

Scribes Notebook--Sherry Smith's Notes w/LE edits

Family Engagement and Support

11:00 - 11:10 - Introductions

NOTE: name & affiliations double-checked w/ sign-in sheet passed around during breakout session

1. Corky, CES
2. Heather, CES
3. Betty Bardige, Chair, Brazelton Touchpoints Foundation
4. Jani Beck Brewer, Square One EC
5. Donna Traynham, ESE
6. Carrie Jenkins, The Children's Trust
7. Cheryl Marks; EEC,
8. Joanne Woodcock; Orange Elementary Schools
9. Shirley Mitchell, Athol, Valuing Our Children
10. Elaine Arsenault; Federation for Children w/ Special Needs; Western MA advocate
11. Cate Johnston; Raising a Reader for MA
12. Lakia Small; Justice Resource Institute; ECMHC

11:15 - 11:25 - Group brainstorm: Add to Challenges

Notes/comments upon review of challenge questions:

- What seems to be missing is families/communities helping each other...
 - Peer networks, community support hub? Perhaps this gets at the above point; this point then, is listed in the challenge questions
 - Should we add protective factor language into this question? Corky--we'll add increase social connectedness

- We're finding it is more difficult to connect w/ African-American families more so than Latina/o families; is anyone else experiencing this?
 - Responding question--who are the hard to reach families in each community?
 - This varies by community (e.g. African-American, Cambodian, etc.)
 - How do you identify these families, and how do you get them services in their "footprint", or, where they are?
- After dot exercise:
 - Interesting that the top 4 questions voted on earlier (yellow) were not chosen by the group
 - Are there any like questions to combine?
 - Decided to combine the top 2 dot-questions to become part of one

FINAL ORDER (of Challenge Questions)

TOP 3 Challenge Questions (most dots each):

1. How can we strengthen & create peer networks & community support hubs to families w/ young children? (6 dots)
 - a. (combined w/) How can we increase the number of strength-based family centers? **(5 dots)**
2. How can we learn to see parents as equal partners in building social emotional skills? (4 dots)
 - a. (combined w/) How can we ensure geographically isolated families have access to transportation & other supports? **(2 dots)**
 - b. (combined w/) How can we increase outreach to Latino--REVISED TO families of the global majority--to learn why they don't trust centers to care for their children? **(2 dots)**
3. How can we provide outreach & engagement opportunities to families, where they work, live, play, etc? **(4 dots)**

Middle group of challenge questions (received 1-2 dots)

4. How can we increase families' access to high quality early education & care & outreach & other supports? **(2 dots)**
5. How can we release toxic stress--poverty, homelessness, etc., for families w/ young children? **(1 dot)**
6. How can we increase resources & awareness of impact of trauma & racism on families? **(1 dot)**

Lat group of challenge questions (received 0 dots)

7. How can we help families gain confidence & support so they can advocate for their kids? (0)
8. How can we decrease the cost of high quality care? (0)
9. How can we use trained family partners? (0)
10. How can we follow up more effectively w/ parents w/ young kids who have been in recovery programs? (0)
11. How can we create more culturally responsive EC services? (0)
12. How can we access or develop diagnostic tools that are more culturally/linguistically responsive? (0)

EXAMPLES (of top Challenges)

1. Mom came into family center & clearly was not doing well--intoxicated ("slipped" in recovery); child was not safe and had to call DCF
 - For this person, she came back to the center b/c of the work they did to help her; just having a place for someone to go who needs help
 - All worked together well & parent stayed connected; example of a strengths-based collaboration
2. Can remember a grandad who got up to speak to the legislature; due to circumstances, he was raising his grandson, and was able to talk about the issues he faced; talked about going to the support group the ECC group had for grandparents like him & what a difference it made to him
 - Mindful of opportunities to advocate
3. Dad wants to participate but kids in 3 school w/ no transportation
 - Wanted a voice in transportation resource allocation
 - Importance of family defining the need & listening to the need
 - Family lost custody b/c of violence
 - Motivates to move to a place services were available
 - Become parent/leaders
4. Being able to know what the resources are in your own town, so if someone calls, they can get information to refer others; having a warm handoff w/ relationship to providers
5. Having community resources available w/in schools??

- CFCE's have a place here?
- 6. CFC event; parent had parked her car and had come w/ her kids (took her a lot of work to get there)
 - Saw that there was a parking ticket placed on her car
 - Was given advice, but person could tell that the mom was overwhelmed and wouldn't be able to follow up on her own
- 7. Meeting families where they are; making sure that the families are able or not embarrassed to ask the questions they need to ask;
 - Given permission for families to be, and be seen as who they are

SOLUTIONS to: CHALLENGE QUESTION #1	
How can we strengthen & create peer networks & community support hubs to families w/ young children? (6 dots); (combined w/) How can we increase the number of strength-based family centers? (5 dots)	
Promotion Solutions	Prevention Solutions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop cutting funds for infant family programs; when funding is increased for older children, keep equal EC funding (4 dots) 2. Integrate parenting lens & supports into existing networks, e.g. parents in recovery; mental health (1 dot) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get state funding for strength based family enters (the children's trust) & DFCE (8 dots) 2. Identify natural community locations where parents feel comfortable; meet parents where they are 3. Offer groups (parent cafes) w/ focus on parent connection @ EC centers; natural setting/time (when they're already there!) (5 dots) 4. Build community collaborations to build the protective factors (e.g. strengthening families) (2 dots) 5. Support comprehensive community programs 6. Improve service coordination/referral (1 dot) 7. Create pro broad-based community coalitions for creative synergy (2 dots) 8. Involve families in advocating for services & funding 9. Whoever has the relationship does the service **culture (1 dot) 10. Social media to connect families; redefine "connection" (3 dots)

SQUEEZE TEST: CHALLENGE QUESTION #1 (if money is no object...)

How can we strengthen & create peer networks & community support hubs to families w/ young children? (6 dots); (combined w/) How can we increase the number of strength-based family centers? (5 dots)

Solutions	Doable	Powerful	Scalable	Measurable
1) Identify natural community locations where parents feel comfortable; meet parents where they are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer groups (parent cafes) w/ focus on parent connection @ EC centers; natural setting/time (when they're already there!) (5 dots) 	Green	Green	Orange	Orange
2) Get state funding for strength based family enters (the children's trust) & CFCE (8 dots)	Green	Green	Orange (green if statewide) (orange if local access)	Green
3) Stop cutting funds for infant family programs; when funding is increased for older children, keep equal EC funding (4 dots)	Green	Green	Green	Orange
4) Build community collaborations to build the protective factors (e.g. strengthening families) (2 dots) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support comprehensive community programs • Improve service coordination/referral (1 dots) • Create pro broad-based community coalitions for creative synergy (2 dots) 	Green	Green	Orange (harder in rural areas)	Orange
Compost Bin:				

SOLUTIONS to CHALLENGE QUESTION #2

How can we learn to see parents as equal partners in building social emotional skills? (4 dots)

- a. **(combined w/) How can we ensure geographically isolated families have access to transportation & other supports? (2 dots)**
- b. **(combined w/) How can we increase outreach to Latino--REVISED TO families of the global majority--to learn why they don't trust centers to care for their children? (2 dots)**

PROMOTION SOLUTIONS

1) More representative and diverse workforce (0 dots)

2) Broaden state definition of EC system to include family, friend, & neighbor care & supports (3 dots)

3) Touchpoints training for all (3 dots)

- Professional development around defining families PD-cultural competence & engaging diverse families respecting family values (2 dots)

4) Develop parent leadership; visit families in home; home visits (8 dots)

5) How to build relationship systematically; increase capacity; address trust issues (3 dots)

6) Parent-led advisory council; parent as experts; ask parents & listen (3 dots)

7) Help parents talk about what they already do to foster SEL, what else they may need, & how they can help each other in their community (5 dots)

SQUEEZE TEST: CHALLENGE QUESTION #2

How can we learn to see parents as equal partners in building social emotional skills? (4 dots)

- a. (combined w/) **How can we ensure geographically isolated families have access to transportation & other supports? (2 dots)**
- b. (combined w/) **How can we increase outreach to Latino--REVISED TO families of the global majority--to learn why they don't trust centers to care for their children? (2 dots)**

Solutions	Doable	Powerful	Scalable	Measurable
1) Visit families in home; home visits (tied to clinics & schools) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help parents talk about what they already do to foster SEL, what else they may need, & how they can help each other in their community (5 dots) 	Green	Green	Green	Green
2) How to build relationship systematically; increase capacity; address trust issues (strength-based trust & relationship building) (3 dots)	Green	Green	Green	Green
3) Touchpoints training for all (3 dots) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development around defining families PD-cultural competence & engaging diverse families respecting family values (2 dots) 	Orange	Green	Orange	Green
4) Parent-led advisory council; parent as experts; ask parents	Green	Green	Orange	Orange

Compost Bin:

SOLUTIONS to CHALLENGE QUESTION #3

How can we provide outreach & engagement opportunities to families, where they work, live, play, etc? (4 dots)

PROMOTION SOLUTIONS and PREVENTION SOLUTIONS (these were listed together as promotion & prevention solutions)

1) Don't forget dads; grandparents (4 dots)

2) Find out what parents want/need and how they want to get it--text, online video, FB (6 dots)

3) Build relationships (3 dots)

4) Tap museums, libraries, & other family destinations to support SEL & family strengths (2 dots)

5) Partner w housing authority & other public housing, grocery stores, shelters, hotels (5 dots)

6) Story walks at play spaces families use; supermarkets, malls, parks, recreational (1 dot)

7) Playgroups at laundromats

8) Partner w/ faith-based organizations & cultural organization; food pantries, DTA/WIC offices

9) Parent ambassadors; sporting events; schools (parents) evening programs (5 dots)

10) Services in pediatric waiting rooms (1 dot)

11) Creative use of malls, break rooms at work, community gardens, nature spaces (2 dots)

12) Funding for food & incidentals, transportation , free child care

SQUEEZE TEST: CHALLENGE QUESTION #3

How can we provide outreach & engagement opportunities to families, where they work, live, play, etc? (4 dots)

Solutions	Doable	Powerful	Scalable	Measurable
1) Find out what parents want/need and how they want to get it--text, online video, FB (6 dots)	Green	Orange	Orange Have to pay attention to language, culture, access to social media, etc.	Green
2) Parent ambassadors; sporting events; schools (parents) evening programs (using parents to outreach to other parents and learn how to navigate the system, maybe at these places) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop parent leadership (5 dots) 	Green	Green	Green	Green
3) Don't forget dads; grandparents (all types of caregivers; outreach, programs) (4 dots)	Green	Green	Green	Green
4) Creative community partnerships: Partner w housing authority & other public housing, grocery stores, shelters, hotels (5 dots) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner w/ faith-based organizations & cultural organization; food pantries, DTA/WIC offices • Creative use of malls, break rooms at work, community gardens, nature spaces (2 dots) 	Green	Green	Green	Orange How to measure this?

Compost Bin:

Deep Dive

Solutions	Action Steps	Policy recommendations
1) Get state funding for strength based family enters (the children's trust) & CFCE	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Get/show measurable data2. Get on kids first road map3. Use successful examples from other states4. Show disparities in existing services5. Document returns of existing services	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "Set aside" policy for families w/ young children
2) Parent ambassadors; sporting events; schools (parents) evening programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Replicate existing models2. Identify training opportunities3. Build on what's news4. Look back at funded projects that were successful5. Head Start frameworks, tools, and other existing tools6. SE competency; inclusion of parents linking to SEL children's frameworks	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mandate a meaningful parent voice in decision-making bodies2. Head Start frameworks3. Cultural Competency @ policy level
3) Visit families in home; home visits (tied to clinics & schools, etc.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support & train schools to do home visits & SEL w/ parents2. Use data from Pllot @ Race to the Top3. Examples from schools who are doing this well4. Training & support at all levels of staff for programs to partner on home visits so that everyone who interacts w/ families have a common understanding5. Build networks of trained community	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Policy requires home visits by schools2. Mandate thoughtful strategic planning as part of funding

	providers	
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