



Working Group on Early Childhood Governance – Meeting 2

11-30-22

RHODE
ISLAND

Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements
- Vote on Adoption of Minutes
- Discussion of Working Group Mission and Scope
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- Discussion of Working Group process and timeline for completing the systems analysis
- Public Comment
- Adjournment

Recall: The FY23 budget establishes a working group on early childhood governance to review current approach and identify proposals for future structures.

Overview of Budget Article

FY23 Budget Requirements

By October 1, 2023, the early childhood governance working group must deliver a report on early childhood governance. The report includes:

- Coordination + administration
- Governance + organizational structure
- Fiscal cost of proposals
- Implementation of data systems

The Article names the members: DHS, RIDE, OPC, RIDOH, DOA, Chair of the Children’s Cabinet, and RI Kids Count. It notes that staff of the Children’s Cabinet will staff the group to complete the duties and the Early Learning Council will be an advisory body.

It provides \$250,000 to enable completion of the report and recommendations.

Recall: To focus our efforts, it is important that we identify a clear mission statement that states what is in scope and what is out of scope for the report.

On or before October 1, 2023, the working group shall submit a report to the governor, speaker of the house, president of the senate, and chairs of house and senate finance and education committees, that shall include recommendations regarding the governance of **early childhood programs** in the state. The recommendations shall address, but need not be limited to:

- The **coordination and administration of early childhood programs and services**;
- The **governance and organizational structure** of early childhood programs and services, including whether, and under what circumstances, the state should consider unifying early childhood programs under one state agency;
- The **fiscal structure** of proposed recommendations; and
- The implementation of **early childhood data systems**, for strategic planning, program implementation and program evaluation.

Consideration: The legislation **does not specify which “early childhood programs and services” are in scope**. Defining which programs are in scope and which are out of scope will help clarify our Working Group purpose and discussion going forward.

Recommendation: The WG should use the following criteria to determine the scope to programs and related enabling systems (data systems, workforce, etc): (1) programs that primarily serve young children (2) programs governed and funded by the state. This builds on the ELC definition from 2016: “*home visiting, Early Head Start, Head Start, State Pre-K, Early Intervention, Preschool Special Education, child care... and include critical infrastructure components – licensing, BrightStars, professional development, higher education, developmental screening, etc.*”

Consideration: The legislation focuses on **governance, organizational structure, fiscal structure, and data systems** and does not put discussion of overall goals for early childhood in scope for the Working Group to determine.

Recommendation: the Working Group should focus on identifying recommendations that advance the Governor’s goals as described in the RI 2030 Plan and the ECCE Strategic Plan.

Process for Systems Analysis: The process for the report development should have regular public input and maintains focus by having a clear “problem diagnosis” phase that defines the scope of the work.

High-level Proposed Process Plan – For Discussion

Timeframe	Process Step	Details	Deliverable
Summer-Fall 2022	Set-up group, structure, and process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene Working Group • Process for report development is established • Develop goals and SOW for consultant support • Procure consultant support 	Process, roles + responsibilities, and capacity is finalized
Winter 2022	Define the problem needing to be solved + any missed opportunities due to current governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing documents • Stakeholder interviews with internal and external stakeholders • Family, educator, and provider focus groups • Surveys + other broad-based feedback methods 	Shared definition of the issues and missed opportunities that could be solved through governance
Winter 2022-Spring 2023	Topic-focused discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through internal reviews, working group meetings, and national analysis, develop potential solutions to address the issues identified – aligned to specific areas required in the legislation + other key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority populations • Coordination + administration • Governance + organizational structure • Fiscal cost of proposals • Implementation of data systems 	Summaries of potential solutions for feedback on each topic for public input
Summer 2023	Develop and release a working draft of the report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a working draft of the report for public feedback • Host various feedback sessions + other feedback opportunities 	Full working draft report
Fall 2023	Finalize Plan + Publish Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize changes to the plan • Identify FY24 proposed investment in RI Pre-K for Governor’s Recommended Budget and reflect accordingly within the plan • Share final report with General Assembly and Governor 	Final report

Public Comment

