



# Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force

Meeting #15

January 31, 2023

# Welcome & Agenda

# Welcome from our Co-Chairs



**Shakira Bradshaw**

Parent of Children under 5



**Jenny Moses**

Children's Cabinet



**Sandy Simar**

Early Educator

## The Task Force is supported by:

- **Children's Cabinet Staff:** Erin Bailey, Hannah Quinn
- **Facilitation Team:** Afton Partners and Children's Funding Project

Develop a plan and implementation timeline that **ensures all families have access to affordable, high-quality early care and education that enriches, nurtures, and supports children and their families.**



# Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles reflect the Task Force's values and beliefs, guide how it operates, and lay a foundation for decision-making

<b>Promote Equity</b>	<b>Prioritize Family Perspectives, Needs, and Choices</b>	<b>Support the Power of Local Communities</b>	<b>Build Upon our Solid Foundation</b>	<b>Uplift and Diversify the ECE Workforce</b>	<b>Recognize Implementation Realities</b>	<b>Expect High Quality &amp; Effectiveness</b>	<b>Design for Stability, Sustainability, and Positive Impact</b>
<p>Prioritize a system that promotes equitable outcomes, with a specific focus on children from the POCI community and building cultural competency in the ECE workforce.</p>	<p>Prioritize families' perspectives, needs, and choices as we make data driven and evidence informed recommendations, recognizing that all provider types and settings provide value to the system.</p>	<p>Create opportunities for local communities are able to define their own priorities and are supported to build the system that meets their children and families' needs.</p>	<p>Build upon the successes of Minnesota's past and current system, lessons from other states, and the expertise and research in the field.</p>	<p>Invest in our dedicated and capable early childhood professionals so that they have the opportunity to thrive and grow, and we will build and support a racially diverse workforce.</p>	<p>Recognize inherent system constraints while remaining responsive to local, state, and federal landscape changes.</p>	<p>Endeavor to create a high quality and effective ECE system that meets the needs of all of Minnesota's children and families, regardless of circumstance, knowing that the state's future workforce, economy, and resident welfare is dependent upon it</p>	<p>Work to support funding stability for providers, educators, and staff across mixed delivery settings to ensure better service for families.</p>

# Today's Goals



Voting item: Change to voted language



Informal vote on final deliverables and preview plan submission process



Review ongoing legislative session activity



Discuss roles and opportunities to promote the Task Force's plan



Share reflections and celebrate our work

# Meeting #15 Agenda

- 6:00 – 6:15 p.m.** Welcome, agenda, Meeting #14 minutes approval
- Remarks from Lt. Governor Flanagan & DHS Commissioner Harpstead
- 6:15 – 6:20 p.m.** Formal vote: Change to Voted Language
- 6:20 – 6:30 p.m.** Final Deliverables
- Informal vote on plan and timeline
  - Preview of submission
- 6:30 – 6:50 p.m.** Legislative Session Updates
- Session Activity Overview
  - Legislator updates
- 6:50 – 7:00 p.m.** Discussion of Roles & Opportunities
- 7:00 – 7:15 p.m.** Reflection and Celebration!
- Co-chair remarks

# Reminder: Procedures



Open meeting law requires public bodies to **record and maintain votes** of its members. Virtual meetings require a vote by roll call.



**Formal votes** will include only voting members and formal votes will be held for items such as a statement on vision, value, or a recommendation to be included in the Task Force Plan.



**Informal voting** (ex. thumbs up) may be used to engage all Task Force members on items such as a matter of process, or an item necessary to get to a vision statement or recommendation.



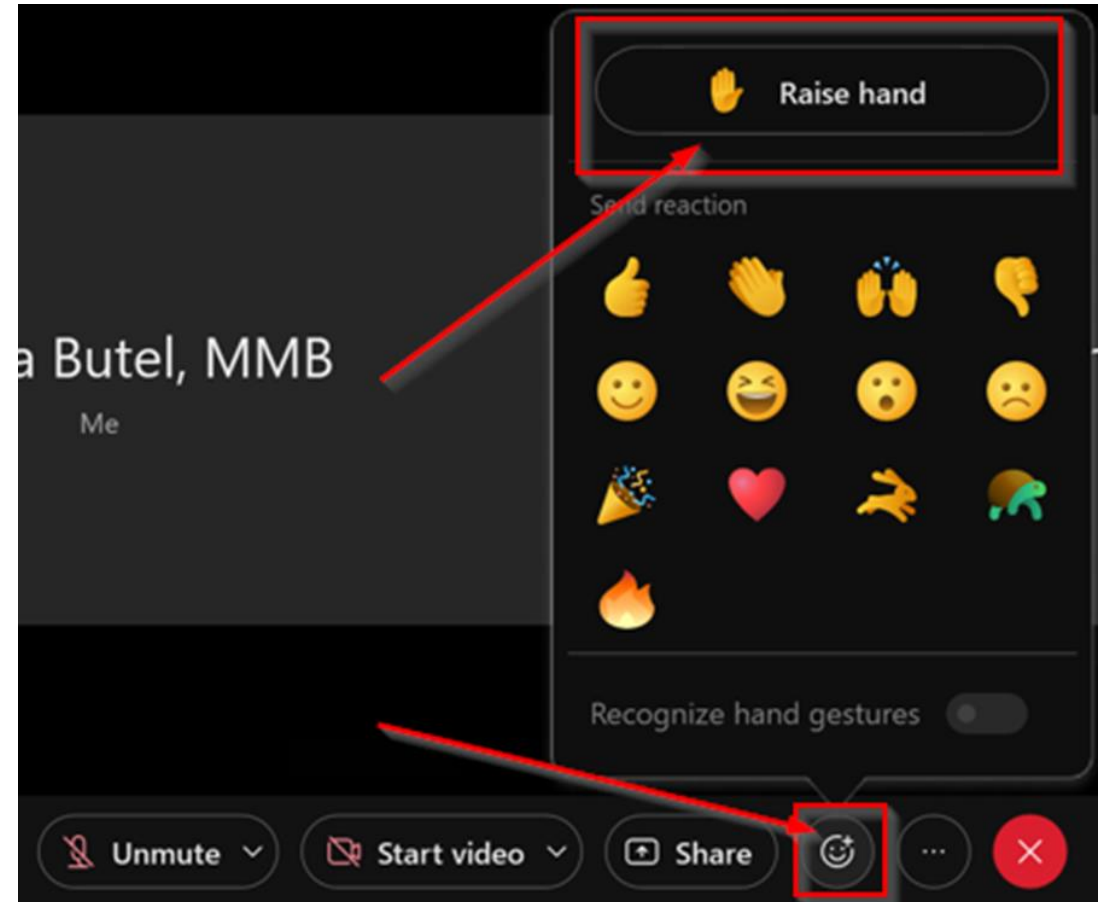
**Quorum** is defined as a majority of voting members.



# Approval of Meeting #14 Minutes

Please indicate your approval of the minutes from meeting #14 by using the '**Raise Hand**' icon/button in WebEx.

To do this, click on the 'smiley face' icon at the bottom of WebEx. After the dialog box opens, please click on the '**Raise Hand**' icon/button if you want to approve the minutes from meeting #14.



# Formal vote and anticipated vote timeline



# Change to Voted Language

Voting members will take a vote to accept the change to voted language found on page 27 of the draft final report:

- Moved the language about removing the child support cooperation requirement to the “for further study” part of the short-term recommendations on changes to the Child Care Assistance Program. It had previously been under the “legislative program changes” part of the recommendation.
- The language, that is now under “for further study”, has not changed and reads as follows: *Remove the eligibility requirement to cooperate with child support requirements, replace the eligibility requirement with education about child support enforcement and information about opting-in.*



# Final Deliverable Review

Develop a **plan** and **implementation timeline** that ensures all families have access to affordable, high-quality early care and education that enriches, nurtures, and supports children and their families.

The implementation timeline must phase in the plan over a period of no more than six years, beginning in **July 2025** and finishing no later than **July 2031**.

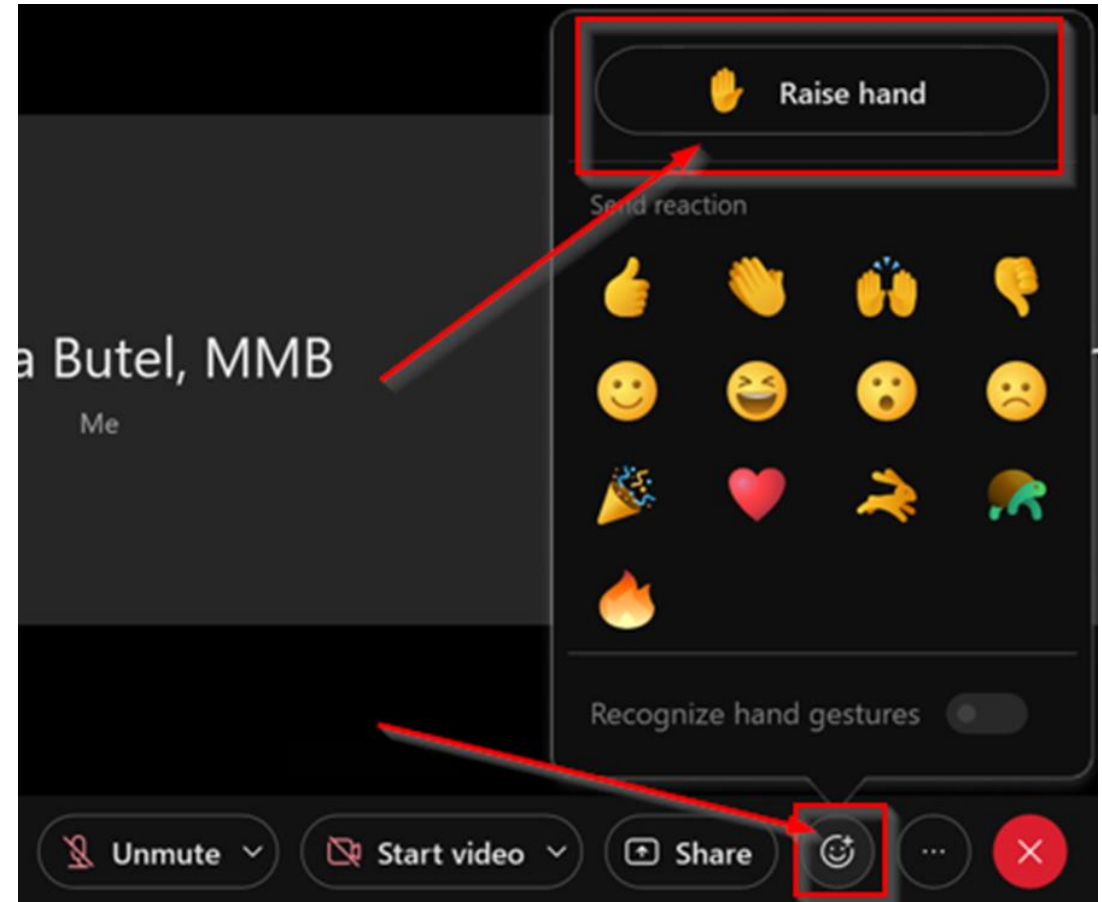
# Updated Timeline to Final Deliverables

Week beginning	Task Force
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Task Force Meeting</b> Review and approve Final Plan & Implementation Timeline (Jan 31 <sup>st</sup> )
	<b>Submit Final Plan &amp; Implementation Timeline (Feb 1<sup>st</sup>)</b> to the governor and legislative committees with jurisdiction over early childhood programs

# Informal Vote: Approval of Final Deliverables

Please indicate your approval of the final report, including today's approved change, by using the '**Raise Hand**' icon/button in WebEx.

To do this, click on the 'smiley face' icon at the bottom of WebEx. After the dialog box opens, please click on the '**Raise Hand**' icon/button if you want to approve the final deliverables document.



# Final Deliverables Recipients

- Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan
- Chairs of jurisdictional committees:
  - Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair, and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
  - Senator John Hoffman, Chair, and members of the Senate Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
  - Senator Mary Kunesh, Chair, and members of the Senate Education Finance Committee
  - Senator Steve Cwodzinski, Chair, and members of the Senate Education Policy Committee
  - Representative Dave Pinto, Chair, and members of the House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
  - Representative Tina Liebling, Chair, and members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee
  - Representative Cheryl Youakim, Chair, and members of the House Education Finance Committee
  - Representative Laurie Pryor, Chair, and members of the House Education Policy Committee
  - Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair, and members of the House Human Services Finance Committee
  - Representative Peter Fischer, Chair, and members of the Human Services Policy



# Plan for Submission of Final Deliverables

- Tomorrow, February 1, we will electronically send the final plan and implementation timeline to the governor and legislative committees with jurisdiction over early childhood programs.
- The final report will be published on the Task Force website, along with Appendix A (list of approved recommendations), and a designed summary of key recommendations, adapted from the executive summary.
- Task Force members will be notified when the report has been submitted and published online.

# Legislative Session Updates

# Alignment: Governor's Budget Proposals (1 of 3)

## Family Affordability

- **Minnesota child and dependent care tax credit:** The proposal provides economic relief to low and middle-income Minnesotans and reduces child care costs for 100,000 additional households. The average savings from the credit would expand significantly from \$500 to \$1,500.
- **Child Care Assistance Program:**
  - \$15 million per year increase in funding to serve more children in the Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance Program
  - Expanding eligibility to foster and kinship families
  - Permanent Reprioritization of Basic Sliding Fee Waitlist
- **Early Learning Scholarships:**
  - \$90 million per year increase to Early Learning Scholarships to serve an additional estimated 9,000 children per year
  - Expanding eligibility to birth to age five, while prioritizing children birth to age three
  - Adding children of incarcerated parents to list of priority populations
- **Targeted Mixed Delivery Early Learning Model:** Establishing a forecasted full-day public prekindergarten program for eligible four-year-old children using a mixed delivery model comprised of school -based, Head Start, licensed community -based center, and family childcare programs, adding an estimated 13,000 slots by 2027.

# Alignment: Governor's Budget Proposals (2 of 3)

## Program Funding

- Increasing **CCAP rates to the 75th percentile** of market rate study.

## Workforce Compensation and Supports

- **Retention payments** for child care programs to strengthen their ability to recruit and retain qualified early educators and increase access to child care for families.
- Increased funding for **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Minnesota Scholarships**.
- Investing additional resources in the **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation** program to expand the program to serve schools and Head Start.
- Creating a set aside to support non-licensed early care and education providers through **Grow Your Own programs**
- Creating a **paid family and medical leave** insurance program.
- Increasing access to **earned sick and safe time** - this proposal would ensure workers can accrue up to 48 hours a year of earned sick and safe time.
- Expanding **health care coverage options**, including through a public option that will offer more choices to Minnesotans who struggle to afford private coverage, and proposing changing Medical Assistance eligibility to ensure a more equitable start for the youngest Minnesotans. This means eligible children under age 6 will remain eligible until their sixth birthday.

# Alignment: Governor's Budget Proposals (3 of 3)

## Accessibility

- Creating an **Office of Child Care and Community Partnerships** at DEED to establish a central office for partnering with the public and private sectors to address child care as an economic and workforce development issue across the state.
- Expanding the DEED **Child Care and Economic Development Grants** to support child care economic development, especially in Greater Minnesota, which will assist child care providers, create much-needed new child care slots, and increase the capacity and quality of child care across the state.
- Sustainable expansion of the **Community Solutions Fund for Healthy Child Development** at MDH.
- Establishing **Community Resource Centers** (funding at DHS with resources for interagency, cross-sector collaboration) with physical and virtual access points for families, supporting relationship-based culturally appropriate programs, service navigation, and case management.
- Resources for **Help Me Connect** family navigation tool and **Full-Service Community Schools**.
- Ongoing funding for the following ARPA-funded investments:
  - **Child Care Wayfinder**, the Child Care One-Stop Assistance Network, to develop a network to support the start-up of new child care programs, and expand and sustain existing child care programs.
  - **Empower to Educate Program** to recruit and provide child care training, job skills and job placement, targeted to economically disadvantaged individuals, to increase the number of people prepared to enter the early care and education workforce.
  - Child care **business training and supports**.

## Effectiveness

- **Streamlining the licensing application and renewal process** for family child care providers, making it easier and more flexible for child care providers and licensors.
- Proposing a new **Department of Children, Youth, and Families** that reimagines state government structures to elevate child, youth, and family priorities and funding needs by providing focused leadership in our executive branch and with the legislature. This new agency will bring together core programs from early childhood through youth. The One Minnesota Budget proposes a process for transitioning to the new agency and obtaining authority and resources to support the creation, alignment, and launch of a two-year process of moving core child, youth, and family support divisions beginning July

# Alignment: 2023 Legislative Actions

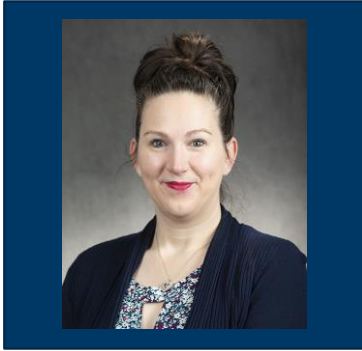
## Legislative Priorities

- DFL House and Senate majorities shared priorities including childcare and early learning, healthcare, and paid family leave and sick time.
- GOP House and Senate minorities shared priorities including tax cuts for the middle class and a focus on student achievement.

## Aligning Bills Moving in Legislature

- HF150 (Pinto) / SF53 (Wiklund): Child care stabilization base grants modified, and investing \$40 million in Early Learning Scholarships while increasing eligibility to those 0-3.
- HF13 (Pinto) / SF14 (Wiklund): Child Care Assistance Program rates modified to 75th percentile.
- HF9 (Kotyza-Witthun) / SF9 (Hauschild): Individual income provisions modified, dependent care credit expanded, great start child care credit established.
- HF2 (Richardson) / SF 2 (Mann): Creating a Paid Family and Medical Leave insurance program.
- HF 19 (Olson) / SF 34 (Pappas): Earned sick and safe time.

# Legislative Member Reflections



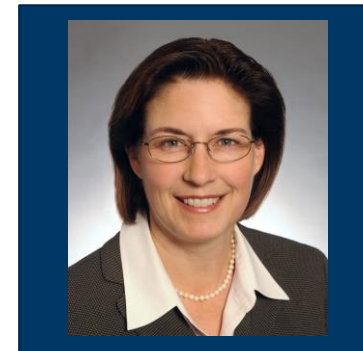
Senator Liz Boldon



Representative Peggy Bennett



Senator Karin Housley



Senator Melissa Wiklund

# Roles & Opportunities to promote the Task Force Plan



# Survey Responses: Roles and Opportunities

## Legislative Advocacy

- *"Possibly testifying at the legislature or advocating other ways especially in my own community."*
- *"Using the report and recommendations to inform conversations with colleagues and legislators."*

## Sharing Recommendations with Stakeholders

- *"Bringing it to the attention of staff and stakeholders."*
- *"I have had the opportunity to communicate the work we have done to many. I will continue to do so."*
- *"Spread the word."*

## Media Engagement

- *"Trying to get in the media as much as possibly to help the masses understand the critical importance of ECE."*
- Social media, press engagement, letters to the editor

## Specific Opportunities:

- MNAEYC Conference – Feb 2-4
- MN Child Care Association Day on the Hill – Feb 14
- MN Head Start Association Quarterly Meeting – March 7
- MN Indian Education Association Conference – April 18-21
- Sourcewell Annual Early Childhood Conference – Oct 6
- MN Child Care Association Conference – date TBD

## Support Needed:

- Talking points on specific recommendations
- Updates relating to recommendations as actions are taken
- Public documents to share

# Reflection & Celebration

# Survey Reflections: Thank you! (1 of 3)

## What are you proud of?

Coming together across different perspectives:

- *"The focus on diverse voices and perspectives."*
- *"Many different ideas and thoughts all coming together... There was active listening, consideration of viewpoints other than one's own, and lots of reflection after each meeting."*
- *"Keeping the rural perspective in the discussion."*
- *"That we came together with different priorities and worked for a common good."*

Strength of Recommendations:

- *"Coming up with a plan that can be used as a 'North Star' for Minnesota."*
- *"7% Affordability Standard"*
- *"Recommendations that will have a profound impact on care and education in our state."*



# Survey Reflections: Thank you! (2 of 3)

## What have you learned?

### Task Force Process:

- *"How beneficial it is to build the house with careful planning and proactive processes. As a result, we have a strong set of recommendations that all members have had an opportunity to reflect on and vote on."*
- *"What seems impossible can be accomplished."*

### Specific ECE Information:

- *"Differences between Pathway 1 and 2 scholarships and funding ECE in general."*
- *"Complexity of some of the workforce issues."*
- *"More information about affordability for families."*



# Survey Reflections: Thank you! (3 of 3)

## What will you do moving forward?

### Advocacy

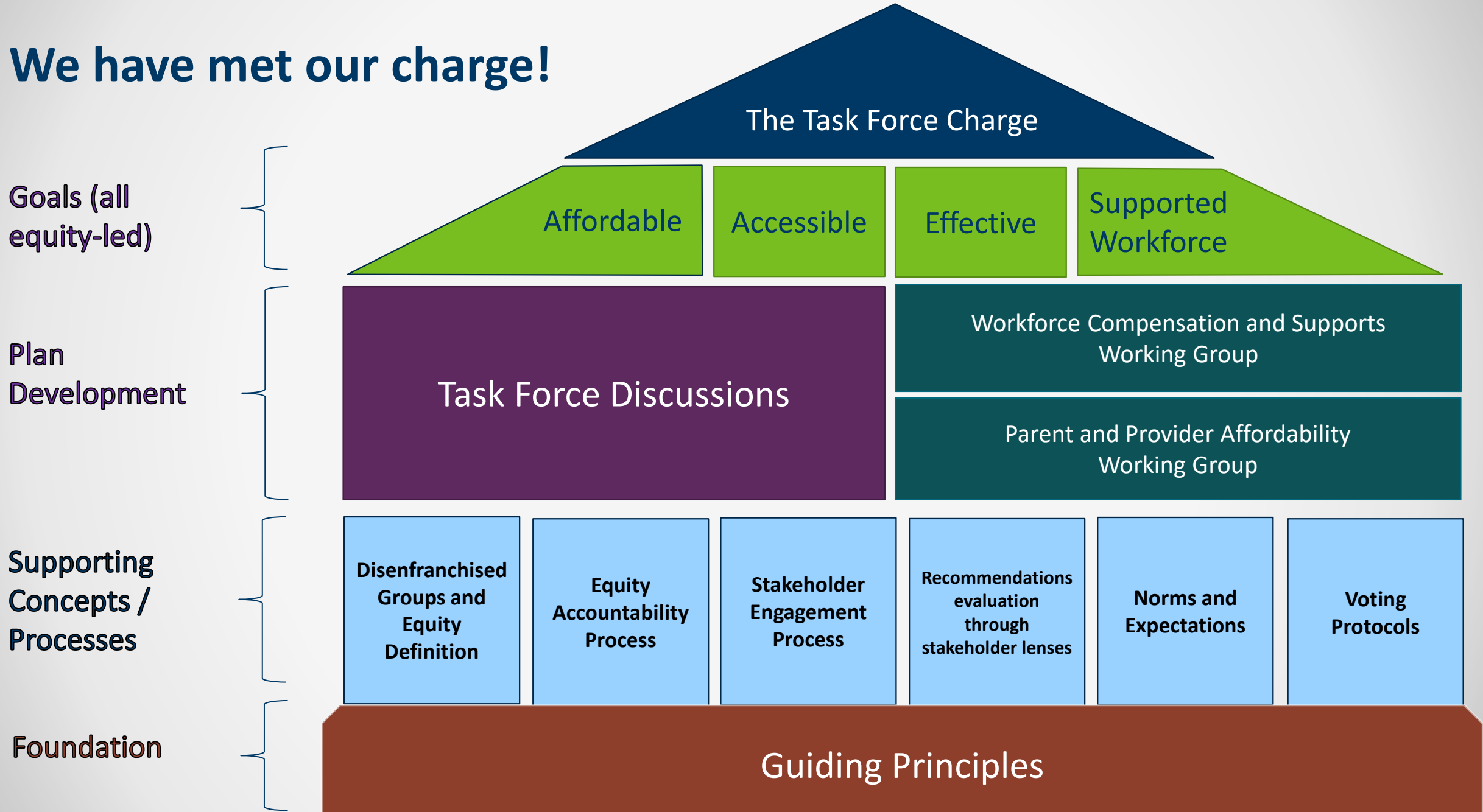
- *"I would like to continue this discussion with local elected officials and help rural early educators voice their needs and concerns."*
- *"Advocating for greater investments in ECE."*
- *"I will commit to continue to work across systems for the benefit of our children and families."*

### Media Engagement

- *"I am very supportive of the recommendations that emerged and want to help publicize them."*



# We have met our charge!



# Close Out and Next Steps

# We have completed our process!





## Next Steps

Final deliverables will be sent tomorrow; Task Force members will receive notification of completion.

Expect a post-Task Force survey tomorrow, asking for your feedback and reflections on the process.

Send any feedback or requests to:  
[greatstart.taskforce.mmb@state.mn.us](mailto:greatstart.taskforce.mmb@state.mn.us)

