

Children's Cabinet

November 15, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions (2 min)
- Vote on adoption of October meeting minutes (2 min)
- RI Family First Prevention Services Act Five-Year Plan (35 min)
- Early Childhood Governance Working Group Update (5 min)
- Public Comment (10 min)
- Adjournment

Rhode Island Family First Prevention Services Act Five-Year Plan

Children's Cabinet
November 15, 2022

Kevin Aucoin
Colleen Caron
Heather Warner



Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

Family First Overview

- The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was enacted by Congress on February 9, 2018, as part of Public Law (P.L.) 115-123.
- Offers a major opportunity for states to strengthen prevention services.
- Allows Title IV-E funding reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parent skill-based programs for children or youth who are at risk of entering foster care, pregnant or parenting youth in foster care, and the parents or relative caregivers of those children and youth.
- RI's Five-Year Plan was approved by the Children's Bureau starting October 1, 2022.



Family First Introduction

The intent of this initial Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan (Plan) is to:

- Set a basic a paradigm shift toward prevention within the child welfare system
- Operationalize the concept of prevention through the development and/or expansion of a coordinated prevention focused child welfare system infrastructure
- Expand evidence-based programs (EBPs) approved through the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
- Reduce the need for congregate by focusing more on prevention services



Major Provisions of Family First

- Beginning October 1, 2019, states have the option to use federal Title IV-E funding for evidence-based prevention services/programs (EBPs) for:
 - 1) **Children and youth** determined to be at **imminent risk of foster care** and their **parents and/or kin caregivers** (*great flexibility, each state gets to define imminent risk*)
 - 2) **Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care**
- Three categories of prevention services:
 - 1) In-home, skill-based **parenting** programs (individual and family counseling, parenting skills and parent education)
 - 2) **Substance abuse** prevention and treatment
 - 3) **Mental health** prevention and treatment

Development of Rhode Island Family First 5-Year Plan



Stakeholder Engagement

DCYF convened two focus groups:

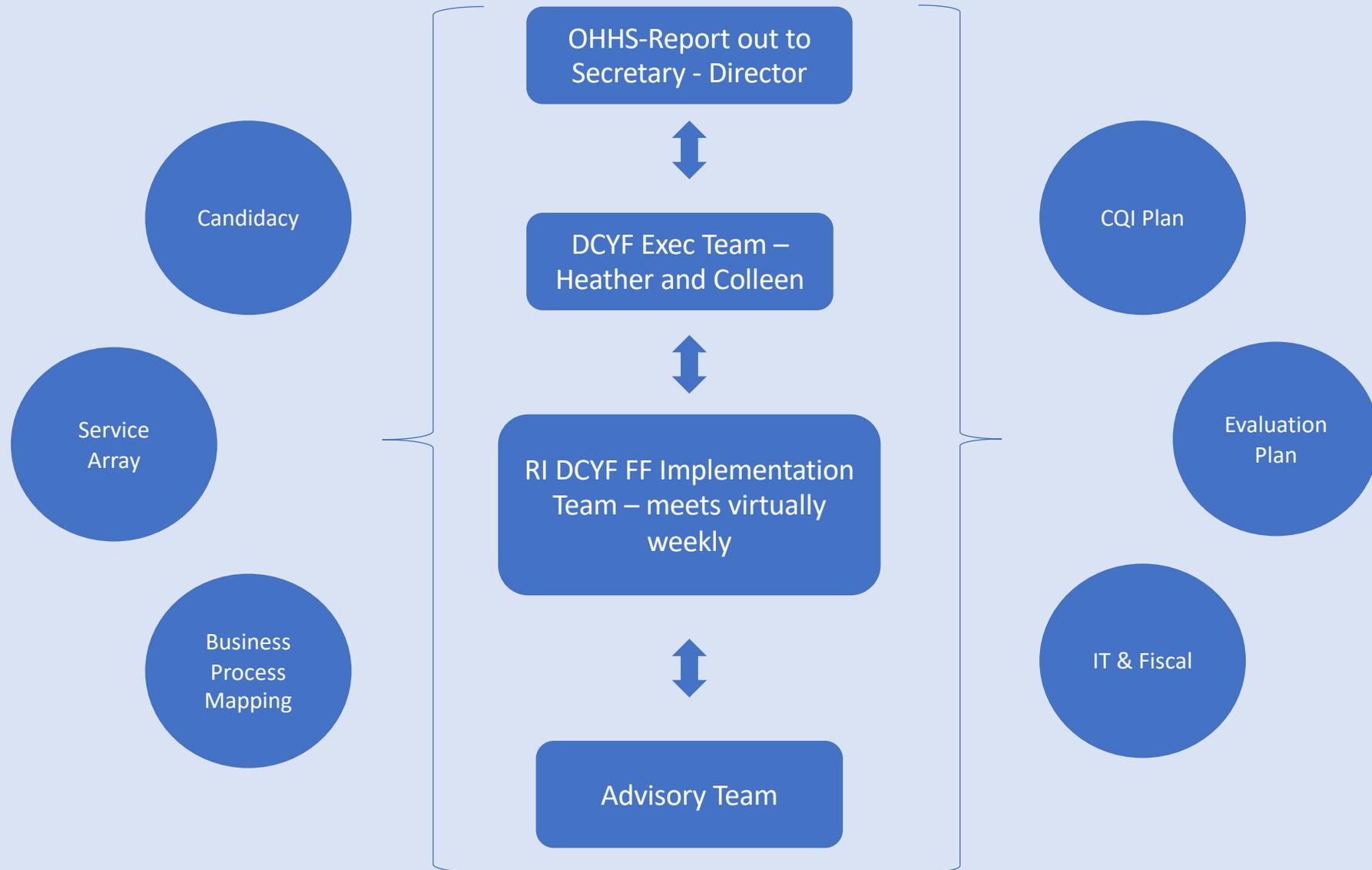
- One group included families with lived experience in the child welfare system.
- The second group included youth with lived experience.

Both facilitated groups provided broad and valuable feedback on DCYF's existing service array and preventative efforts.

DCYF also convened stakeholder groups:

- A group made up of providers.
- A public/private group that includes community members, individuals with lived experience, outside experts (in child welfare, housing, education, and substance abuse), DCYF leadership, and key partners from other state agencies.

Rhode Island DCYF Governance Structure



Family First Candidacy Populations

Candidacy Populations

- 1. Children & families open to DCYF Family Services Unit (FSU) for in-home services (could include post-guardianship/adoption at risk of disruption who have opened to FSU).**
- 2. Children & families that have reunified**
- 3. Children or youth engaged in in-home juvenile probation**
- 4. Children in-home with a sibling in foster care**
- 5. Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care (categorically eligible for Family First services)**



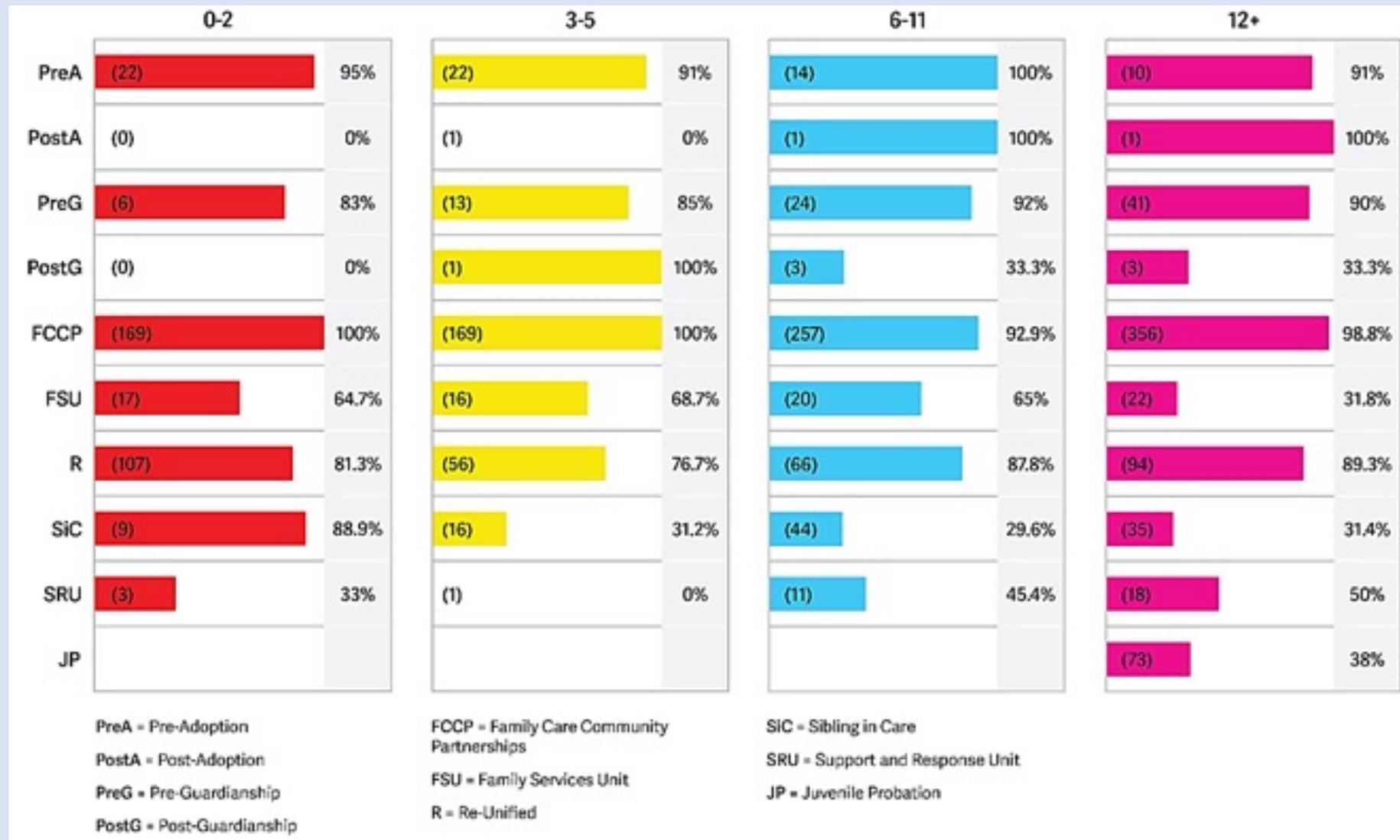
Family First Candidacy Populations

Candidacy Populations

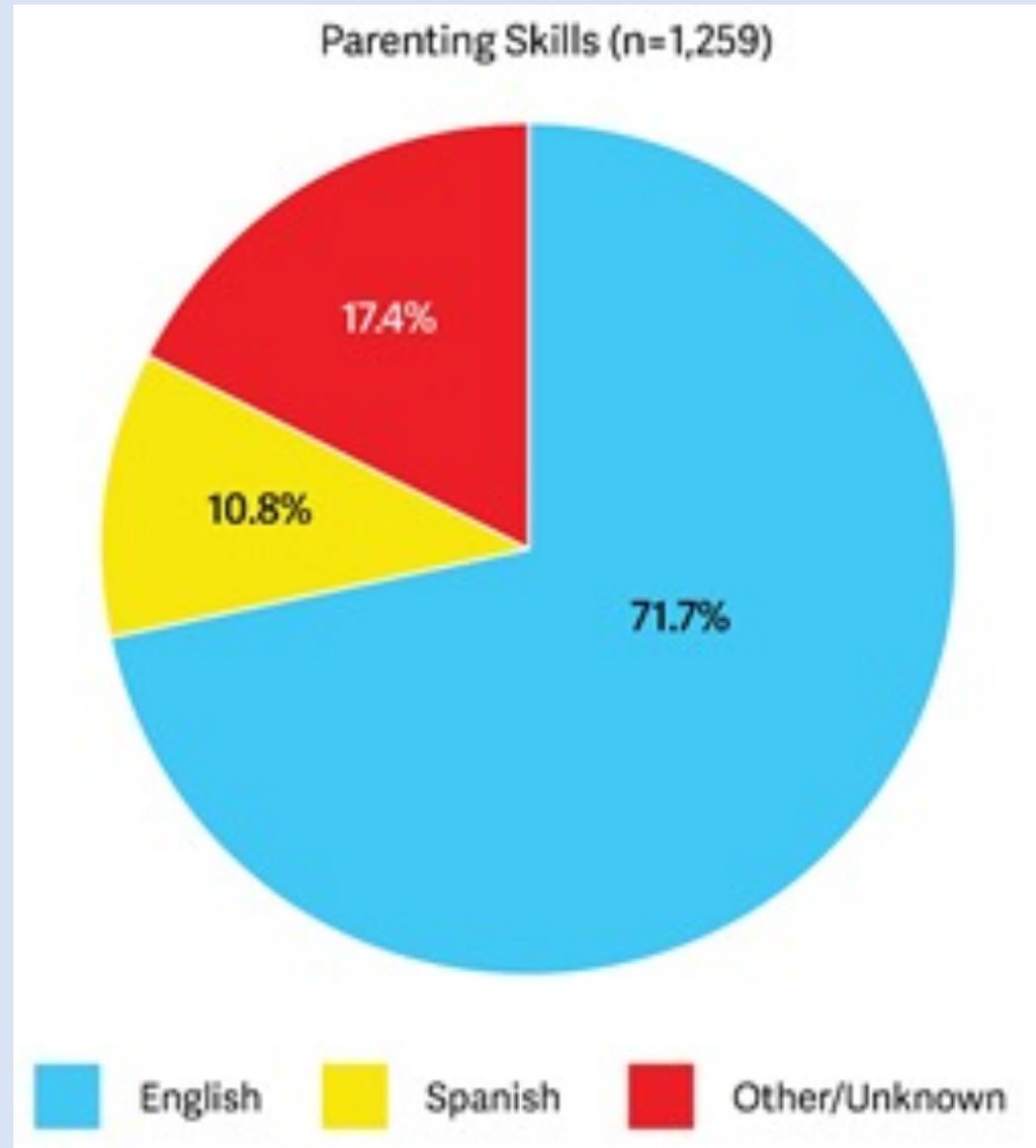
- 6. Children & families that are assessed by the DCYF Support and Response Unit (SRU) but receive services through the FCCPs**
- 7. Children who are post-guardianship and/or post-adoption at risk for disruption of placement but receive services through the FCCPs**
- 8. Children & families referred to the Family Community Care Partnerships (FCCP) by another community-based organization or self-referral**



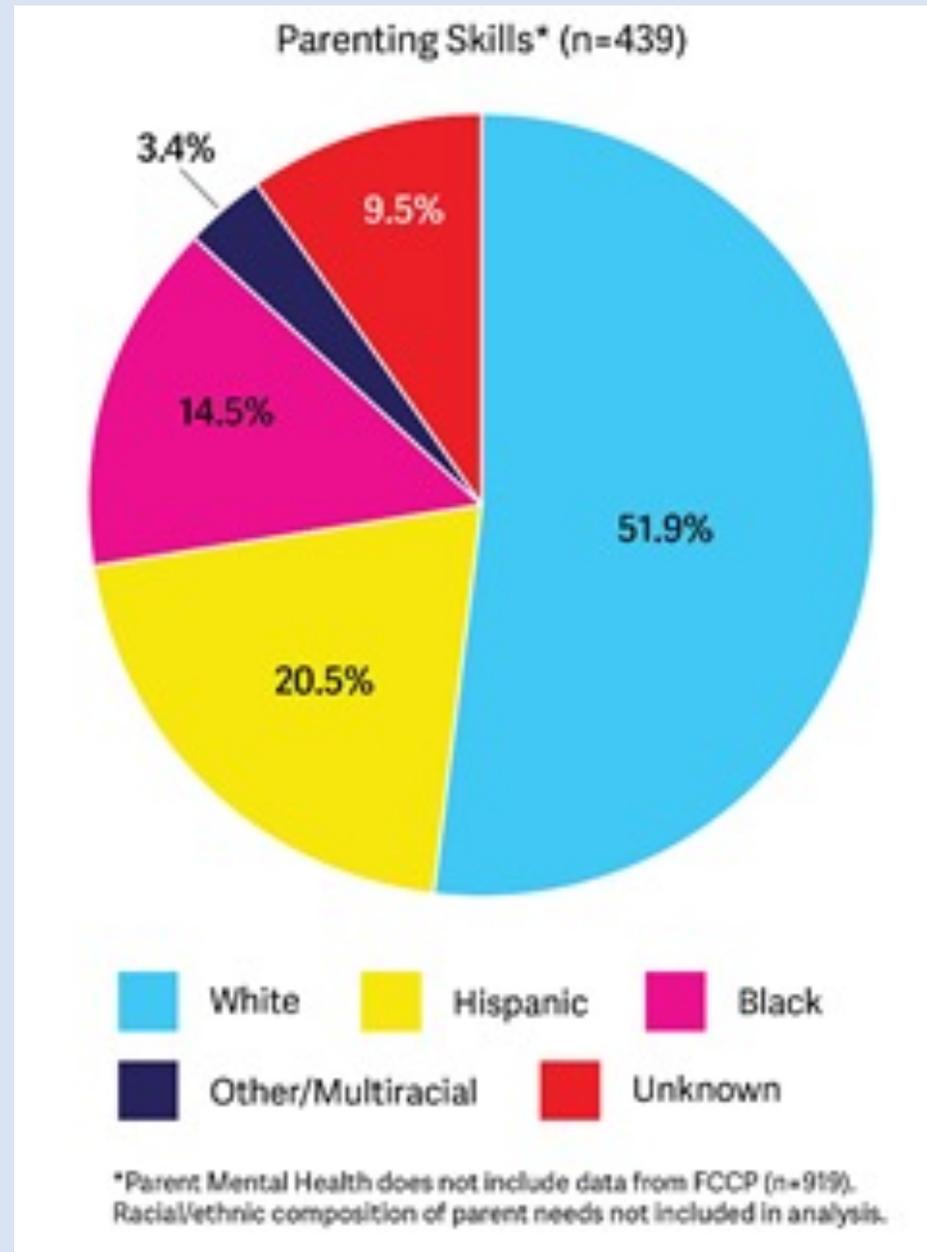
Parenting Skills Needs of Youth by Age Group and Candidate Subpopulation



Linguistic
Composition of
Parents/
Caregivers and
Youth with
Parenting Skills
Needs



Racial and Ethnic Composition of Parents/Caregivers and Youth with Parenting Skills Needs



Family First Evidence-Based Programs



Major Provisions: Prevention Plan EBPs

- Plan calls for use of Evidence Based Programs (EBPs).
- Prevention plan needs to be in place with EBPs identified.
- Trauma-informed approach to prevention
- Coordination and collaboration with partners to support a full continuum of care
- Evaluation and continuous quality improvement for prevention programs

EBPs in Rhode Island's FFPSA Plan

EBP	Service Category	Rating	Target Population	Providers
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	Mental Health	Well-Supported	DCYF and FCCP	2 providers
Homebuilders	In-Home Parenting Skills	Well-Supported	DCYF	1 provider
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	Mental Health and Substance Use	Well-Supported	DCYF and FCCP	2 providers
Familias Unidas	Cross-Cutting	Well-Supported	DCYF and FCCP	1 provider
Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)	Mental Health	Well-Supported	DCYF and FCCP	Future procurement
Motivational Interviewing	Cross-Cutting	Well-Supported	DCYF	Internal process



Continuous Quality Improvement: Fidelity and Outcomes



Continuous Quality Improvement Fidelity Monitoring

➤ Infrastructure

- Certification
- Education
- Training
- Caseload size

➤ Practice

- Use of Required Tools
- Timing of Case Activities
- Referrals and Enrollment
- Program Completion

➤ Child & Family Characteristics

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Regional location

➤ Family Satisfaction

Outcome Monitoring

➤ Short-term

- Change from program start to finish (e.g., changes in behavior)
- Program-targeted outcomes

➤ Long-term (Subsequent to EBP):

- Reports of child maltreatment
- Removals from home

- 6 months post discharge
- 12 months post discharge

Future and Opportunities



Family First Future and Opportunities

- FFPSA builds upon the strengths of DCYF's current prevention program with the Family Community Care Partnerships (FCCP). Essentially, FFPSA now aligns with what RI has been doing.
- The FCCP is a network consisting of community agencies that holistically addresses family functioning and clinical needs as well essential basic needs such as financial, housing, employment, and health care access to support families and mitigate risk of child welfare involvement. Families can access supportive services when they first need them, not once DCYF is involved.
- Expand the service array throughout EOHHS, the broader State health and human services systems, and in the communities (e.g., schools).



Family First Future and Opportunities

- ✓ **Transforming** the child welfare focus from foster care to prevention, increased family stability and well-being
- ✓ **Applying** a trauma-responsive lens to the continuum of prevention services
- ✓ **Partnering** across systems (mental health, substance use disorder, juvenile justice, early childhood, health, etc.) to align prevention efforts
- ✓ **Expanding** evidence-based programming in the child welfare, children's behavioral health, and juvenile justice systems



Working Group on Early Childhood Governance



Legislative Charge Overview

- (a) There shall be created an early childhood governance working group (“the working group”) consisting of:
 - (1) The director of the department of human services, or designee;
 - (2) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee;
 - (3) The commissioner of postsecondary education, or designee;
 - (4) The director of the department of health, or designee;
 - (5) The director of the department of administration, or designee;
 - (6) Chair of the children’s cabinet, who shall be responsible for convening the working group; and
 - (7) The executive director of RI Kids Count, or designee.
- (b) The working group shall convene any necessary subgroups of working group members and other stakeholders to inform and complete the early childhood governance recommendations required under this section.
- (c) 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:
 - (1) The coordination and administration of early childhood programs and services;
 - (2) 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;
 - (3) The fiscal structure of proposed recommendations; and
 - (4) The implementation of early childhood data systems, for strategic planning, program implementation and program evaluation.
- (d) Staff of the children’s cabinet shall provide assistance in completing the duties of the working group identified in this section
- (e) The RI early learning council shall serve as an advisory body to the working group.

Early Childhood Governance Structures

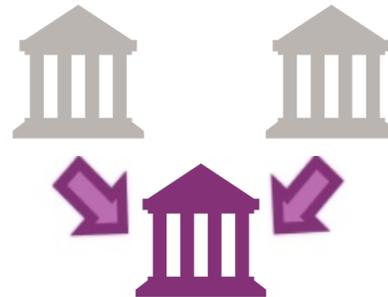
Types of Governance Structures

CREATED



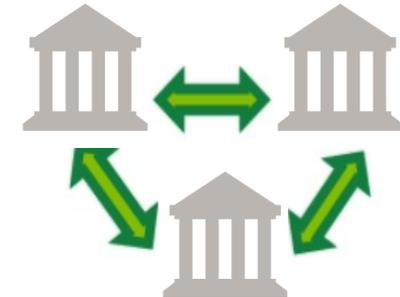
8 states have **created** a new entity to oversee several early care and education components.

CONSOLIDATED



13 states plus D.C. have **consolidated** several agencies or programs into an existing entity that oversees multiple components.

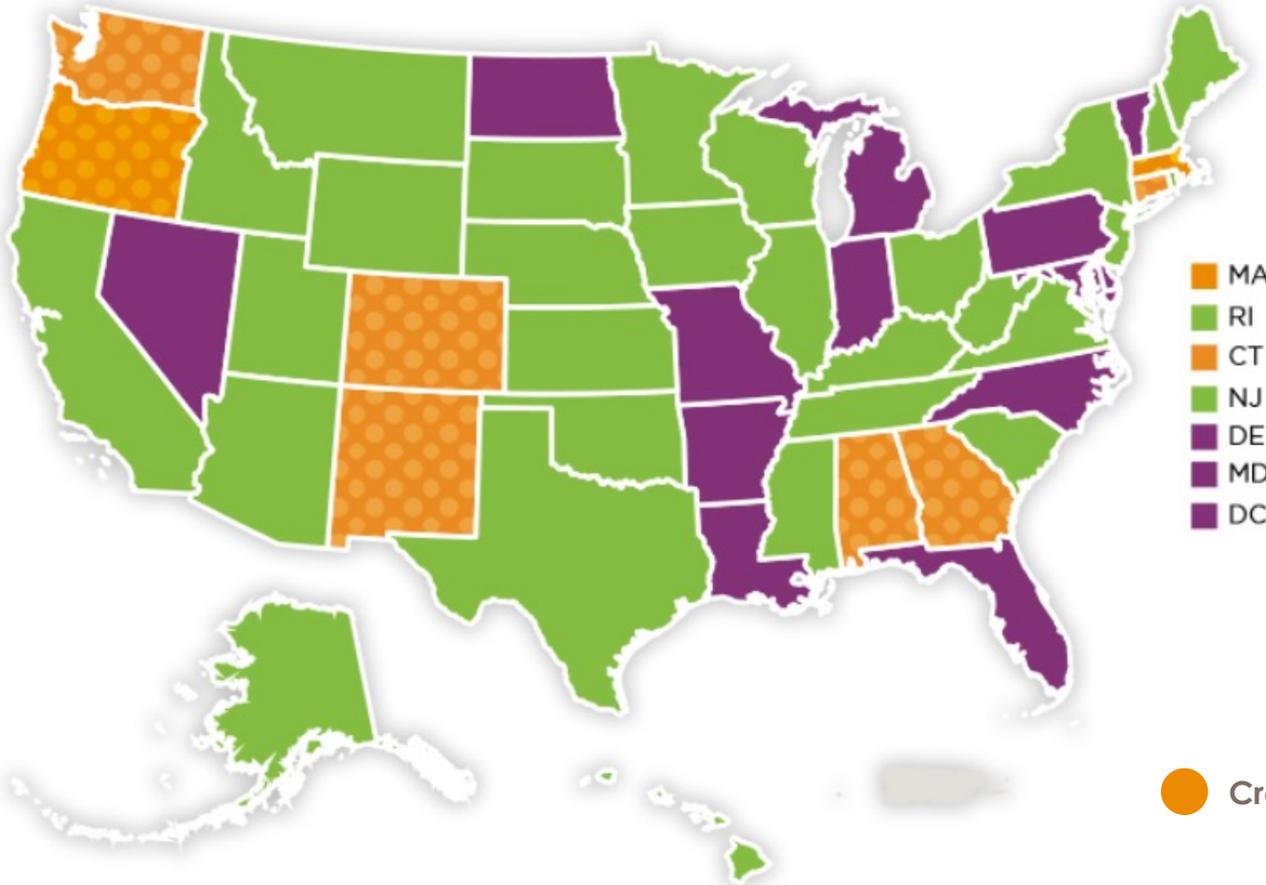
COORDINATED



29 states have agencies that provide programs and services that require a **coordinated** approach between agencies.

Early Childhood Governance Structures

National Landscape, 2021



Since 2017, at least 182 early care and education governance bills have been introduced in 36 states.

Created Consolidated Coordinated

Working Group + Advisory Group Cadence Going Forward

Meeting	Members (*can have designees)	Public Meeting	Purpose	Frequency
Working Group on Early Childhood Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary Novais, Chair (EOHHS) • Commissioner Infante-Green (RIDE) • Director Brito (DHS) • Director Bandy (RIDOH) • Director Thorsen (DOA) • Commissioner Gilkey (OPC) • Elizabeth Burke Bryant, RI Kids Count 	Yes	Legislatively established Working Group responsible for developing and delivering a final report in October 2023 that addresses the legislation	Quarterly
Early Learning Council	30+ members of the early learning sectors, co-chaired by DHS, RIDE, and RI Kids Count	Yes	The ELC has existed for 10+ years to advise the Governor and Children’s Cabinet on items related to young children. The ELC is officially designated as the advisory body for the Working Group.	Quarterly
Informal Advisory Body	Volunteers from ELC and broader early childhood sector	No	Regular opportunity for input for members of the early childhood sector who will want to be highly engaged	Monthly

Public Comment

