MEETING DATES & SCOPE

IMPACT WORK GROUP, 9:30-12:00

March 19, 2019
- Orientation, Review of Research Plan, Definitions, SWOC Analysis

April 17, 2019
- Review of Findings, National Research, Emerging Themes, Goal Areas

May 22, 2019
- Reflect on Findings, Refine Goals and Strategies, Plan for Retreat

June 7, 2019 (TBD)
- School Readiness Committee Retreat
AGENDA

IMPACT WORK GROUP

- Update on Data Collection, Revisions, and Insights
- Deeper Look into Emerging Areas of Focus
  - National Research, Smart Beginnings’ Strategic Plans, Relevant VA Data
- Revisiting March 19, 2019 Recommendations
- Next Steps
“Children’s basic needs should be met and children should have positive experiences with caring supportive adults and access to resources so that they have the opportunity to become resilient, develop to their full potential and have the skills needed to be positively engaged, eager and ready to learn by the time they start school.”

“Easy access to early childhood programs regarding race, economics, and... young children in a quality program”

“A system that is responsive to the needs of children and families; one that offers adequate levels of support to early childhood programs and providers”

“Much easier for families to access care and get financial help”
IMPACT WORK GROUP

COMPLETE

Needs Assessment
- Data Scan (Demographics, Public ECCE Capacity)
- Review of Virginia Reports, 2014-2019
- Selection of Smart Beginnings Partners for Interviews and Focus Groups

Strategic Plan
- Mixed Delivery Focus Group
- Environmental Scans
- Synopsis of Smart Beginnings Plans

UNDERWAY
- Interviews and Focus Groups
- Research on Facilities and Financing
- Family Engagement Environmental Scan
FINDINGS & THEMES

BASED ON VIRGINIA & NATIONAL DATA

VA Data
- Virginia’s 0-5 Children and ECCE Capacity At a Glance (handout)

Smart Beginnings’ (SB) Experience
- Strategic Plan Themes

National Research
- Take Aways from Environmental Scans (handouts)
Virginia Data, National Research, Local Smart Beginnings Strategic Plans

- Early Childhood Workforce
- Access & Affordability
- Data & Metrics
- Financing & System Governance
- Forthcoming: Family Engagement
FOUNDATIONS
VA CHILDREN & CAPACITY

CHILDREN AGE 0-5 (589,925 total)
- 12% (68,571) are in rural areas; concentrated in Southwest, Southside
- 37% (215,611) are in low-income homes
- 67% (393,077) have all parents working
- 10% of kids in poverty in lowest poverty localities, vs 50% in poverty in highest poverty localities; highest poverty in rural and Black communities

CURRENT ECCE CAPACITY
- Total capacity to serve about 406,000 children, or capacity for 70% of children
- 8% of children are enrolled in quality-rated programs
- QRIS participation is limited, especially among private programs (11% participate)
## SMART BEGINNINGS’ SYNOPSIS

2015-2019 - 14 STRATEGIC PLANS

### MAJOR AREAS OF FOCUS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Improve family awareness, engagement, access, and enrollment in ECCE</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Increase public-private collaboration and coordination</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Increase availability of quality ECCE</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Improve collection, utilization and sharing of data</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Develop sustainable funding models</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Support successful transitions to kindergarten</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Develop and reward child care workforce</td>
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### OBSERVATIONS

- Greatest number of strategies focus on connecting families to care via outreach, engagement, and expanded services
- Family support, child well-being integral to ECCE
- Collaborative local structures largely informal coalitions
- Regarding data, SB desire to use exceeds capacity
- Use of advocacy not widely reported
- Quality concerns addressed largely through professional development
- Focus on screenings, early literacy, and awareness to improve transition from Pre-K
- Diversity of approaches reflect distinct communities, needs, priorities, structures
DATA & ACCOUNTABILITY
Virginia’s Data Collection

- Individual program outcomes, variable monitoring; VPI+ and Head Start most heavily monitored
- Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS)

SB Experience: Improve Data Collection Systems

- Improve collection, use, and promotion of data for collaborative planning and accountability (6)
- Measure & track program results and indicators of school readiness regularly (4)
- Adopt data driven decision making for establishing need, efficacy of investments (4)
Implications
- Common measurement better able to capture results
- QRIS is the most standardized method
- Concern that QRIS does not address inclusiveness

Opportunities
- Increased participation in QRIS when incentivized; parental preferences for QRIS-rated centers
- Families use data systems they can understand and access

Challenges
- Federal funding requires distinct outcome data
- Low QRIS participation without support, financial incentives
- Regulation of standards can set floors for improvement
- Limited provider capacity to collect and share data
ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY
VIRGINIA DATA

VIRGINIA PROGRAMS & SMART BEGINNINGS STRATEGIES

Virginia’s Data Collection

- 47% of Virginians live in a “child care desert”
- Inadequate ECCE capacity for all 0-5 kids
- Toddler care costs 35% of a single parent’s income; care for 2 kids is 38% of income for low-income families

SB Experience: Improve Family Access to & Enrollment in Quality Care

- Increase public-private collaboration (11)
- Increase awareness of ECCE’s value within the community (6)
ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN ON ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY

Implications
- Expanding access is prerequisite to quality ECCE benefits
- Equity requires attention to barriers children of color or in single-parent or low-income homes face
- Flexible hours of care are available primarily through home providers

Opportunities
- Expanding affordability via subsidies
- Supporting program responsiveness to culture, language, family work schedules
- Focusing resources, data collection on vulnerable families

Challenges
- Home-based care offers flexibility, but unclear how to measure quality
- High costs of care are prohibitive for many working families
- Half of VA residents lack access to licensed care; inadequate public funding to expand
ECCE WORKFORCE
Virginia’s Data Collection
- Virginia’s ECCE workforce is poorly compensated with high turnover
- Two workforces: school-based programs (average starting wage $20.95, more BAs) and home and private center programs (average starting wages of $11.67, $12.83)

Smart Beginnings Experience: Develop and Reward Child Care Workforce
- Expand professional learning opportunities & career advancement to reach all centers, homes, and providers
- Professional learning competencies around developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive expectations
Implications
- Improve teacher wages, preparation, and professional development to improve quality
- Tax credits to incentivize gains in quality
- Support dual enrollment or apprenticeship programs to mitigate educational costs for workforce

Opportunities
- Increase status, pay, and expectations of ECCE workers
- Build on coordination with community colleges
- Medicaid expansion may infuse resources into workforce

Challenges
- Tax credits can’t address low wages or financial vulnerability of ECCE workforce
FINANCING & SYSTEM COORDINATION

VIRGINIA PROGRAMS & SMART BEGINNINGS STRATEGIES

Virginia’s non-Medicaid spending on early childhood is 1.3% of state budget

- $212 million in state funds, $314 million federal
- Largest state expenditures: VPI ($71 million) and Part C Early Intervention ($46 million)
- Funding for children largely reflects federal priorities (childcare, food and nutrition)
- Disparate funding for infants and toddler programs and preschool results in higher wages for preschool teachers

Smart Beginnings Experience: Increase Funding for ECCE

- Challenged to diversify funding sources
- Leveraging public and private partnerships
- Advocating for additional Head Start and VPI funds
Implications
- Reimbursement rates need to reflect real costs
- More efficient financing will require state and local governmental coordination
- Few incentives to align and coordinate funding requirements

Opportunities
- Tax credits and incentives impact quality
- National recommendations to integrate financing
- Child and Adult Food Care Program

Challenges
- Public subsidies inadequate for infant and toddler care
- School districts not directly accountable for Pre-K
- VA spending rate much lower than other states
TOP AREAS FOR ACTION

- Where are we now as a Commonwealth (and where do we need to be) to meet the needs discussed in each area?

- Write down your group’s vision of successful outcomes for the Commonwealth in 3-5 years’ time.
NEXT STEPS & DISCUSSION