

PDG B-5 Needs Assessment Recommendations for the ECAC Strategic Plan

October 23, 2019

PROCESS FOR REVIEW

Process for Reviewing Recommendations and Updating Strategic Plan

- 1) General Review of *Alignment & Gaps* crosswalk document that was created to help us go through Strategic Plan, Needs Assessment and Action Plan documents at the same time
 - What came out of it?
 - Is that need identified in the plan?
- 2) Discuss/Approve recommendations from each subcommittee
- 3) Definitions (any additions from the previous meeting)
- 4) Overarching Recommendations that don't apply to a specific subcommittee
- 5) Discuss any remaining sections from the template Amanda provided to subcommittees.
- 6) Other items ECAC recommends that we make to NA/SP for alignment
- 7) Seek approval of all change

1) General Review of *Alignment & Gaps* cross reference document that was created to help us go through the Strategic Plan, Needs Assessment and Action Plan documents at the same time

- What came out of Needs Assessment?
- Is that need identified in the Strategic Plan or Action Plans?

2) Discuss/Approve Recommendations from Early Learning

EARLY LEARNING SYSTEMS

- Improve communication to the general public about the importance of early learning and tools to advocate for it in local communities. Many of those who participated in focus groups still held the idea that education starts at preschool (ages 3-4).
- Improve capacity statewide to develop professionals in early childhood education. Stakeholders expressed concerns around strict degree requirements, when related experience may provide high quality care as well. Workforce standards in the plan should reflect and address the limitations of rural and frontier communities.
- Limited availability brings waiting lists for families – this issue should be addressed in plans to improve access within the system. How will these be addressed?

EARLY LEARNING SYSTEMS

- Plans to improve ECE systems and standards need to address barriers associated with costs and offer solutions to remove these barriers for families.
- Need more support at the state level to get increased attention and investments on B3 initiatives
 - Create a subgroup under the ECAC that is focused on B3
 - State level cabinet level representative for B3
 - Connector from Governor's office that helps collaborate around B-3
 - Funded position or include the B-3 functions within the job descriptions of existing positions
 - Funding a full-time position for ECAC

2) Discuss/Approve Recommendations from Family Support & Community Engagement

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

- Increase availability of programs designed for parents to meet and network with each other and develop relationships with parents with children of similar ages.
- Increase availability of activities and programs designed for children ages 0-2. Communities report that most programming for young children is not available until the children are at least 3 years of age.
- Address environmental barriers for activities with young children like lack of sidewalks, parks or adequate lighting for safety.
- Develop better, more robust communication systems for parents to make them aware of activities, training information, etc.
- Objective 2 in Strategic Plan overlaps with health. Consider how to ensure these efforts are not duplicated and determine the best placement of this information.

2) Discuss/Approve Recommendations from Child & Family Health

CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH

- While the NECAC plan includes goals to improve access to healthcare for children and families, the plan could more specific references to OBGYN and pediatricians in rural communities in Nevada, including potential use of telemedicine and mobile clinics to reach certain areas.
- Improve health literacy across the community so that families understand the reasons they should apply for and maintain health insurance for their children. Strengthen partnerships with social services to remove barriers to the application and enrollment process as well as Medicaid to better explain benefits available.
- Streamline access to developmental screening tools and pathways for referral to early intervention services when delays are identified.

3) Definitions

- Quality Early Childhood Care and Education
- Availability of Early Childhood Education and Care
- Vulnerable or underserved children
- Children in rural areas
- Description of the Nevada Early Care and Education System

4) Overarching Recommendations

(outside of specific subcommittee recommendations)

Note: These changes will also be added to the B-5 Needs Assessment in the recommendations section

- Add action plans of the subcommittees as an appendix to the strategic plan and/or reference in the strategic plan the action plans.
- Where appropriate, include specific strategies, objectives, or actions that will prioritize access to services for vulnerable populations and specifically for target populations that were developed based on the current needs assessment.
- Subcommittees will agree to review action steps and key findings in the needs assessment to fill any alignment gaps.
- Definitions: Adopt standard definitions that can be included as part of the framework for the current and future strategic plans.

5) Discuss any remaining sections from the template Amanda provided to subcommittees.

6) Other items ECAC recommends that we make to NA/SP for alignment

7) Seek approval of all changes