



Next Steps for States in Early Learning: Policy, Research and Innovation

December 2-3, 2011

Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina • Tampa, Florida

Final Agenda

Friday, December 2, 2011

Room 11, 3rd Floor • Marriott Waterside

Noon – 1:00 PM

Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Day

Come join us for lunch and meet the Fellows.

- Julie Poppe, Steffanie Clothier and Bruce Feustel, National Conference of State Legislatures

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Research and Policy: Understanding Foundational Learning Skills

Some of the cutting edge research in child development consists of understanding how the brain develops critical foundational learning skills –these are skills like attention and self control that develop early and carry from childhood throughout life. Some researchers suggest that these “executive function” skills are more important than IQ as predictors of school success. This session features Dr. Phil Zelazo, a top developmental psychologist and neuroscientist, who will illustrate the science of this area of development and Dr. Mary Louise Hemmeter who has launched a project that helps states address the broad range of social and emotional needs of young children in classroom settings. These experts are working at the leading edge of supporting young children’s development and putting ideas into practice.

Moderator: Steffanie Clothier, National Conference of State Legislatures

- Phil Zelazo, Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota
- Mary Louise Hemmeter, Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning, Vanderbilt University
- Margaret Mobley, Healthy Social Behaviors Initiative, Child Care Resources Inc., North Carolina

2:15 PM – 2:45 PM

Frontiers of Innovation

NCSL is a partner in the Early Childhood Innovation Partnership with the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard, the National Governors Association and Truepoint Center to generate and test new ideas that support young children’s development of foundational learning skills particularly addressing executive function. This session will describe the work of the new project that is engaging policymakers, scientists, researchers and practitioners in creating and implementing effective policies and programs for young children and their families.

- Steffanie Clothier, National Conference of State Legislatures

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Emerging Ideas in Early Learning

Hear lessons learned from Dr. Barnett about how the early learning field has emerged and what the future holds. His presentation will kick off an interactive conversation facilitated by Dr. Schultz. The Fellows are encouraged to engage in the discussion and contribute thoughts about other emerging ideas.

Moderator: Tom Schultz, Council of Chief State School Officers

- Steve Barnett, National Institute for Early Education Research

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM

Reflection and Wrap Up

- Bruce Feustel, National Conference of State Legislatures

5:15 PM – 6:30 PM

Free Time

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Reception and Dinner

The Westin Tampa Harbour Island – Terrace Room

725 South Harbour Island Blvd.

(six minute walk from the Marriott)

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM **Optional Walk: meet in the Marriott lobby for a morning walk**

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM **Breakfast and Networking with Fellows**

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM **Leveraging Federal Initiatives to Advance State Policy**
Federal initiatives such as Race to the Top and the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grants have drawn the attention of states with 35 states, DC and Puerto Rico applying for Race to the Top and almost every state applying for home visiting funding. This session will highlight how states are taking advantage of federal funding to advance their early childhood efforts.

Moderator: Sheri Steisel, National Conference of State Legislatures

- Early Learning Challenge: Albert Wat, National Governors Association
- Home visiting: Barbara Gebhard, ZERO TO THREE

9:30 AM – 11:45 AM **Policy Concurrent Sessions and Breakouts**

These sessions will give Fellows more time to dig a little deeper on a topic with a national expert.

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM Concurrent Session I (Choose one session to attend)

- *Strategies to Improve Services for Infants and Toddlers:* Barbara Gebhard, ZERO TO THREE, **Room 8**
- *Opportunities for Child Care at the State Level:* Hannah Matthews, Center on Law and Social Policy, **Room 11**

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM Concurrent Session II (Choose one session to attend)

- *What is Early Childhood Mental Health?:* Geoff Nagle, Tulane Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, **Room 8**
- *Standards, Assessments and Data: Keys to Better Outcomes for Young Children:* Tom Schultz, Council of Chief State School Officers, **Room 11**

11:45 AM – Noon **Break**

Noon – 1:00 PM **Lunch (Room 11)**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Financing Case Study: Louisiana

States are financing early childhood services through multiple sources. This session will share Louisiana’s approach to financing early childhood programs.

- Geoff Nagle, BrightStart, Louisiana Early Childhood Advisory Council

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Table Discussion

Fellows will discuss learnings gained from the meeting.

- Bruce Feustel, National Conference of State Legislatures

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Next Steps and Wrap Up

Discuss what is in store for the Fellows program in 2012.