

**Notes for NC Early Childhood Data Advisory Council (ECDAC) Meeting
Dec 15, 2021, 11:30am-1:30pm, Zoom**

Total Attendance: 40

Includes ECDAC, NC ECIDS Governance Council, guest presenters and participants

NC Early Childhood Data Advisory Council Objectives:

- Improve quality and scope of early childhood data
- Advocate for agencies and organizations to align their work around the NC Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP) and Pathways measures
- Advocate for and facilitate better data sharing
- Provide guidance, feedback, support to ground the state's early childhood work in data/research
- Build partnerships with other existing data groups
- Serve as ambassadors for NC ECAP, ECIDs, and Pathways

See PPT Slides on ECDAC webpage

NC ECIDS Update—Dr. Tanya Morgan, DCDEE

- Seven programs integrated into ECIDS (see slide)
 - Learned that these programs have a lot of differences in their data structure. Hasn't been easy, but it's a milestone that has been achieved.
 - Rolling out new reporting process soon
- Working with other state depts to develop unique identifiers within Teaching Strategies
- New e-scholar architecture
 - When IBM platform was decommissioned, it created the opportunity to review and revamp this. Initial architecture has been drafted. Hoping to launch in early 2022.
- Got to present on state longitudinal data systems with Utah and New York
- Reconvening the ECIDS Governance Council
- ECIDS could add some new elements into the data
 - Special session called in January to review this and determine how to proceed
 - Next quarterly meeting in Feb/March 2022
- Once the MOAs and UATs are fully executed, they can release a launch date
- Data selector tool should go live in April 2022
- Revising all the tools and collaterals to make sure they align with the new platform
- Ultimately looking at ECIDS sustainability

DCDEE Data Update—Justine Rogoff , DCDEE

- Public Data Dashboard
 - Launch planned for early 2022
 - COVID Data Story
 - FPG and Neimand Collaborative
 - ONE DCDEE
- Child Care Stabilization Grants (see slides for data)
 - \$166 million of \$805 million has been given out as of 12/13/21
 - Over 95% of submitted applications have been approved
 - Polk is only county with no applications because they don't have any eligible facilities

DPI Office of Early Learning Update—Dan Tetreault

- PreK to Kindergarten data sharing for Preschool Development Grant (PDG) & Read to Achieve
- Teaching Strategies is working on the mechanisms for connecting records across two licenses
- The Transition Report will move from the DHHS to DPI license for kindergarten teacher access in NC Early Learning Inventory (ELI). It will include:
 - Spring Checkpoint data for all Objectives and Dimensions
 - Only Objectives and Dimensions 1-23 (37 & 38 if ELL)
 - Attendance
 - Teacher narrative
- If there is Fall to Spring Checkpoint data from Pre-K, K teacher can print a growth report.

Child Care Measures Data Development Update—Mary Mathew, Justine Rogoff, Linda Blanton

- A workgroup convened July-Dec 2021 to discuss and plan data development for the following two affordable, high-quality child care measures included in the [Data Development Strategy](#):
- Mary, Justine, and Linda shared the workgroup's proposed data development plan—see below.

1. Estimated eligible children under age six receiving child care subsidies disaggregated by race/ethnicity, income and age of child.

- DCDEE will access this NC FAST data using Client Services Data Warehouse (CSDW) and disaggregate it by race/ethnicity, income, and child date of birth.
 - As of 12/10/21, income data is inaccurate in CSDW. DCDEE is working to correct it.
- Aggregated data will be available on DCDEE's public data dashboard and by request. Public disaggregated data can be made available on request while following NC DHHS small cell suppression guidelines.
 - Justine shared some preliminary disaggregated data for this measure (see slides).
 - One member appreciated that two race Black/AA and White Caucasian was broken out separately from multiple race category
 - DPI doesn't display less than 5%, Justine reports they will be using DCDEE best practices

2. Families paying 10 percent or less of their income on child care, disaggregated by race/ethnicity, income and age of child.

- Because we do not currently have income data for all NC families accessing child care with and without subsidies, Child Care Resources Inc., (CCRI), on behalf of the NC Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Council and DCDEE will collaborate to approximate this measure based on a similar process used by [Child Care Aware of America using annually supplied CCRI data](#).
 - Using the average annual cost (statewide and by county) of licensed child care for child care centers and family child care homes by age (i.e., infants, toddlers, and four-year olds), CCRI will correlate the cost of care with State Median Income (SMI) data for single parents and married couples and disaggregate this data by race/ethnicity using American Community Survey data (Table S1903).
 - Private paying families using child care frequently spend more than 10% of their gross household income to afford child care fees. Most families receiving child care subsidy are typically required to pay 10% of gross household income as family copayment for child care subsidy. During the pandemic, this parent copayment fee has been waived off and on and currently is being temporarily waived with ARPA funds.
- No questions or concerns were raised by the ECDAC. Will move forward with this plan in 2022.

- Next Measures for Data Development
 - ECDAC will assess and decide what data gaps we want to work next in early 2022.
 - Research work already taking place on these measures to support alignment. Also consider momentum given new legislation.

PDG B-5 Needs Assessment Data Overview—Karen McKnight, Emily Chavis, and Maria Spinetti, Hunt Institute; Liz Snyder & Nicole Lawrence, Duke Center for Child and Family Policy

- Shared timeline for work
 - Initial PDG Needs Assessment: Listening sessions were conducted in May and June of 2019 in 12 of North Carolina’s 100 counties: Alamance, Carteret, Caswell, Cherokee, Duplin, Hertford, Johnston, Macon, Orange, Pasquotank, Tyrell, and Wake counties
 - In January, will begin current PDG Needs Assessment with state interviews, Feb draft report, March final report, April sustainability
- Randomly selected 21 counties (stratified method – pop density, race/ethnicity/tribal communities/military installations)
 - Used ten regions as defined by DHHS so that they could get a spread of the state
- Shared recruitment process for the focus groups in January 2022
 - Conducting 18 focus groups by Zoom
 - 9 with different family/parent groups
 - 1 tribal
 - 2 speak Spanish
 - 9 with different provider group
- Co-facilitators: 15 identified, incl. some parent/community leaders. Capacity-building strategy
- Looking to oversample providers who accept children with disabilities and accept subsidy
- Looking to oversample families who have children with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, and military families
- Provider and geographic diversity
- Interviews with state leaders/agencies after family/provider focus groups
- See slides for questions asked to parents/providers and next steps
- Needs Assessment Advisory Group provides feedback and support on all phases of the process
- Kristi asked how are they going to distinguish the ARPA funding surge from normal? Since we’re in a different time than the initial needs assessment.
 - Since they have the pre-COVID assessment they should see trends to parse it out
- Mary asked how the data would be disseminated.
 - Kristi points out that there is a PDG website and there will also be a robust dissemination with presentations/reports/etc.

Legislative Update—Arlette Lambert, DCDEE

- Provided overview of specific Bills (see slide)
 - Revise Health Standard for Lead
 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2021
 - Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021
 - Revise Child Care Subsidy Rates
 - Hold Harmless Star Rating/ERS Assess
- The only bill they were hoping to get across the finish line was the statewide floor for subsidy rates – unable to do so, but under active consideration
- First budget passed since 2017 – first one Governor Cooper has been able to sign

Other Updates

- **Smart Start—Cape Fear Collaborative (CFC) Partnership—Ann Spence**
 - Shared overview at partnership at this meeting. Will provide more detail at next meeting including look at new data dashboards
 - Smart Start is working with CFC to create data dashboards for local Smart Starts and NC Healthy and Resilient Community collaboratives
 - Cape Fear Collective is working with a similar lens on what data would help with equity issues. So far, the work has been a great collaborative
 - Both groups are still identifying the data, still in preliminary stage
 - They have 1000+ metrics that are grouped into nine categories
 - Aggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, age, and geography (beyond county level where possible)
 - Smart Start Healthy Children Regional Dashboard
 - Mock up map presented (interactive map due on 12/16/21, tomorrow)
 - Roll out planned for March 2022
- **NC Child—Vikki Crouse**
 - Is wondering about how others are using American Community Survey data given the pandemic and resulting delays. Asked if others were interested in this discussion. At least two responded yes. Will discuss further at next ECDAC meeting in 2022
 - County data cards are currently delayed by a month or two
 - Oral Health Report – see [new report here](#) and [data dashboard here](#).
 - First time report has been developed by NC Child
 - Looks at the use of dental care by children and pregnant people
 - Disaggregated by race/ethnicity and geography
 - Recommend some policy solutions

Next Steps

- New ECDAC members in 2022, including parent leaders/participants. Any ideas? Let Mary know.
- Evaluation for 2021—[Please share your feedback on the ECDAC here! Takes 2-3 minutes.](#)
- Meeting dates for 2022 (moving up time from 11:30 to 10:00am to finish by lunch).
 - **Let Mary know if this new time doesn't work for you. Will send calendar invites.**
 - Next Meeting: Weds, February 16, 10am-12pm, Zoom
 - May 18
 - August 17
 - November 16

