



Working Group on Early Childhood Governance – Meeting 3

02-09-23

RHODE
ISLAND

Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements
- Vote on Adoption of Minutes
- Update on Progress of Procurement
- Discussion of Problem Definition for Systems Analysis
- Discussion of Key Informants and Stakeholders for 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.

Working Group Mission & Scope – Adopted 11/30/22

Mission

The goal of Rhode Island’s Working Group on Early Childhood Governance is to examine systems, structure, and authorities that govern and administer early childhood programs (as defined in the Scope). The Working Group will use this information to make recommendations that would advance RI’s vision for children enter kindergarten educationally, social-emotionally, and developmentally ready to succeed, putting them on a path to read proficiently by 3rd grade that sets Rhode Islanders up for successful completion of postsecondary education. The Working Group will conduct a comprehensive review of the current conditions and identify gaps and opportunities for improvement to best achieve the goals set forth in the ECCE Strategic Plan and the Governor’s 2030 Plan. The Working Group shall develop a report that includes 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.

Scope of Analysis:

The Working Group’s efforts will focus on the following core programs:

- **Child care licensing** (DHS)
- **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)** (DHS)
- **Head Start / Early Head Start Collaboration** (DHS)
- **RI Pre-K** (RIDE)
- **Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Standards (CECE)** (RIDE)
- **Early Childhood Special Education – IDEA Part B, 619** (RIDE)
- **Early Intervention (EI)** (EOHHS)
- **KidsConnect** (EOHHS)
- **Family Visiting** (RIDOH)

To conduct a comprehensive review, the Working Group’s scope will also include analysis of the gaps and opportunities of the supporting systems for ECCE programs, including but not limited to:

- Workforce development, career pathways, and higher education pathways (in collaboration with the Governor’s Workforce Board report in April, 2023)
- Professional development and technical assistance
- Quality evaluation, improvement, and support (with focus on Quality Rating and Improvement System, the RI Early Learning and Development Standards, and the Workforce Knowledge and Competencies)

Progress since last meeting

Procurement of a Systems Analysis Vendor

- RFP posted on Ocean State Procures on 12/19/22
- Bids due to the State on 1/24/23
- Five vendors responded to the RFP and are under review by an interagency committee

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Discussion at the Early Learning Council
- Outreach to ELC for interested individuals to participate in an informal advisory group

Problem Diagnosis: What is the problem we are trying to solve through the governance systems analysis? How do we define the problem?

Other State Examples of Problem Definition (Summarized)

Vermont:

- Differing expectations for private providers and schools in the UPK program
- Different monitoring expectations for service providers
- Different requirements for personnel in different settings
- Divergent expertise (across Human Services, Education, and Health)
- Private providers still see schools as an existential threat
- There can be a divergence between where special education services are needed and where they are offered.
- A lack of systemic data
- Access deserts

Wyoming

- The system needs to be more coherent
- The system needs high-level leadership
- Greater policy clarity
- Better information for parents
- The infrastructure needed to actually deliver quality and increase access

Discussion: What is your perception of problem(s) we are trying to solve through the governance systems analysis? How do you define the problem?

State Government	Early Childhood Providers	Early Childhood Educators/Workforce	Families
<i>(To be filled in during discussion)</i>			

Discussion: Key Informants and Stakeholders

Who do you want to ensure is engaged in the key informant interviews and stakeholder engagement processes?

State Government	Councils/Committees	Community Partners	Providers	Families	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Administration: Program administrators of programs within systems analysis scope • Administration: OMB and HR • Data Systems: EOHHS Ecosystem & DataSpark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Learning Council • Child Care Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEIU 1199 • RI Association for the Education of Young Children • Center for Early Learning Professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers within each program of the systems analysis scope 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families utilizing programs within systems analysis scope • Parents Leading for Educational Equity • RI Parent Information Network 	

Public Comment

