



Working Group on Early Childhood Governance – Meeting 6

August 22, 2023

RHODE
ISLAND

Agenda Overview



- Welcome and Introductions
- Vote on Minutes
- Project Overview
- Discussion of Updated Landscape Analysis
- Vote to Accept Updated Landscape Analysis
- Discussion of Project Next Steps
- Public Comment

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)

Rhode Island

Early Childhood Governance Analysis

August 22, 2023

Agenda

- Landscape Analysis
- Upcoming schedule
- What to expect in the first draft of the report

Landscape Analysis

Landscape Analysis Changes

- Feedback themes:
 - More precise language about leadership and collaboration
 - More clarity about existing plans and how they fit
 - A better explanation of the executive/legislative relationship
 - Updated with Early Learning Council survey results
 - Emphasizing the importance of interagency collaboration

Upcoming Schedule

Upcoming Schedule

Date	Action
August 24 & 30	Public input session on governance and Early Learning Council special session on governance
Sept 22	Share draft recommendations publicly on website (including cost analysis of different governance options)
Sept 27-28	Foresight and Watershed in Rhode Island for Early Learning Council and Working Group meetings to provide feedback on draft recommendations
October 1	Submit comprehensive interim draft to legislature for review
Month of October	Solicit additional feedback from 1:1 interviews and public sessions
Date TBD	FLP and Watershed will present final report findings in person
Date TBD	FLP and Watershed will finalize report Final draft complete

Comprehensive Interim Draft: What to Expect

Comprehensive Interim Draft (1 of 2)

- Introduction
- Landscape Analysis (as approved today)
 - Some portions may be moved to the introduction
- Governance Options
 - The basic models: Coordination, Consolidation, Creation
 - The status quo
 - Change
 - Benefits and challenges of change
 - Differences between Consolidation and Creation
 - Transitions
 - Determining what to include
 - Managing the process
 - Costs
- Cross-Cutting Considerations
 - State-community connections
 - Interagency connections

Comprehensive Interim Draft (2 of 2)

- National Landscape
 - Will highlight key insights, particularly those that cut across states
- Key Policy Areas
 - Workforce development
 - Professional development and technical assistance
 - Quality evaluation and improvement
 - Data systems
- Conclusion

Next Steps

- Foresight and Watershed will collect feedback at this meeting, and in the public meetings set up for later this month.
- Draft recommendations will be circulated in September.
- After the initial draft of the recommendations we will continue to engage with stakeholders to collect feedback for incorporation into the final report.

Public Comment

