



Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force

Working Group Meeting #1: Family and Provider Affordability Working Group

February 15, 2022

Welcome!

Here are our virtual meeting protocols



- **Please be on video** as much as possible to help with overall engagement
- **Mute self** when not speaking
- Use **Chat feature** or **“raise hand” button** for questions or comments
- Technical issues can happen to anyone – **chat privately to Hannah Quinn for any needs**
- If you are experiencing an unstable connection - **switch to phone call or close other applications**
- Members of the **public can submit written feedback to** greatstart.taskforce.mmb@state.mn.us

Reminder: Norms & Expectations

- **Members attend meetings prepared and on time**
- **Engage in respectful dialogue**
 - Everyone's input is important
 - Assume best intent
 - Listen with an open mind, and for commonalities
 - Don't say or type anything you wouldn't want to have shared in public
- **Be actively engaged**
 - Don't just disagree, offer a doable alternative idea
 - Speak to the point on the floor
 - Apply your expertise and networks
- **Confirm decisions as we go**
 - Strike a balance between gathering input and moving forward



Revised Guiding Principles

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

Promote Equity	Prioritize Family Perspectives, Needs, and Choices	Support the Power of Local Communities	Build Upon our Solid Foundation	Uplift and Diversify the ECE Workforce	Recognize Implementation Realities	Expect High Quality & Effectiveness	Design for Stability, Sustainability, and Positive Impact
We will prioritize a system that promotes equitable outcomes, with a specific focus on children of color and building cultural competency in ECE classrooms.	We will 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.	We will ensure local communities are able to define their own priorities and are supported to build the system that meets their children and families' needs.	We will build upon the successes of Minnesota's past and current system, lessons from other states, and the expertise and research in the field.	We will 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.	We will recognize inherent system constraints while remaining responsive to local, state, and federal landscape changes.	We will endeavor to create a high quality and effective ECE system that meets the needs of all of Minnesota's children and all families, regardless of circumstance , knowing that the state's future workforce, economy, and resident welfare is dependent upon it.	We will work to support funding stability for providers, educators, and staff across mixed delivery settings to ensure better service for families.

Welcome & Agenda



Get to know each other



Understand the charge, scope, and goals of the **Affordability** working group



Begin to understand what *we* mean by having an affordable system that works for families and providers.

Working Group Meeting #1 Agenda – 1 hour

- 1:00 – 1:20 p.m.** Welcome | Introductions
- 1:20 – 1:30 p.m.** Working Group Charge, Process & Sequence
- 1:30 – 1:50 p.m.** Brainstorming on Our Charge
Large Group Activity
- 1:50 – 2:00 p.m.** Next Steps

Introductions

Who's In The Room



Name, Role, Organization



Where you “sit” within the system



Your interest in being a part of the
“Affordability” working group

Family and Provider Affordability Working Group

Name, Role,
Organization

Where you “sit”
within the system

Your interest in being
a part of the
“Affordability”
working group

Voting Members	Non-Voting Members
Representative Liz Boldon	Janell Bentz, Minnesota Department of Revenue
Shakira Bradshaw, Parent Children Under 5	Summer Bursch, Minnesota Association of Child Care Professionals (MACCP)
Kath Church, Family Child Care Program	Deb Fitzpatrick, Statewide Advocacy Organization
Brook LaFloe, Tribal Representative	Missy Okeson, Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIFs)
Jayne Whiteford, Parent Children Under 5	Clare Sanford, Minnesota Child Care Association
	Tonia Villegas, Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators
	Cindi Yang, Department of Human Services

Working Group Charge, Process & Sequence

Our Working Group Charge

Define what an affordable ECE system that *works for families* and that *providers want to be part of* looks like in Minnesota and how it can be achieved.



What We Must Consider

Per the Legislation

- The maximum percentage of income that families must pay for ECE
- The process through which families will access financial assistance for ECE (infrastructure, benefit mechanisms, and financing mechanisms)
- How provider payment rates for childcare will be determined and updated
- How to streamline funding and reduce complexity in plan administration
- Roles in administering the plan (including state agencies, local agencies, and community-based organizations)
- How to maintain and encourage the further development of Minnesota's mixed-delivery system in the plan

Family Contributions

Family Benefit Mechanisms

Provider Funding

Administration

Types of Questions We Will Explore

(non-exhaustive)

Family Contributions

- What are today's family co-pay policies for child care financial assistance, and how is it working for families?
- What alternative co-pay policies might we consider and why? What would potential changes mean for affordable access and equity for families within the system?
- What financial impact would a change in family co-pay rates have?

Family Benefit Mechanisms

- How should families access financial assistance in the future system (what are the “benefit mechanisms”)?
- How can we ensure family choice of care setting is maintained and further supported?
- How can we make the system more transparent and accessible to families?

Provider Funding

- What changes are needed in provider pay to have a stable, sustainable system for providers of all types?
- How should provider funding be determined and updated?
- How can we ensure provider pay is equitable across the mixed delivery system?

Administration

- How should the system of provider pay and family benefits be administered to best meet our goals?
- What roles might exist for state agencies, local agencies, community-based organizations, and other entities in the future plan?
- What infrastructure needs exist to set this future system up for success?

Defining and Aligning Around Our Charge

Our Equity Commitments

In all our conversations, we will strive to:

- **Center children and families**
- Pay **particular focus to the needs and priorities** of historically disenfranchised children and families and their communities
- Specifically contemplate **how our decisions may benefit or harm** historically disenfranchised children and families and their communities
- Seek the **expertise and input from stakeholders** already doing the work in historically disenfranchised communities
- Where possible, consider **data that provides insight** into the relative impact on historically disenfranchised children and families and their communities

What comes to mind as we think about...



*What do you **like**? What do you **wish**? What do you **wonder**?*

Next Steps

Anticipated Timeline



Monthly meetings through September 2022

- *February 15th | 1:00 - 2:00 PM*
- March 10 | 12:00 – 2:00 PM
- April 14 | 12:00 - 2:00 PM
- May 12 | 12:00 - 2:00 PM
- June 9 | 12:00 - 2:00 PM
- July 14 | 12:00 - 2:00 PM
- August 11 | 12:00 - 2:00 PM
- September 8 | 12:00 - 2:00 PM
- *October TBD*

Next Steps

- Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 10 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm
- Anticipate a package of documents to support our discussions.
- Share your reflections at GreatStart.TaskForce.MMB@state.mn.us

