implementation of needs assessment and strategic plan
- Be an ambassador for Alaska's Early Childhood System
- Commit to the guiding principles and 5 key characteristics of an adaptive group as you serve on the Task Force for the entire term

# Guiding Principles

## Communication

- **Assume Good Intentions:** We agree to assume good intent when interacting in the group and to clarify meaning before jumping to conclusions. We recognize the importance of choosing our words carefully when addressing potentially problematic or controversial issues.
- **Communicate Often:** We engage in continuous support and ongoing communication to undertake our work effectively. We ask the hard questions, challenge one another, listen respectfully and are open to learning new things. We share what we know and admit what we don't. We accept and respect others' communication styles and are responsive to their communication needs.

## Integrity

- **Exhibit Professionalism:** In all we do, we do it with a passionate commitment, professional courtesy, respect and integrity, demonstrating skill, competence and character, in an open and honest manner. We value ideas, personal differences and contributions from all individuals in the group, celebrating our successes and reflecting on our challenges.
- **Practice Confidentiality:** We depend on trusting relationships to do our work. This requires an awareness and practice of confidentiality and judgment at all times. Sometimes, this may require simply not sharing. What is communicated among joint task force members stays among joint task force members.

## Collaborative Leaders

- **Embody Leadership:** As leaders ourselves, we lead by example and are dedicated to guiding, directing, or influencing others to recognize their potential; to use their experiences and knowledge; and to participate fully.
- **Achieve Group Process:** We are committed to relationships of the group and individuals with whom we will work. When groups work together, the steps they are working on together represent forward progress and the right outcomes will result from trusting the process, even if individuals don't always agree.

## Innovation/Systems Thinking

- **Engage in Innovation and Creativity:** We strive to do the best we can do in all circumstances and situations in which we engage introducing or inventing new, different approaches in our work. Using our imagination and team experiences aids in our development and delivery of new and original ideas, products and processes.
- **Embrace Change:** We acknowledge and accept that change is part of the culture of our work. We embrace it, help others to recognize it, and move through change more easily by being strategic, thoughtful and deliberate. We encourage risk-taking in a safe, supportive environment.

## Five Key Characteristics of an Adaptive Group

1. Elephants in the room are named
2. Responsibility for the Joint Task Force's future work is shared
3. Independent judgement is expected
4. Leadership capacity is enhanced and expanded (a growth mindset)
5. Reflective practices and continuous learning is established and maintained