

Interagency Resource Management Committee 2020 Annual Report April 2021



Annual Report to the Governor, General Assembly and
Interagency Resource Management Committee

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Secretary of Education
Voice: (302) 735-4000
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April 15, 2021

The Honorable John C. Carney, Jr.
Office of the Governor
Tatnall Building, 2nd Floor
150 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Dover, DE 19901

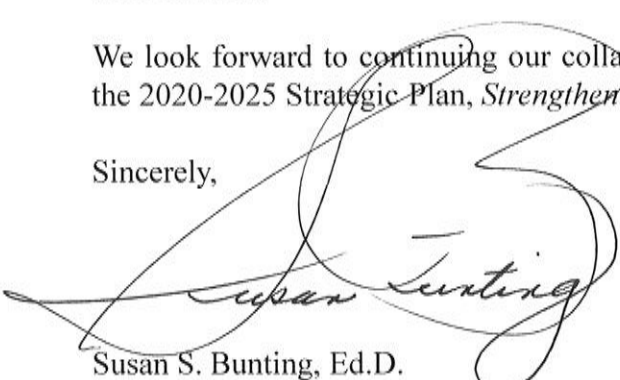
Dear Governor Carney:

As Chair of the Interagency Resource Management Committee (IRMC) it is my pleasure to provide the enclosed annual report, which provides a comprehensive view of initiatives undertaken in 2020 by the Delaware Early Childhood Council (DECC), the Interagency Resources Management Committee (IRMC) and the Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the myriad challenges that we all faced in 2020, the Department of Education has remained diligent in working with the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families to find new innovative ways to educate, inform and provide supportive services to Delaware's children. In part, our success can be attributed to the 2020 changes in governance that allowed for better coordinated early childhood services for children and their families.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in support of the DECC as it begins implementing the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, *Strengthening Early Success: Building our Future Together*.

Sincerely,



Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education

cc: David Sokola, President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Peter C. Schwartzkopf, Speaker of the House



The Delaware Early Childhood Council is pleased to work with the IRMC and the agencies represented to make progress toward our vision for a comprehensive system of early childhood services. The Council is a governor-appointed advisory body made up of non-government and government representatives across the state. We focus on issues affecting children birth to age 8 and their families. This holistic, two-generation focus is intended to address systemic issues, policies, funding, data systems, and other factors to support high-quality services to support families.

Early learning continues to be a priority of state leaders, the business and philanthropic community, and community partners. Research has demonstrated what an important foundation the early years are for success in life—and we have seen firsthand in Delaware the impact early investments can have.

The Council is committed to working in partnership, making data-driven decisions, and learning from other states and regions to best serve families in Delaware. This year, we completed a comprehensive needs assessment and launched our new 5-year strategic plan, with support from federal Preschool Development Grant funds. The plan identifies updates our vision and goals and organizes our work into the following areas that all children and families deserve: access to holistic services, high-quality programs, partnerships with professionals, and navigate a simple system. As Governor Carney indicated at the October 2020 launch, this plan will be our roadmap for the future of early childhood in our state.

We are excited to celebrate some exciting progress this year, including Enhanced Reimbursement grants to child care providers based on enrollment of children; consolidated governance of Stars and child care licensing under the Department of Education; a new Associate Secretary of Early Childhood Support at the DOE; successful telehealth home visiting services; a Healthy Steps pilot underway at Nemours pediatric practices; new data systems under development to improve services to families; and a proposed increase in our state Pre-K program for the first time since it was created.

Many thanks to our partners, including those listed in this report and those we hold joint meetings with including the Wilmington Early Care and Education Council, Sussex Early Childhood Council, and the Delaware Readiness Teams. We look forward to many more years of partnership to support Delaware's young children, to increase quality of life and equitable outcomes, and to build our state's future, together.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Bayard
Chair, Early Childhood Council



**Delaware Health
and Social Services**

Office of the Secretary

1901 N. DUPONT HIGHWAY, NEW CASTLE, DE 19720 * TELEPHONE: 302-255-9040 FAX: 302-255-4429

February 2021

The Honorable John C. Carney
Governor
Tatnall Building
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. South
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Carney:

I join the other members of the Interagency Resource Management Committee in providing this Annual Report, which features the accomplishments of the Delaware Early Childhood Council (DECC).

The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) shares the priority of supporting families and children with the members of DECC, the Family Services Cabinet Council, First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney, and you.

In the past year as we grappled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our youngest Delawareans and their families, the DSS Child Care Subsidy program, Purchase of Care (POC), has worked in collaboration with the Department of Education, our Division of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Labor, and the Governor's Office in both internal and public meetings in order to proactively plan ways to better assist the child care provider community through the pandemic.

DSS' POC interventions during the pandemic include paying parent co-pays for authorized children; extending certification periods for POC cases for 6 months; paying closed providers based on a baseline month from April through June; paying a subsidy to open providers impacted by the March 2020 school and community shutdowns; authorizing full-time care for school-age children during the school year; making enrollment-based provider payments from April through December; and paying via a new model that establishes a provider payment floor beginning in January 2021. Throughout the pandemic, DSS paid up to 700 providers per month, with a monthly average of about \$ 8,200,651.

DHSS has also continued to move ahead with its pre-pandemic plans. DPH successfully integrated its Part C Individual with Disabilities Education Act into one overarching program within DPH to ensure a single line of authority, thus streamlining processes for both families and State partners. We continue to update and improve Part C policies and procedures to make sure that we are complying with both State and federal requirements and national best practices to better serve Delaware.

At DHSS, we look forward to continuing this important work in collaboration with DECC in supporting Delaware families.

Sincerely,


Molly K. Magarik
Secretary of Health and Social Services



February 13, 2021

Dear Governor Carney,

It is my pleasure to join my fellow Interagency Resource Management Committee (IRMC) members in presenting you with the annual report for 2020. It has been an unexpectedly challenging year in the world of early childhood education due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are proud of the collaboration between IRMC agencies to ensure safe learning environments for children. The Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families (DSCYF) is happy to continue partnering with the IRMC in supporting parents, providers, children, and communities during these unprecedented times.

While the Office of Child Care Licensing transferred to the Department of Education on July 1st of last year, DSCYF continues to support quality early care and education by providing background and Child Protection Registry checks for child care providers and other child-serving entities. We are also especially proud of the work of our Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants, who have continued to assist early learning programs and families in addressing challenging behaviors even during the pandemic.

The mission of DSCYF is to engage families and communities to ensure the safety and well-being of children through prevention, intervention, treatment, and rehabilitative services. Our partners on the IRMC recognize that this mission cannot be realized without collaboration and coordination at the state level.

Both DSCYF and the IRMC recognize that success in early childhood is the foundation for the rest of a child's life, and this will remain a priority for Delaware as we navigate the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and its long-term effects on the early childhood landscape.

Sincerely,

Josette D. Manning
Cabinet Secretary
Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families



April 15, 2021

The Honorable John C. Carney, Jr.
Office of the Governor
Tatnall Building, 2nd Floor
150 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Carney:

As Chair of the Interagency Resource Management Committee's (IRMC) Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee (ELOS), I am honored to contribute to the 2020 IRMC Annual Report.

With a full year of work behind us, subcommittee members have been diligently working to fulfill our purpose to oversee the coordination, research and planning statewide for before and after school and summer learning programs for school-age children.

In the last year, we have studied local and national best practices in extended care programs and identified resources for programming. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the increased need for extended learning services in the state. In order to best support our students, we must continue to advocate for resources and funding to address unfinished learning and learning loss during these unprecedented times.

From tutoring to STEM to supportive services such as technology and meals, resources and funding in the extended learning space are no longer a luxury; instead, they have become necessary if students are to stay on track and succeed in career and life.

We are very excited to collaborate with other children and youth-serving entities as we seek to find ways to address students' needs.

Sincerely,

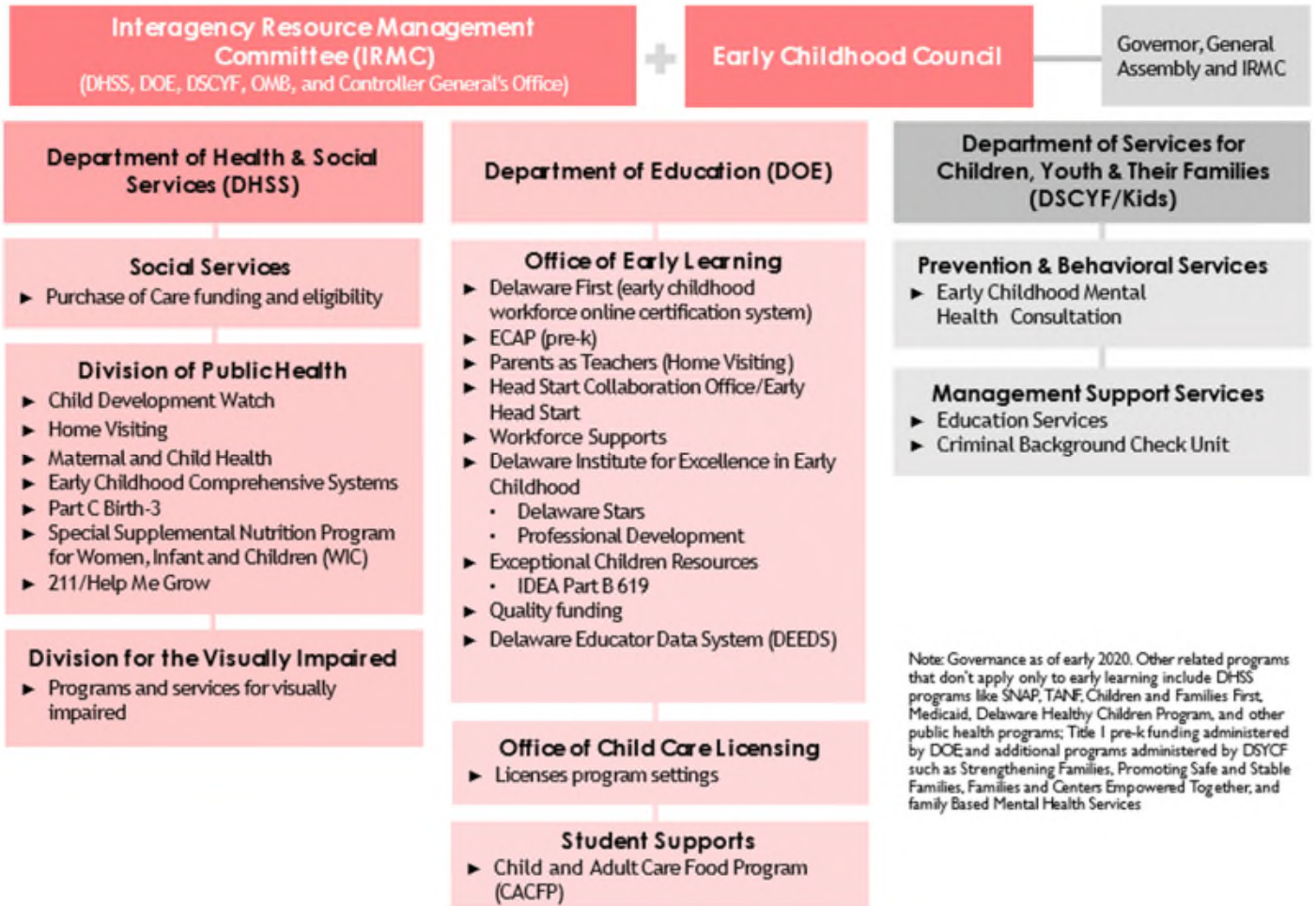
Regina Sidney-Brown, MSODL
Chair, IRMC Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee

cc: David Sokola, President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Peter C. Schwartzkopf, Speaker of the House

Section I: Early Childhood Governance in Delaware

Early Childhood Governance Across Agencies

Eight ECCE divisions across DOE, DHSS, and DSCYF, leading to an inefficient and complex system for families, professionals, and programs



Section II: Interagency Resources Management Committee (IRMC)

and

IRMC's Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee (ELOS)

Interagency Resource Management Committee (IRMC) Mission

The mission of the Interagency Resource Management Committee (IRMC) is to provide administrative responsibility and oversight for all appropriations made to the Department of Education pursuant to this section. Such administrative responsibility shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Determining unserved and underserved areas within the State to be addressed in any given year. Such identified areas will be specified within the Request for Proposal (RFP) issued to prospective providers
- Reviewing, recommending and disbursing grant awards for contracts to qualifying providers to deliver early childhood educational services to preschool-age children who live in poverty
- Reallocating unobligated or unspent appropriations made to the Department of Education pursuant to this section
- Verifying that the contracting providers use state funds paid to them for the purposes specified in their contracts

Additional information regarding the responsibilities of the IRMC can be found in [14 Del. C. §3001 State Early Childhood Education Program \[Effective July 1, 2020\]](#).

IRMC Members as of December 31, 2020

Role Defined in Code	Name
Secretary of Education, who shall be the chairperson of the IRMC	Susan Bunting
Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services	Molly Magarik
Secretary of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families	Josette Manning
Director of the Office of Management and Budget	Cerron Cade
Controller General	Ruthann Jones
Chair of Early the Childhood Council (non-voting)	Madeleine Bayard
Chair of the IRMC Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee (non-voting)	Regina Sidney-Brown

IRMC 2020 Meeting Topics and Presenters

January 15, 2020 Meeting

Delaware Early Childhood Council Nominations for Approval – Kirsten Olson and Dr. Matthew Burrows

Early learning governance update Office of Child Care Licensing to Department of Education – Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski

Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee Update – Regina Sidney-Brown
DECC Strategic Plan Update – Madeleine Bayard and Caitlin Gleason

April 8, 2020 Meeting

Delaware Early Childhood Council Nominations for Approval – Lucinda Ross

[2019 IRMC Annual Report](#) Approval

DECC Strategic Plan Update – Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski

Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee Update – Candice Buchanan

Early Learning Governance Update – Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski

CCDF Quality Funding Update – Molly Magarik

July 16, 2020 Meeting

COVID-19 Impacts on Early Learning / Child Care Providers and Creation of Enhanced Reimbursement Fund – Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski

Returning to School Guidance, Plans and Public Workgroups - Sec. Susan Bunting

Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee Update – Candice Buchanan

New DHSS Secretary Molly Magarik Welcome - Sec. Susan Bunting

New DOE Position – Associate Secretary of Early Childhood Support Announcement – Sec. Susan Bunting

Early Governance Update Birth-To-Three Program and Office of Child Care Licensing

Relocation – Sec. Molly Magarik and Sec. Susan Bunting

CCDF Quality Fund Changes – Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski

October 21, 2020 Meeting

Delaware Early Childhood Council Nominations for Approval - Cheryl Clendaniel, Heidi Beck, Dr. Michelle Shaivitz and Carrette

Return to School Update – Sec. Susan Bunting

DECC Strategic Plan Update – Madeleine Bayard

Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee Update – Candice Buchanan

New Department of Health and Social Services Deputy Secretary Welcome – Sec. Susan Bunting

IRMC's Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee (ELOS) Mission

The mission of the ELOS is to oversee coordination, research and planning statewide for before and after school and summer learning programs for school-age children, with the charge to advise the General Assembly and the Governor.

Additional information regarding the responsibilities of the ELOS can be found in [14 Del. C., §1703A. Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee.](#)

ELOS Members as of December 31, 2020

Role Defined in Code	Name
Secretary of Education or Designee	John Hulse
Secretary of DSCYF or Designee	Meredith Seitz
Secretary of DHSS or Designee	Tiyana Prince
DE Afterschool Network Director (Chair)	Regina Sidney-Brown
Rep of nonprofit afterschool program provider	Vacant
Rep of private afterschool program provider	Brandon Bolinski
Rep of summer program provider	Candice Buchanan
School District superintendent	Vacant
Rep of elementary school teachers	Janine Clarke
Rep of secondary school teachers	Kerry Stahl
Four members of the public	Yolanda Rushdan
	Rosalia Martinez
	Vacant
	Vacant
Rep of Charter School community	Denise Stouffer
Rep of Gov Advisory Council on Exceptional Children	Bill Doolittle
Rep of Providers Advisory Board	Connie Merlet
Two Principals – one elementary	Rebecca Feathers
and one secondary	Michele Savage

ELOS 2020 Meeting Topics and Presenters

January 21, 2020 Meeting

ELOS Terms and Five Key Focus Areas

University of Delaware's Extended Learning Opportunities in Delaware Report

SAIL Task Force Report

February 18, 2020

Delaware Afterschool Network presentation – Regina Sidney-Brown

University of Maine's "*Successful Strategies for Extended Learning Opportunities*" reviewed

Draft statement on ELOS activities for 2019 IRMC Annual Report approved

Out of School Time Best Practices Document reviewed

April 21, 2020 Meeting

COVID-19 Pandemic Impact and Challenges

DELACARE and Delaware Stars standards

May 19, 2020 Meeting

Delaware Stars Standards Revision presentation – John Fisher-Klein

COVID-19 Pandemic Impact and Challenges

Return to School Plans

June 16, 2020 Meeting

Technology Equity and WiFi

Beau Biden Virtual Safety Training (Abuse)

July 21, 2020 Meeting

Financial resources relative to COVID-19 Pandemic – CARES Act Funding

School Reopening Guidance

August 11, 2020 Meeting

School Reopening Guidance

Early Child Care Providers Challenges with COVID-19

CARES Act Funding

Technology Equity Statement and Wi-Fi Challenges

October 13, 2020 Meeting

Delaware Stars Standards Revision Update – John-Fisher Klein

November 10, 2020 Meeting

Delaware Libraries presentation – Annie Norman

"*America After 3PM*" Report discussed

December 8, 2020 Meeting

Vote on the Technology Equity Statement

Addressing COVID-19 impacts to Before, After, and Summer Learning

2020 ELOS Accomplishments

The Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee accomplished several objectives in 2020, including the following:

- Welcomed 2 new members to the Subcommittee
- Clearly outlined purpose, scope of work and common definitions
- Reviewed national and local reports which highlighted best practices in extended learning programs and services (i.e., [University of Delaware's Extended Learning Opportunities in Delaware Report](#), [Statewide Afterschool Initiative Learning Task Force Report](#), Delaware Afterschool Network's [DEAN 2018 Data Project Report.docx](#)), [Successful Strategies for Extended Learning Opportunities](#) and several others)
- Reviewed national and local resources and programming for before and after school care and summer learning programs (21st Century Community Learning Programs, Delaware After School Network, United Way of Delaware, Delaware After School Alliance, and Afterschool Alliance)
- Researched and reviewed funding mechanisms for before and after care and summer learning programs, including CARES Act Funding
- Discussed impact of COVID-19 on students, families, and staff and the increased need for extended learning programming, professional development, technology and resources
- Explored the impact of COVID-19 on extended learning providers
- Provided information to members, via guest speakers, regarding early childhood literacy, access to statewide library resources and Delaware Stars Standards Redesign.
- Created, approved and sent Technology Equity Statement to the Governor and key members of the General Assembly to highlight the importance of children and their families having access to technology in order to ensure equitable education and extended learning opportunities.

Section III: Delaware Early Childhood Council (DECC)



Delaware Early Childhood Council (DECC) Mission and Vision

The mission of the Delaware Early Childhood Council (DECC) is to promote the development of a **comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system**, birth to eight, which provides the **highest quality services and environment** for Delaware's children and their families.

Additional information regarding the responsibilities of the DECC can be found in [14 Del. C. §3002 Early Childhood Council](#).

The vision of the DECC – Delaware commits to **all children and families** having access to an **integrated early childhood system**, from birth-8, which provides **high-quality programs and services** and an environment that supports their growth, development, and learning, and prepares them for **success in school and life**.

We know that in order to achieve this vision, we must commit to integrating the State's birth-8 health and education systems.

Though it may take beyond 2025 to achieve this vision, we must begin now!

DECC Members as of December 31, 2020

Role Defined in Code	Name
Two center-based early care and education providers	Cheryl Clendaniel
	Lucinda Ross
One family-home based early care and education provider	Carrette Monsanto
One parent whose child participates in early childhood services	Tanisha Merced
One Delaware Head Start/Early Childhood Assistance Program Association Representative	Heidi Beck
One Representative of a state-wide early care and education resource and referral agency	Kirsten Olson
Two representatives from advocacy organizations focused on children's health and well-being	Kelli Thompson
	Katherine Rudolph
One representative of the Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children	Michelle Shaivitz
One public school district superintendent	Matthew Burrows
One higher education representative who is also serves on the P-20 Council	Elizabeth Ritchie
One business community representative	Olivia Gatewood
Two community members	Michelle Wall
	Madeleine Bayard
One representative of the General Assembly	Debra Heffernan
The State Director of Head Start Collaboration	Debra Taylor
A representative of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, representing children's health, child care subsidy, and Part C of IDEA	Gabriela Kejner
A representative of the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, representing child mental health, child care licensing, and family services	Meredith Seitz
A representative of the Delaware Department of Education representing early childhood professional development, section 619 of IDEA and state early learning guidelines	Kimberly Krzanowski

DECC Ex-Officio Members as of December 31, 2020

Role Defined in Code	Name
Director of the Early Development and Learning Resource Center of the Department of Education (now known as the Office of Early Learning)	Kimberly Krzanowski
Chair of the Family Support Coordinating Council	Karen DeRasmo
Director of the State's Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood	Rena Hallam
General Ex-officio Member	Ed Freel
General Ex-officio Member	Mary Moor
General Ex-officio Member	Karyl Rattay
	Elizabeth Timm
General Ex-officio Member	Michelle Wilson
General Ex-officio Member	Rebecca Vitelli
General Ex-officio Member	Clara Martinez
General Ex-officio Member	Lee Pachter
General Ex-officio Member	Julie Johnson
	Kimberly Brancato
General Ex-officio Member	Quinn Johnson
General Ex-officio Member	Meghan Walls
General Ex-officio Member	Mike Quaranta



DECC 2020 Meeting Topics and Presenters

January 29, 2020 Meeting

- Governance/Budget Update – Jon Sheehan
- Strategic Plan – Work Session #2 – Madeleine Bayard
- Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee – Candice Buchanan
- 2020 Census Update by KIDSCOUNT – Erin Lynch

March 26, 2020 Meeting

- COVID-19 Agency Updates from Department of Education (DOE), Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), and Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) - Various

May 26, 2020 Meeting

- Administration Update – State of Emergency – Child Care and CARES Act Funding Update – Jon Sheehan
- Agency Updates – \$9 million in Stimulus Funding – Emily Cunningham
- Governance Updates – Office of Child Care Licensing and Part C – Emily Cunningham, Molly Magarik and Meredith Seitz
- Delaware Stars Redesign Timeline and Opportunities for Engagement – John Fisher-Klein
- Voices from the Field
 - [Delaware Education Association for Young Children \(DEAEYC\) Survey Results](#) – Lucinda Ross
 - Providers Prospective – Cheryl Clendaniel and Karen Hartz
 - Family Services and Health Organizations – Diane Frentzel and Kirsten Olson
- Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Extension – Caitlin Gleason
- Strategic Plan Update and Discussion – Madeleine Bayard

July 29, 2020 Meeting

- Agency Updates – DOE – Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski and Emily Cunningham
 - Enhanced Reimbursement
 - DEEDS
 - Delaware Stars Redesign and Feedback Sessions
 - Student enrollment and registration system
- [Parent and Provider Survey Results](#) – Diane Frentzel and Heidi Beck
- Governor's Office Update on CARES Act Funding and Reopening Schools – Jon Sheehan
- Strategic Plan Update and Work Session – Madeleine Bayard and Caitlin Gleason
- Upcoming Strategic Plan and Delaware Stars Redesign Feedback Sessions Announced

July 30, 2020 Meeting* - DECC Strategic Plan Work Session

August 11, 2020 Meeting* - [Delaware Stars Standards QRIS Redesign Feedback Session](#)

September 23, 2020 Meeting

- Sussex Early Child Care Council Update – Christine Olley
- Governance Funding and Agency Update – Gabriela Kejner and Emily Cunningham
 - Enhanced Reimbursement
 - Associate Secretary of Early Childhood Support Hired
- DHSS Update – Gabriela Kejner
- DOE Update – Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski
 - Early Care / Education Provider Support, Licensing Updates
 - Delaware Stars Revisions Update – John Fisher-Klein
 - Data Systems Update – Caitlin Gleason and Patches Hill
- DSYCF Update
 - [Child Abuse Reporting and Awareness](#) – Jen Rini/Trenee Parker
 - [Mental Health Resources for Providers and Professionals](#) – Mary Moor
- Strategic Plan Update – Madeleine Bayard
 - Feedback / Release Plan / Implementation

October 7, 2020 Meeting* – [Cost of Care](#)

October 21, 2020 Meeting* – Announcement of the [2020-2025 DECC Strategic Plan - Video](#)

November 10, 2020 Meeting

- Head Start Association Celebrates 55 Years – Heidi Beck and Debra Taylor
- Welcome to Yvette Sanchez-Fuentes – Associate Secretary of Early Childhood Support
- Agency Updates – DHSS Update – Thomas Hall
- PDG Update – Caitlin Gleason
- [Strategic Plan Implementation](#) – Madeleine Bayard
 - Council Roles and Responsibilities and Launching New Committees – Madeleine Bayard
- Wilmington Early Care & Education Council Update – Lynn Jezyk and Zulma Arroyo-Loomis

2020 DECC Accomplishments

2020 was a big year for the Delaware Early Childhood Council:

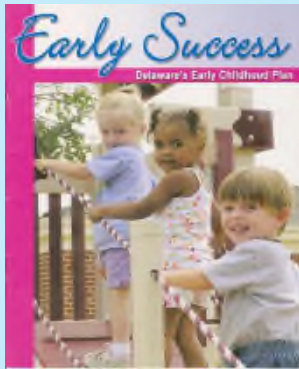
- Welcomed 11 new members to the Council
- Welcomed Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, Delaware's first Associate Secretary of Early Childhood Support at the Department of Education
- Supported further consolidation of programs and services with the move of the Office of Child Care Licensing and federal child care quality dollars to the Department of Education
- Supported Enhanced Reimbursement and School Age Grants to child care providers
- Promoted participation in the U.S. Census and in Child Abuse Identification and Prevention outreach activities
- Completed the Preschool Development Grant B-5 Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning Process
- Initiated student registration system, workforce data system, and quality rating data system
- Launched our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan entitled *Strengthening Early Success: Building Our Future Together*

"This plan will be our roadmap for the future."

– Governor John C. Carney

Early Child Care Strategic Plan Timeline 2008-2025

This plan builds on the robust brain science and research base on effective practice from birth to age 8.



State receives federal Preschool Development Grant—Birth to 5 grant for needs assessment and planning



Accomplishments – Previous Strategic Plan

Celebrating the Work of *Sustaining Early Success Plan* as we look toward implementing a new strategic plan.

We recognize and applaud the essential industries that supported families with young children during the COVID-19 health crisis; health care, early childhood care and education, child welfare, and many other support systems went above and beyond. Creative approaches like telehealth and online learning activities have sustained families and helped build resilience.

GOAL 1

A HEALTHY START FOR CHILDREN

- Developmental screening options available online and via phone for all families with children 0-5
- Common statewide home visiting referral form to simplify families accessing services
- Project LAUNCH furthers support on mental health and wrap around supports
- Adopted policy on suspension and expulsion
- Healthy Steps pilot of integrated pediatric well visits including parenting, mental health, and intensive screenings
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Service scaled and sustained statewide

GOAL 2

HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND PROFESSIONALS

- Expansion of Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership statewide to increase access to quality care for children 0-3
- Early Childhood Teacher Academy career technical education pathway launched in high school with opportunity for credit articulation and certification
- \$Stand by Me financial coaching provided to early childhood workforce and families
- Expansion of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Delaware scholarship to serve CDA, AA, and BA candidates
- Expansion of Child Care WAGES® Program salary supplement to increase support retention

GOAL 3

HIGH-QUALITY ALIGNED AND EFFECTIVE EARLY LEARNING SYSTEM, BIRTH-3RD GRADE

- Statewide Kindergarten Registration and Readiness Campaign launched reaching thousands of families
- Early Learner Survey tool used to observe every kindergarten student at the start of school
- State inclusion guide released with practices and guidelines for all providers
- Mychildde.com family awareness portal and provider resource hub launched

GOAL 4

SUSTAINED SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

- Office of Child Care Licensing moved to Department of Education to consolidate governance of early childhood across agencies and divisions
- Increased state investments in quality care through increased Purchase of Care child care subsidy rates and increased tiered reimbursement to support quality

Needs Assessment and Resource Materials



The federal [Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five](#) (PDG B-5) was awarded to Delaware in December 2018. This \$4.2 million grant was designed to better prepare all children to enter kindergarten ready to learn. The grant was designed to help Delaware strengthen its early childhood system as well as greatly improve student transitions from early childhood programs to the K-12 school system. PDG B-5 required Delaware to complete a comprehensive, statewide birth-through-five needs assessment to determine the state's current early learning needs and priorities. This needs assessment informed the Delaware Early Childhood Council's 2020-2025 strategic plan to enhance Delaware's early learning system.

[Delaware PDG B-5 Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan Literature Review](#) – This document summarizes common themes from existing Delaware-specific early childhood health and education needs assessments, strategic plans, and recommendation reports within the last ten years.

[Delaware PDG B-5 Consolidated Needs Assessment](#) – This document merges all quantitative analyses, findings, and recommendations into one final deliverable. This comprehensive research fact base is organized into an analysis of Delaware's early childhood landscape, opportunities to improve the system and a vision for future strategic planning.

[Delaware PDG B-5 User Experience Needs Assessment](#) – This document summarizes the qualitative data gathered from Delaware families and early childhood professionals and organizes their feedback into *Needs and Insights*, *Experiences that Matter*, and *Shifts and Design Principles*. The design of this document reflects the human-centered approach taken to understand Delawareans' experience within early childhood care and education (ECCE) mixed delivery system. It summarizes what they eloquently and authentically shared with the PDG B-5 research team as they traveled across the state to meet with families in their homes, communities, and workplaces.

[Delaware PDG B-5 Data Systems Needs Assessment](#) – This document summarizes the technical, data systems analyses. It includes an analysis of the number of children currently served and awaiting services in the ECCE system, with particular focus on the unduplicated number of children served. Findings explore the use of Delaware's unique child identifiers and how data currently flows through state agency systems and the business processes that support these flows.

[Delaware PDG B-5 Cost of Quality Study](#) – This document explores one particular issue identified during the needs assessment process: the importance of providing more affordable and quality child care seats to families. This study uses financial models to understand the costs of delivering quality care to children.

[Delaware PDG B-5 Cost of Quality Executive Summary](#) – A two-page document highlighting the Cost of Quality Study conclusions.

Section IV: DECC New Strategic Plan

DECC 2020-2025 Strategic Plan - Strengthening Early Success: Building Our Future Together

In October 2020 the DECC launched the [DECC 2020-2025 Strategic Plan - Strengthening Early Success: Building our Future Together](#).



Additional Resources for the Strategic Plan include:

[Executive Summary](#)

[Birth to Five Needs Assessment](#)

[Transcript of Release Event](#)

[Video of Release Event](#)

www.tinyurl.com/DECC2020

DECC Strategic Plan Guiding Principles



EQUITY

- Equitably serving all children and targeting development, language, resource, and/or family needs
- Serving all families with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion



MULTI-GENERATIONAL SUPPORT

- Supported and affirmed families
- Professionals act as partners with families in their children's growth and development
- Serving and engaging families as their children's first teacher and as the foundation for children's success
- Child care options make sense for families' everyday lives



WHOLE-CHILD SUPPORT

- Serving the whole-child's needs and those of their families—physical, mental, emotional, cognitive, behavioral
- Building protective factors with families: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children



EVIDENCE-BASED

- Strategies are based on robust brain science research, which emphasizes investing early to enable a strong, healthy start

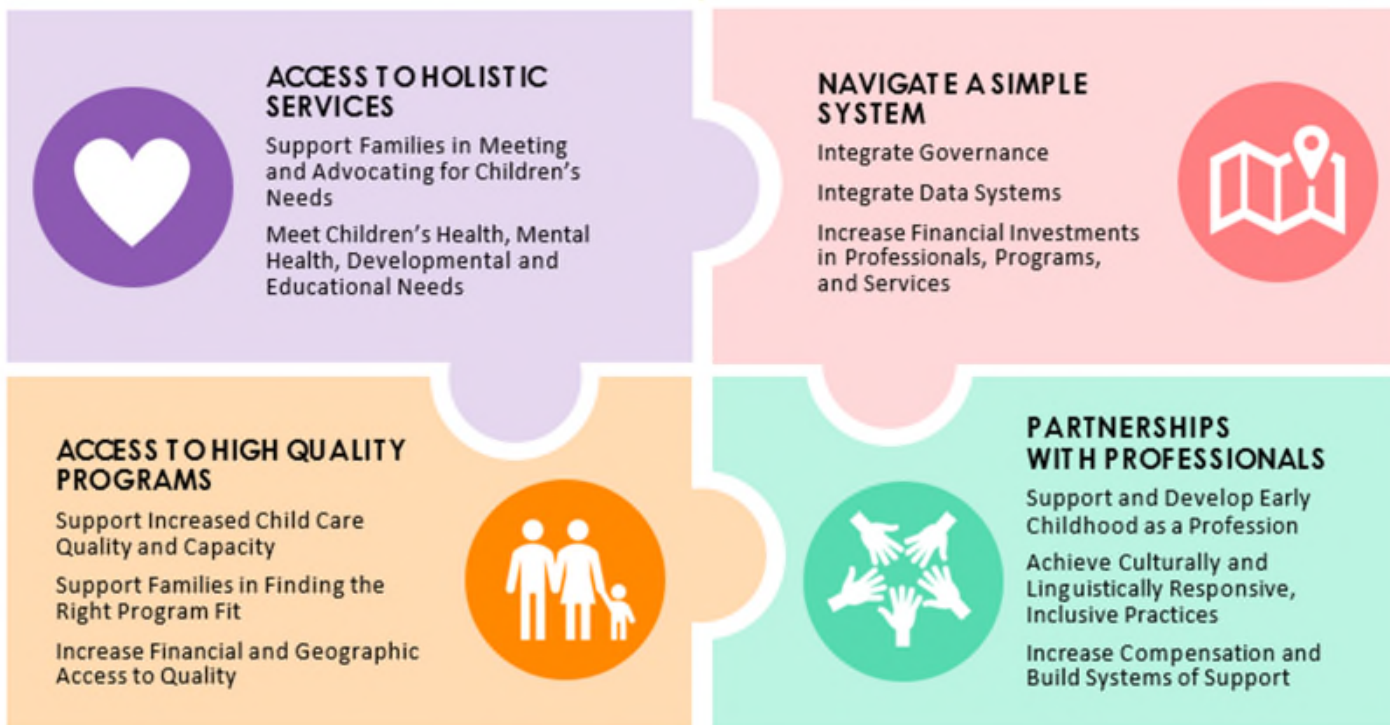


COHESION

- Connected health and education systems across birth-8 programs and services
- United and supportive professionals who serve families
- Mixed delivery system to meet families' diverse needs

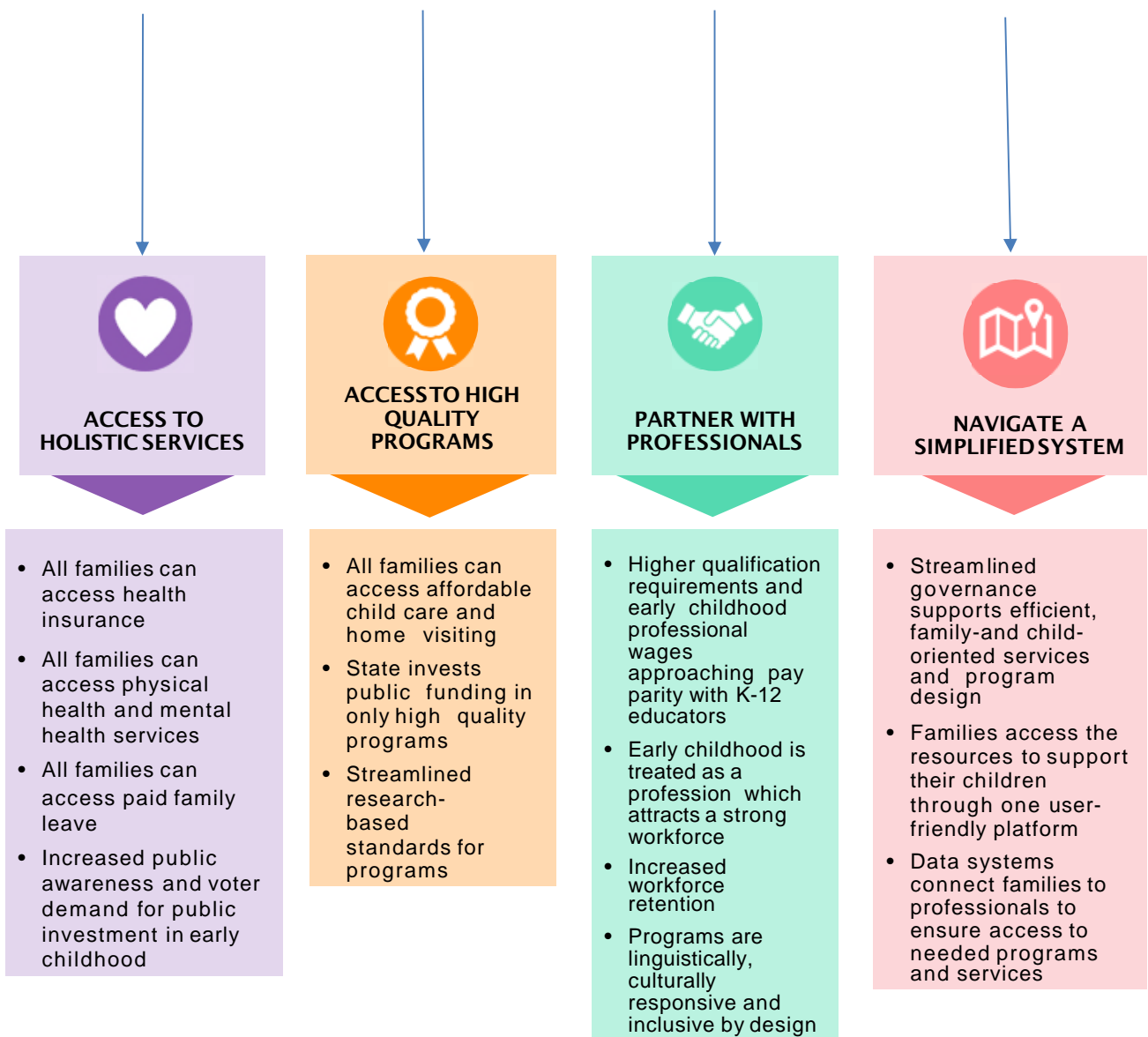
DECC Committees and Their Objectives

New committees were formed in October 2020 to guide the implementation of the Strategic Plan, advise on the work, and conduct more in-depth discussions between Council meetings.



DECC Goals

We have an aspirational, long-term vision for Delaware’s children and families associated with each part of our framework.



DECC 2021 Priorities

The Council looks forward to working with the IRMC and its many partners to implement our 2021 Priorities, which include:

- Supporting child care providers and families through the COVID-19 pandemic, with basic needs, workforce and mental health supports, vaccinations and PPE, and educational opportunities
- Investing in the workforce who support our youngest learners
- Redesigning the Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Developing Delaware's 2022-24 Child Care Development Fund plan to the federal government to guide child care funding and policy
- Supporting an application for the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems federal funding opportunity
- Exploring how to expand Home Visiting, Healthy Steps, and other whole child wellness initiatives
- Launching a cost of child care estimator tool to help the state pay more fair rates for child care services
- Continuing to align programs and services within the Department of Education

DECC Partners

Campaign for Grade Level Reading (CGLR)	Fresh Start Foundation
Child Development Watch (CDW)	Fund for Women, Delaware Community Foundation
Child Find	GIFT
Children and Families First (CFF)	Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics	Help Me Grow 211
Delaware Afterschool Network	Home Visiting Advisory Board (HVAB)
Delaware Association of School Administrators (DASA)	KIDSCOUNT
Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (DEAEYC)	Montessori Teachers Association of Delaware
Delaware Business Roundtable Education Committee	Nemours
Delaware Department of Education (DDOE)	Nursery Kindergarten Association of Delaware
Delaware Division of Libraries	Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL)
Delaware Head Start Association (DHSA)	Office of Early Learning (OEL)
Delaware Chief School Officers Association (DCSOA)	Office of the Governor
Delaware Institute for Arts Education (DiAE)	PNC Bank
Delaware General Assembly	Prevent Child Abuse Delaware (PCAD)
Delaware Readiness Teams	Privately Owned Child Care Business Owners
Delaware State Board of Education (DSBE)	Project LAUNCH
Delaware State Education Association (DSEA)	Rodel
Delaware State Head Start Collaboration Office	\$tand By Me
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce	State of Delaware P-20 Council
Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC)	Sussex County Early Childhood Council (SCECC)
Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF)	United Way of Delaware (UW)
Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)	University of Delaware (UD)/Delaware Stars for Early Success (DE Stars) and Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC)
Early Childhood Comprehensive System/COIIN	Vision Coalition
Family Services Cabinet Council (FSCC)	Wilmington Early Care and Childhood Council (WECEC)
First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney – First Chance Initiative	Workforce Development Board



Learn more about the work of the
Delaware Early Childhood Council
and the Extended Learning Opportunities Subcommittee
at

<https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/366>

