

**Notes for NC Early Childhood Data Advisory Council (ECDAC) Meeting
March 16, 2022, 10am-12pm, Zoom**

Total Attendance: 36

Includes ECDAC, NC ECIDS Governance Council, guest presenter and facilitators

See pdf of PPT slides on ECDAC webpage

NC ECIDS Update—Dr. Tanya Morgan, DCDEE

- In second year of modernizing NC ECIDS with PDG funding
- Waiting to finalize MOA between GDAC, DPI, and DHHS
 - Once signed, will begin releasing public facing and ad hoc data reports
- Working on some technical pieces, integrating three new programs (Home-visiting, Head Start, EHDI), and gathering data for existing programs
- Reviewed change requests—some happening, some not happening, and some on hold
- Reviewed updated Phase 2 Timeline—should be able to meet deadlines. Will be in a good place by the end of this year. Hope to have MOA signed by next meeting and can do a live demo.

DCDEE Data Update—Justine Rogoff, DCDEE

- Update on DCDEE's new public data dashboards:
<https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Home/Data/Dashboards/NC-Early-Care-and-Learning>
 - Poll: Most ECDAC members had not seen the dashboards yet
 - Live demoed three dashboards, including options for filtering, maps, etc.
 - NC Early Care and Learning
 - NC Pre-K
 - Subsidized Child Care Assistance
- Shared data behind dashboard section including option to download raw data
- Currently working on version 2.0—will include child-level data and demographic info
- Update on Child Care Stabilization Grants from ARPA funds (see slides)
 - Includes some partial payments, so totals don't match up
 - Currently working on public dashboard for CC Stabilization Grants
 - Shared Tableau maps for this--in progress
- Question: Is enrollment data broken down by age currently an option? Infant-toddler enrollment remains an issue.
 - Not yet. Currently uses facility data, but hope to include child-level data in next version
- This data has been previously available on DCDEE's website in statistical reports, but not as user friendly as the dashboards.

DPI Office of Early Learning Update—Jenni Wilkinson, DPI OEL (presenting on behalf of Dan Tetreault, who is unable to attend today's meeting)

- Update on NC Early Learning Inventory (ELI) Standards Setting Panels
 - NC State Board of Education (SBE) policy requires panel to review NC ELI data and provide recommendations for interpreting data, particularly progressions.
 - Panel includes a variety of stakeholders. Identify skills for typically developing students in first 60 days of kindergarten and provide framework for reporting aggregate data.

- Data will be shared publicly to families and stakeholders via School Report Cards. Also incorporated into NC Longitudinal Data System. Will not be used in performance evaluations for teachers, schools, and districts.
- Described panel process (see slides for details)
 - Categories: developing (still progressing), demonstrating (readiness), beyond (showing skills beyond)
 - Final panel will meet to define a minimally demonstrating student who is typically developing and on track to meet kindergarten standards by end of year. Will identify skills students need by 60th day of K for a given dimension
 - UNCC will prepare a report that will be presented to the SBE for approval this summer. If approved, will be applied to 2021-22 NC ELI data to generate incoming readiness data to be reported in School Report Cards this fall.
- Question: Is there any school readiness data currently available?
 - Data for School Report Card is legislatively mandated and on website. If it's not there now, it will be. Still working with panels on data. ELI observations were done during COVID. Working on understanding its impact on progressions. Need to set expectations on what DPI OEL is able to share outside of mandated expectations.
 - More dimensions were added to ELI when COVID happened, so that impacted things.
 - *Post-meeting update: The last available incoming student readiness data is in 2019-2020 School Report Cards. Data are available for download on this [website](#).*
- Question: When will the UNCC report be available?
 - Will only be shared with the SBE this summer for approval. If approved, it may be available by the end of this summer and posted on School Report Card website this fall. Draft will not be shared before SBE approval.

Data Sharing Across NCDHHS—Amy Hawn Nelson and Hayley Young, NCDHHS Data Office

- See slides for details
- NCDHHS Data Office has been working on improving data flow and governance
- Benefits: Serving NC residents, mitigating risks, supporting staff
- Shared timeline starting in 2019—many people involved
 - In 2021, collaboratively created data sharing guidebook for people internal and external to DHHS. Not fully public yet. View only version of guidebook available [here](#).
 - Series of forms available for use by DHHS (operational use), research, and aggregate data requests
 - Work includes an overview of current data request pathways for NCDHHS,
 - Emailed to ECDAC in meeting follow-up
- Intradepartmental MOU executed in November 2021—“rules of the sandbox legal agreement”
- Currently working on developing Data Sharing Agreements with each DHHS Division / Office
- Question: Does this include new Office of Child and Family Well-Being?
 - Yes, waiting for some info. Reorganization happened when guidebook was PDF'd—needs some updating.
- Now have metadata, processes, forms, roles, and improved data flow
- Shared visual and written version of frameworks
 - Need Data Use Agreement if outside of NCDHHS
- Very hard work, thanks to everyone involved. DHHS has 30,000 employees and small data office
- Email questions to Amy Hawn Nelson at ahnelson@upenn.edu or Hayley Young Hayley.young@dhhs.nc.gov.

- It is a guidebook, not a strict protocol
- Question: Where does patient data from HIE fall?
 - Includes cross division/office data. If Medicaid data only is needed, contact Medicaid office. If it involves NCDHHS division/office and Medicaid, use this process.
 - Clinical data available under HIE uses separate agreements (e.g., Medicaid and other clinical data). Contact Carol Burroughs @ DIT if you have questions around HIE
- Question: When will the guidebook be live?
 - Currently live for NCDHHS. View only file available for others [here](#).
 - Need to do some updates that include reorganization. The Guidebook is a living document.
- Question: How will this impact process for partners external to NCDHHS?
 - See Appendix document with data request pathways (emailed to ECDAC in follow-up). Will help to understand processes, especially for integrated data sets
 - Guidebook clearly defines terms that were not clearly defined before.
 - Indirectly—the less time DHHS staff uses for internal data sharing, the more time to support external partners.
 - Also helps capture info on regularly requested data so DHHS can make decisions (e.g. Create a new dashboard vs. one off fulfillment each time).
 - Goals are democratizing and securing data access
 - Guidebook has section on open data

Making Connections Breakout Rooms

1. Introduce yourself—name, organization, and role.
2. Share one data project you're currently involved with or know about.

Data Development

- Updates on previous measures:
 - Adult health insurance, Michelle Ries, NCIOM
 - Uninsured rate data currently exists by county and disaggregated by race/ethnicity via ACS (updated ACS data to be released tomorrow).
 - Both NCIOM and NC Child report uninsured rates by county and race/ethnicity, but not both--county rates disaggregated by race/ethnicity
 - NCIOM has been monitoring this data during COVID, reported in [NCIOM Journal](#)
 - Impact on employer-based coverage, federal Medicaid policies
 - NC General Assembly continues to look at Medicaid expansion
 - Passage of postpartum Medicaid expansion—now covers up to one year
 - Preschool Suspension/Expulsion, Jenni Wilkinson, DPI OEL
 - Revised federal requirements (see slides)
 - Now requires disciplinary data for 3-5-year-olds, also by race and disciplinary action (action by adults in response to child's behavior)
 - Attendance and enrollment data are being collected
 - ESSA requirements--#/% enrolled in preschool programs to be reported in School Report Cards
 - Shared example of data we currently know, missing several districts
 - Data is important to help advocate appropriately/put supports in place
 - Challenges of preschool discipline data quality
 - Need consistent and clear definition for preschool expulsion

- Significant difference between federal and state definitions.
 - Working with Center for Safer Schools to rewrite this definition.
 - Shared currently proposed definition.
 - Building capacity within system to collect this data
 - Next steps: Provide refresher to all school districts in spring 2022
 - Collecting data is important, but needs to be accurate
 - Need to remember DPI PreK classrooms are a small part of total early learning landscape—need to understand what’s happening in all
 - Postponed update on child care measures to next meeting
- Next measure for ECDAC data development:
 - Top votes via pre-meeting survey were for social-emotional health screening and food insecurity. Poll resulted in 70% selecting social-emotional health screening for next measure.
 - Social-emotional development is an important data point for both Part B and C right now. Working on this as a part of our State Systemic Improvement Plan required by OSEP. Many states have chosen positive outcome scores around social-emotional development.

Smart Start Community Indicators Dashboard—Casey Strange, NC Partnership for Children/Smart Start and Nick Pylypiw, Cape Fear Collective

- Smart Start (SS) is launching 1.0 version of their new Community Indicators Dashboard
 - To be publicly released in April 2022. [Sneak peek at dashboard for ECDAC](#)
 - 2.0 version coming in July
- Shared history of using data in SS network. Started in 2001 as part of PBIS. It was a great starting point but became stagnant. NCPC decided to do some reforms, switched to EC Profile in 2017
- New dashboard will build on previous work and provide additional community context
- Version 2.0 will add EC profile into current dashboard
- Nick from Cape Fear Collective live demoed 1.0 version of SS Community Indicators Dashboard
 - Looks at geographic level—goes down to census tracts/blocks. Not just zip codes.
 - Each partnership has access to data for their county/region, disaggregated by race/ethnicity and other areas
 - Data available in map and table formats, easily downloadable
 - Includes glossary page
- Other Cape Fear Collective dashboards:
 - Community Data Platform (1,500 community metrics)—publicly available May 1st
 - Healthy Communities NC Dashboard: <https://healthycommunitiesnc.org/>. Currently only covers Cape Fear region, but will available statewide on May 1st

Other Updates

- Due to time limitations, Vikki Crouse with NC Child shared the following notes after the meeting on ACS data estimates and the impact of the pandemic:
 - The American Community Survey (ACS) surveys a sample of the population (about 3.5 M addresses) every year to provide detailed population and housing statistics in the U.S.
 - In 2020, the pandemic-related shutdown impacted the Census' self-response activities related to the survey. These challenges led to significant nonresponse bias in the dataset. Total interviews decreased by 32% and response rates fell to the lowest level in the history of the survey. Coverage rates fell especially among Black and Hispanic respondents. As a result, margins of error increased 20% to 30% overall.

- In July 2021, the Census Bureau determined that the 2020 1-year estimates did not meet their data quality standards and announced that they would *not* be releasing the standard 1-year estimates. Instead, they released "experimental" 1-year estimates with a different methodology to help correct the nonresponse biases in the data. To read more about how the estimates were adapted: [Adapting the American Community Survey Amid COVID-19](#).
- Given this change, people wondered if the Census Bureau would also withhold the full ACS 5-year estimates (2016-2020) which are usually released on December 5th. In early November, the Bureau announced that the 5-year estimates were delayed and would not be released in December because the Bureau needed more time to refine their methodology to minimize the impact of nonresponse bias. On February 7, 2022, they announced that they would be releasing the full, standard estimates on March 17, 2022.
 - I believe the difference between the 1-year estimates and the 5-year estimates release, is that the impacted data in the 5-year estimates makes up a smaller portion of the total sample size given that the 5-year estimates pool data over five years (compared to one year of data).
- You can explore the data on the census website. NC Child will be releasing some of the data from the 2016-2020 ACS 5-year estimates in our forthcoming 2022 County Data Cards, in April.

Next Steps

- Next Meeting: Weds, May 18, 10am-12pm via Zoom
- Future Meeting Dates: August 17 and November 16, 2022
- Data Development: NCECF will gather resources to begin planning for social-emotional health screening measure. Email Mary ideas for resources and people to connect with on this measure
- Update ECDAC Description and Terms: Planning team is working on developing an updated ECDAC description and charter/terms of reference, including how new members are included to the Council. Will review at next meeting.