AZ First Things First Planning:
Early Learning Discussion

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Purpose of Today's Presentation

Provide information from federal and state early learning policy to inform Committee deliberations on FTF priorities in the areas of:

◦ Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation

◦ Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings

◦ Quality Early Care and Education Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment

Leading with quality

Federal:
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
- Head Start
- Every Student Shall Succeed Act (ESSA)

State Examples:
- QRIS as backbone for all early learning programs (Washington, Ohio)
- Elevating quality for infants-toddlers (Georgia, District of Columbia)

Embracing a systems approach

Federal Law:

- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
- Head Start
- Every Student Shall Succeed Act (ESSA)

Federal Government:

- Dedicated ECE oversight for Office of Child Care and Office of Head Start; merged technical assistance system
- Interagency policy board (ED, HHS and others)
- Joint initiatives
- Joint policy statements and guidance

Embracing a systems approach

State Examples:

Varied approaches to organizing the work towards same outcome of aligned state approach
- Governor's Office Coordination (Illinois, Ohio)
- One executive agency coordinates with peer state agencies (Colorado, New Jersey)
- Consolidated single agency (Maryland, Oregon, Washington)

Innovation occurring as states try to move from alignment to integration
- Licensing and QRIS monitoring (Ohio)
- Licensing, QRIS, and state preschool standards alignment/integration (Washington)
- Licensing, professional development linkages (Oregon)

State-local approaches

Coordination [reduce duplication, identify gaps, information sharing]
- Schools and Head Start through state coordination (Mississippi)

Coalition [formal planning/piloting around state outcomes]
- Piloting of new state initiatives (Georgia Empowerment Zones)
- Highlighting state priority on family engagement (PA Transformation Zones)

Integration [local administrative structure linked to state goals and structure]
- Hubs for planning and administering state programs (Oregon)
- Systems work and QRIS support (Colorado)

Supporting mixed delivery

Federal:
- ESSA
- Head Start

State Examples:
- Pre-k using mixed delivery (many states including New Jersey, Arkansas)
- QRIS embracing mixed delivery with alternative pathways for rating for HS and Pre-K (many states including Delaware)
- QRIS providing a single framework for all delivery "types" (child care, pre-k, Head Start) (few states, Ohio, Washington)

All parts of the system can focus on quality

Federal:
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

State Examples:
- Contracts for subsidy for providers meeting higher standards, focusing on state priorities including
  - Illinois- focus on family and community engagement, linking families to other needed community services
  - Massachusetts- focus on comprehensive services
  - Indiana, Alabama, and New Mexico- embed QRIS tiering within contract structure
  - Georgia- the state is the EHS grantee. The contract for the providers allows providers to determine program eligibility for child care subsidy with families as part of the enrollment process. Providers submit the eligibility documentation to state staff who then review and confirm eligibility.

Systems + Services Support Children & Families

- **The framework for our early childhood system has changed! People are actively and intentionally focusing on:**
  - **Whole child**
  - **Quality a priority**
  - **Children with the greatest need (and increasingly explicit on equity)**
  - **State & locally driven**
  - **Systems approach**

Resources on Federal Law

CCDBG:

Coming Together for Child Care (January 2017), a high level view of CCDF, https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/coming-together-child-care-harriet-Dichter

ESSA:

Center for Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes, numerous documents, http://ceelo.org/essa/

Ounce of Prevention Fund, ***Valuing the Early Years***, http://www.theounce.org/pubs/policy-pubs/Policy-Convo-05-Valuing-The-Early-Years-final.pdf

New America's Early & Elementary Education Policy Program, numerous documents, https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/early-elementary-education-policy/

First Five Years Fund, numerous documents, http://ffyf.org/resources/early-learning-essa-can-look-like-states-districts/

National Association of State Boards of Education, ***Opportunities in ESSA for Improving Early Education***, http://www.nasbe.org/education-leader/opportunities-in-essa-for-improving-early-education/

United States Department of Education, ***Early Learning Guidance***, https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essaelguidance10202016.pdf

Resources on leading with quality

Washington:

Department of Early Learning- numerous resources on the Early Start Act
https://www.del.wa.gov/government/EarlyStartAct/Default-

Ohio:

Ohio has numerous resources on its phased in implementation to include QRIS participation as part of subsidy at http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Step-Up-To-Quality-SUTQ

District of Columbia:

Information about the Quality Improvement Network is available here:
https://osse.dc.gov/publication/quality-improvement-network-qin

Resources on embracing a systems approach (federal)

Federal Joint Policy Statements:

- Policy statement: Family Engagement (US ED and HHS)
- Policy statement: Inclusion (US Ed and HHS)
- Policy statement: Suspension and Expulsion (US Ed and HHS)
- Policy statement: Dual Language Learners (US ED and HHS)
- Policy Statement: Monitoring and Oversight of Early Care and Education Programs (HHS, USDA)

Resources on embracing a systems approach (state)

Harriet Dichter, **State Systems Building Through Governance** in Build Initiative, Rising to the Challenge: Building Effective Systems for Children and Families, a BUILD e-Book, http://www.buildinitiative.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/E-BookChapter1StateSystemsBuildingThroughGovernance.pdf

State Capacity Building Center, **State Early Childhood Systems: Examining Integration** (2017) https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/governingstateearlychildhoodsystems_2017_508_compliant.pdf

Resources for state-local approaches

State Capacity Building Center, *State-Local Models and Approaches Designed to Build Strong Early Learning Systems: What States Have Learned,* https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/state-local-models-and-approaches-designed-build-strong-early-learning-systems-what-states

Cobb, G., & Ponder, K. (2014). *The nuts and bolts of building early childhood systems through state/local initiatives,* http://www.buildinitiative.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Nuts%20and%20Bolts%20of%20Building%20Earl y%20Childhood%20Systems%20through%20State-Local%20Initiatives.pdf

Ponder, K. (2015). *Chapter 2: Local systems building through coalitions*. In Rising to the Challenge: Building Effective Systems for Young Children and Families. http://www.buildinitiative.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/EBookChapter2LocalSystemsBuildingThroughCoalitions.pdf

Resources for supporting mixed delivery

Debi Mathias*, Impact of the Early Learning Challenge on State Quality Rating and Improvement Systems,*
http://www.buildinitiative.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Chapter8Mathias.pdf

QRIS Compendium, http://qriscompendium.org/

Resources for all parts of the system can focus on quality

State Capacity Building Center, *Using Contracts and Grants to Build the Supply of High Quality Child Care: State Strategies and Practices,* https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/contracts_paper_2017_508_compliant.pdf