Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

July 22, 2015

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Louisiana Believes

Early Childhood Advisory Council Quarterly Report– Q1 & Q2 2015

Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council

Expectation for Quarterly Reports

From Bylaws:

"The ECCE Advisory Council will receive quarterly reports from the LDE on the implementation and progress, activities, and status of the Early Childhood Care and Education Network, including the creation and implementation of an accountability system for early care and education programs and the transition of the Child Care and Development Block Grant and licensure to the Department of Education."

Leading Up to 2015: Background, Vision, and Shared Challenges

Progress to Date

Louisiana's fragmented early childhood system led to Act 3 (2012), which calls for a unified system to ensure all children enter kindergarten ready.

2012
BESE approves multi-year plan for implementation

2013
13 Early Childhood Community Network Pilots launch

2014
16 more Community Network Pilots launch
Additional legislation is passed to unify licensing, enrollment, and funding

2015
33 more Community Network Pilots launch
Full implementation of Act 3 required by August

Early Childhood Community Networks
Key Activities in Quarter 1

Community Network Updates:

- All parishes are onboard:
  - Cohort 1 = 13 Networks (2013)
  - Cohort 2 = 16 Networks (2014)
  - Cohort 3 = 33 Networks (2015)

- Community Networks in Cohort 3 completed Orientation Sessions and established initial leadership structures

- Community Networks in Cohorts 1 and 2:
  - Completed more *CLASS* observations and second *GOLD* Checkpoint
  - Conducted coordinated enrollment and applied for PreK funding as a community

- Field Test
  - Continued *CLASS* observations with third party validation
  - Facilitated teacher satisfaction survey for ~700 teachers; Orleans facilitated family survey

Early Childhood Community Networks
Key Activities in Quarter 2

Louisiana Early Childhood Care and Education Network (Bulletin 140)

- Initial conversations took place during roundtables
- ECCE AC endorsed with recommendations, approved by BESE in June 2015
- ULL selected as a third party contractor for *CLASS* observations

Lead Agencies

- Request for applications released in April 2015
- Lead Agency applications were reviewed and approved by BESE in June 2015

Continued Support for Teachers

- PD Framework reviewed by ECCE AC and BESE
- Child Care Resource & Referral, Mental Health Consultants and NSU Pathways contracts were extended through 2016

Child Care and Development Block Grant
Transition Activities for Quarter 1 and 2

Key Activities in Quarter 1:

- CCAP Provider Certification transitioned to the LDE on February 1, 2015
- Bulletin 139, *Louisiana Child Care Development Fund Programs,* was created to cover all functions related to Child Care Development Fund (except licensing)
- Schedule, training and communications for implementation of new Licensing Regulations (Bulletin 137) was announced

Key Activities in Quarter 2:

- Licensing Regulations trainings took place in late April
- Legislation related to child care licensing and regulations passed (HB 734)
- Louisiana Child Care Market Rate survey was completed

Transition of CCDF:

- October : Licensing transitioned
- December : New licensing regulations approved (Bulletin 137)
- February : Provider Certification transitioned and Quality Start transition approved
- March: Provider Certification regulations approved
- May: CCAP Eligibility, SRTC, and Pathways regulations proposed
- **July 1: LDE became Lead Agency and is responsible for all of CCDF**

Culmination of Quarter 2: July 1 Milestones

1. **New licensing regulations went into effect**
   - *Impacts all private and public child care centers in Louisiana*
   - *Includes new **Academic Approval** process for publicly-funded centers*
   - *Contact: LDElicensing@la.gov or* 1-877-453-2721
2. **CCAP Eligibility moved to Department of Education**
   - *No policy changes for July 1; changes go to Advisory Council in July and August BESE*
   - *New website with family application and FAQs*
   - *Contact: LDEccap@la.gov*
3. **Department became CCDF Lead Agency**
   - *Bulletins 139 and 137 cover all aspects of CCDF and went into effect on July 1*
   - *Department has authority but significant DCFS interdependencies continue*
   - *Entails additional organizational implications (e.g., emergency planning, fraud)*
   - *Contact: earlychildhood@la.gov*
4. **Learning Year for Unified Quality Rating and Improvement began**
   - *Bulletin 140 goes into effect with Lead Agencies approved and funded*
   - *Department is also building Pathway to Improvement to support child care*
   - *Contact: earlychildhood@la.gov*

Update on the Policy Pathway

Working closely with stakeholders and new Advisory Council, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has reviewed a comprehensive set of policies in 2014-2015.

Quality Start Participation
Monitoring Change Over Time

There has been little change in Quality Start enrollment for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.