

Collaborating Partners Advisory Group

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems & Help Me Grow

November 8, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Rajel Hippler; Parent Ambassador Alumni
Nancy Cronin, Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
Carrie Woodcock Maine Parent Federation
Tracye Fortin, KVCAP/Educare
Anna Cyr Maine CDC MCH
Kelly Waters - USM/Maine CDC
Lori Jewell HBMI/ICWA
Sue Mackey Andrews, Helping Hands with Heart/ Maine Highlands
Jamie Michaud, Part C Coordinator, CDS
Ashlee Crowell-Smith, MMA-CQI
Anne Marie van Hengel MD. org. PQC4ME.
Angie Bellefleur, Help Me Grow
Kathy Willette, Maine Children's Trust/Maine Families Home Visiting
Dara Fruchter, Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects Manager, CCS Part C
Ana Hicks, Maine Children's Cabinet, GOPIF
Fleur Hopper, MCH Epi, USM/MECDC
Rita Furlow, Maine Children's Alliance
Emilie Swenson, Catherine Cutler Institute
Joni Sprague, KVCAP/Educare/Maine State Parent Ambassadors
Hibo Omer, New Mainers Public Health Initiative
Kelley Bowden, MS, RN, Consultant to MMA Center for Quality Improvement
Selam Runyon-Baruch | New Mainers Public Health Initiative
Stacey LaFlamme, MCH Program Manager
Sally DelGreco- Contractor for ECCS SAGE and Strategic Plan

*Others were in attendance but did not enter their name in the chat to be able to document attendance.

We did a Welcome & Reviewed the Agenda & Group Norms established from tthe 1st CPAG Meeting.

Help Me Grow Update: Angie Bellefleur

Help Me Grow (HMG) Maine connects families to information and services. In partnership with 211 Maine, both caregivers and providers can contact HMG for support. HMG will listen, share developmental information, community resources, and provide follow-up to caregivers and referral sources.

Goals:

- ✓ Helping families effectively utilize already-existing programs and services
 - Increasing access to the early periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services
 - Increasing access and referrals to early intervention services
- ✓ Facilitating long-range planning by identifying gaps in services
- ✓ Collaboration with community partners in early childhood and child health fields as we move implementation forward

Official Launch Date: November 10, 2022

- ✓ During our soft launch – approximately seven families were supported.

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Update: Stacey LaFlamme

- ✓ We are still seeking a ECCS Program Manager. Position has been posted twice. Interviews will be next week.
- ✓ The ECCS SAGA has been completed and submitted to HRSA
- ✓ ECCS Strategic Plan is now being developed and due to HRSA January 2023

Introduction to the Evaluation Team for ECCS & Help Me Grow: Fleur Hopper

USM /Maine CDC Epidemiologist:

- ✓ Kelly Waters, Research Associate/Epidemiologist
- ✓ Erika Lichter, Lead MCH Epidemiologist & Associate Research Professor
- ✓ Fleur Hopper, Research Associate/Epidemiologist

What are they doing?

- ✓ Monitoring grant activities
- ✓ Measuring P-3 program referrals and utilization
- ✓ Assessing collaboration among partners
- ✓ Assessing family engagement

What can members of the CPAG; Community Organizations and Parents Expect?

- ✓ Collaboration survey
- ✓ Possible invitation to focus group or interview
- ✓ Sharing our evaluation findings

Reviewed Flyer of strengths & barriers identified through focus groups: Anna Cyr

Anna shared with the group some of the key take aways we learned from hosting the parent focus groups during the SAGA data collection phase of the ECCS project.

Got an Update on the Parent Ambassador Expansion Work & Cohorts: Anna Cyr

Anna shared with the group that with the collaboration and support from Crystal Arbour and team, we were able to encumber a contract with Educare to expand the Parent Ambassador Program. They will be offering two additional cohorts and the 1st cohort had their first session last week. They had a great diverse group and are looking forward to working with these parents/families.

They are currently seeking members for cohort 2 and that group starts November 18th.

Reviewed the SAGA findings with Sally DelGreco

Sally took time to share some of the **common themes** that came out of the State Asset and Gap Analysis.

1. Better awareness of and access to perinatal and early childhood services.
2. The need to strengthen family and provider engagement and shared decision making.
3. Care coordination across providers, programs, and services.
4. Helping families navigate the developmental screening and referral process.
5. Workforce challenges (hiring, retention, professional development) that make it difficult for families to access care when and where they need it.
6. Ensuring equitable systems that meet the needs of Maine's vulnerable and underserved populations including children and families living in poverty, families in rural areas, substance exposed infants, children with special healthcare needs, tribal families, and immigrant and refugee families.
7. The impact of COVID-19. COVID has led to isolation, cancelled, or postponed appointments, staffing challenges, and stress across all systems of care.

Some of the Key Finding:

1. Infrastructure Development (leadership, data systems, workforce)
2. Advancing a Common Vision (shared strategic plans, ECS advisory groups, partnerships)
3. Health System Transformation (successful models, linkages between ECS and health sector, CIRS)
4. Policy and Finance (state level policies, fiscal mapping, Medicaid partnerships)
5. Equity (family leadership, equitable systems, underserved populations)

There were discussions around how much work is being done in the P-3 area currently and it is good to see the work and collaboration occurring.

Talked about the ECCS Strategic Plan:

Equity: Address inequities in Maine P-3 system and improving access to and coordination of P-3 services and programs for underserved populations.

Parent Engagement: Enhance family leadership and parental engagement.

Perinatal Systems of Care: Build on and strengthen linkages between the state's early childhood system and the health sector, particularly in the areas of perinatal systems of care and early intervention services for children 0-3

Plan:

Create a High-Level Overview Strategic Plan:

- Where do our focus areas (Perinatal Systems of Care, Equity, Parent Engagement) fit into the Children's Cabinet Strategic Plan that is divided into categories of quality, workforce, access
- Develop a goal per focus area
- Develop a couple of objectives under each goal (focus area)

Break Down the High-Level Strategic Plan into Action Steps for implementation:

- Dive deeper into High Level Goals & Objectives
- Will discuss with this group
- A draft high-level strategic plan is due at end of January
- Host an in person round table discussion with the CPAG members and others, to include those with diverse back grounds and lived experience, to help break down each area and create action steps.
- Link Strategic Plan & ECCS work plan by developing action steps that are obtainable within the timeframe and funding that is available.

Some questions and comments that were asked throughout the meeting were:

- How does CDS fit into this? Both Part B and Part C
 - Will follow up with Erin Frazier or Roberta Lucas - Part-B.
 - Jamie Michaud- Part C
- Some struggle we face is what might be south may not always be north.
I have friends up north who I'm not sure would have the same access to things that I do or may have a longer wait time because of the rural area.

Talked about Sustainability:

Shared leadership is necessary to keep it as a priority. We write into all of our community partnership agreements the meeting expectation of those who implement as well as the

administrators - all levels must be empowered and expected to communicate and work together. This helps to sustain and build partnerships- especially if there is turnover

Care Coordination:

- We talked about Care Coordination and the fact that this is a mis-used term and many services are not providing what is needed. We need to more Hi-Fidelity Wrap Around Services.
- We also need be doing interpretation and getting translators before and not having it as a second thought
- In other states and practice domains, there are indigenous people who are trained and prepared to support families and work in an immediate need to connect and help them communicate; and they are honored.
 - Great example and a good point to look at other communities that have had success such as what you describe.

Resources:

<https://digitalequitycenter.org/our-strategies/>

Feedback Link for SAGA & Strategic Plan: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DZV2C2F>

ECCS Post Meeting Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DZTYGW7>

Next Meeting: February 7, 2023

11am-1:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/87067058670?pwd=aFpVcUg4QlZKR0hUMk56VXFZbnQvUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 6705 8670

Passcode: 95029737