

# **Collaborating Partners Advisory Group**

## **November 8, 2022 11-1pm**

**Welcome!**

**If you are able, please turn your camera on during this group.**

**Please stay on mute unless you are sharing with your voice.**

**Please put your Name, Organization and Email in the chat.**

**We are not recording this meeting but will send out notes/slides.**

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions (please put name, organization in chat)
- Update from Help Me Grow Team
- Update from ECCS Team
- Feedback from Focus Groups
- Update on Parent Ambassador Program
- Review Findings of Systems Assets & Gap Analysis Work

*Break- 15 Minutes*

- Discussion around Strategic Planning
- Q&A
- Next Steps
- Survey



# Group Norms

- “Say the thing” – don’t be afraid
- Remember history but don’t dwell in it
- Have dialogue vs. debate
- Be ready to share and learn
- Listen
- Assume good intent
- There are no stupid questions
- Remember we are still human
- Give grace to ourselves and each other
- Everyone has something to bring to the table, accept uniqueness and similarities
- Invite people into the conversation, “what do you think?”
- Take care of yourself
- There are many ways to engage – reach out via email if that is more comfortable
- Share back – set parameters around how we share information with each other and beyond this group
- Acknowledge that we are all emerging from the trauma of the pandemic and life changes that may change perspectives
- Give space to the minorities in the collaborative, amplify those voices (including following up after the meeting to round out perspective/fill in the gaps)



# Help Me Grow Maine

Angie Bellefleur

Help Me Grow Program Manager

# A Solution to Help Young Children Shine

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.

## Core Components:

- Centralized Access Point
- Child Health Provider Outreach
- Community & Family Outreach
- Data Collection & Analysis



# Goals of Help Me Grow Maine

- 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



# Program Updates

- Official Launch Date:  
**November 10, 2022**
- During our soft launch – approximately seven families were supported.
- **Approximately – have been reached through our outreach events / efforts.**
- The Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)<sup>®</sup> pilot group has identified 13% of children needing additional follow up and referrals.
- HMG online referral portal is now available.
- Follow HMG on Maine DHHS Facebook social media account for ongoing news and updates.



Questions? We'd love to hear from you.



Tel: 207-624-7969

Toll-Free: 1-833-714-7969

Fax: 207-624-7994

E-mail: [HelpMeGrow@maine.gov](mailto:HelpMeGrow@maine.gov)

Website: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/support-for-families/child-development>



# Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Update

ECCS Project Manager Position was posted and closed yesterday.  
Waiting to see how many applicants we have and to set up interview.

ECCS Systems Asset & Gap Analysis has been completed & submitted to HRSA

ECCS Strategic Plan is due to HRSA in January 2023

**Introduction of our ECCS & HMG Evaluation Team**

# ECCS and Help Me Grow Evaluations

## Our USM/Maine CDC team

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

## What we're doing

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

## What you can expect

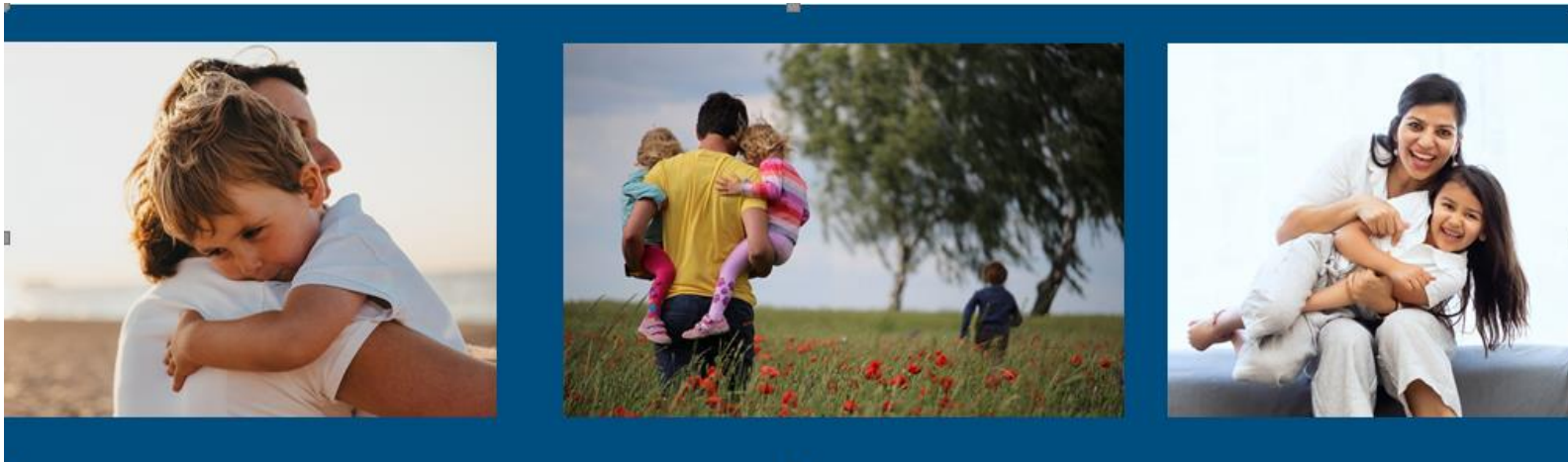
- ✓ **Collaboration survey**
- ✓ Possible invitation to **focus group** or **interview**
- ✓ Sharing our **evaluation findings**

# Focus Group Feedback

The purpose of these focus groups was to determine how accessible services can be reached within the State of Maine.

Each focus group was presented with a comprehensive list of services within the Early Childhood System and asked the following questions:

1. What services has your family accessed or tried to access?
2. What challenges or barriers did you face when accessing any particular service?
3. Were there services that you felt helped your family more than others? How did they help?
4. How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted access to or experience with services?





## STRENGTHS

- Parents and/or caregivers mostly expressed appreciation for providers who were non-judgmental
- Parents and/or caregivers expressed appreciation for being treated as an equal.

"She listened to me"

"I felt respected"

"He learned a couple words in my language to greet me"

## BARRIERS / CHALLENGES

- Access to transportation
- Lack of childcare
- Lack of specialist in Northern Maine
- Stigma/judgement were commonly mentioned
- Lack of communication between providers/agencies which lead to mixed messages
- Long waitlists for services
- Closure of special purpose schools
- Lack of services and/or staffing restraints



# Focus Group Feedback



## FUTURE PLANNING

The information obtained during the focus groups is included in the State Asset and Gaps Analysis, which provides the foundation for the ECCS Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will be completed in early 2023 and will help us re-assess current or future priorities, objectives, and implementation timelines.



SCAN ME

To view the flyer in full, please scan the QR code

# Parent Ambassador Update

## Maine State Parent Ambassadors



Parent Ambassadors complete a year long advocacy training program to learn:

- Basics of Government
- Legislation process
- How to contact lawmakers
- Provide effective testimony
- Leadership skills-Communication, team-building, goal-setting, and conflict management
- Racial Equity and Justice training
- Social media advocacy
- How to engage parents in your community
- How to become a powerful voice for children and families at the local, state and federal levels

## Now Accepting Applications!

Gain skills in Advocacy, Leadership, Racial Equity, Civics, and Communication as a Parent Ambassador



Attendance stipend provided to help with Childcare. Mileage reimbursement provided.



Learn more and apply at:

<https://www.educarecentralmaine.org/mspa-application/>

or scan the QR code

Questions?

Contact Joni Sprague @ 207-680-7233 or

[jonis@kvcap.org](mailto:jonis@kvcap.org)

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# Systems Asset & Gap Analysis

## Common Themes:

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.

# Systems Asset & Gap Analysis

## **SAGA Content Area Findings:**

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)



# Systems Asset & Gap Analysis



To view the executive summary of the SAGA, please scan the QR code

To view the full report of the SAGA, please scan the QR code





Please come back in 15 minutes!

# Strategic Plan

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of the ECCS Strategic Plan is to advance the programmatic goal of building integrated maternal and early childhood systems of care that are equitable, sustainable, comprehensive, and inclusive of the health system, and that promote early developmental health and family well-being and increase family-centered access to care and engagement of the prenatal-to-3 (P-3) population.

The ECCS Strategic Plan should lay out goals for building the capacity of maternal and early childhood systems to improve and support early developmental health and family well-being in the P-3 population.

This plan is intended to serve as a road map for the project's activities, contribute to a statewide early childhood system agenda, and align with current priorities and planning efforts

# Strategic Plan

## **Top three contributions/changes the ECCS Strategic Plan will bring to an existing state plan**

1. **Equity:** Address inequities in Maine P-3 system and improving access to and coordination of P-3 services and programs for underserved populations.
2. **Parent Engagement:** Enhance family leadership and parental engagement.
3. **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

# Feedback

We want to hear from all of you... we want to make sure your voice is heard!

If you would like to provide feedback, suggestions and/or comments, please complete the survey specifically related to the ECCS SAGA and Strategic Plan.

You can access that [Survey Here](#)

Collaborating Partners Advisory Group Session 3 Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DZTYGW7>

# Next Steps.... Wrap Up!

