Early Childhood Data Collaborative

Integrating Early Childhood Data to Inform Policy

September 18, 2017
Overview

• Early Childhood Data Collaborative
• How states use integrated early childhood data
• Strategies for integrating early childhood data
• Colorado’s Early Childhood Data System
The **Early Childhood Data Collaborative** (ECDC) promotes policies and practices to support policymakers’ development and use of coordinated state early care and education (ECE) data systems.

**Effective use of data systems will help policymakers improve:**
- Access to high-quality programs
- Program quality
- ECE workforce quality
- Child outcomes
How sharing childhood data can support children’s development
Discussion

• What early childhood policy issues are being discussed in your state?

• Do you have the data you need to guide decisions around these issues? If not, what is needed?
How States Use Integrated Early Childhood Data
Using integrated data to support planning and policy

• Measure access to high-quality early care and education programs

• Support children's transition to kindergarten and beyond

• Build a strong ECE workforce
Strategies to measure and increase access

- Risk and reach reports
- Mapping
- Leveraging integrated data
Current Participating Programs:
- NC Pre-K
- Subsidized child care
- Early Intervention - IDEA, Part C
- Special Education - IDEA Part B (619)
- Food & Nutrition Services
- Child Protective Services

Planned for the future:
- Head Start/EHS
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- EC Workforce data
- Child Care Regulatory Data

Policy Questions

1. Are children, birth to age 5, on track to succeed as they prepare to enter school?
2. Which children and families are/are not being served by early childhood services and programs?
3. What characteristics of programs are associated with positive outcomes for which children?
4. What are the educational and economic returns on early childhood investments?
5. How is data currently being utilized and how will data be utilized in the future to inform policy and resource decisions?
Wisconsin Early Childhood Integrated Data System

- Conduct meaningful research
- Target services for high-need populations
- Narrow achievement gap
• Do children of color have equal access to early childhood programs?

Oregon Workforce Registry

A comprehensive online database can answer questions about the ECE workforce:

• Are professional development opportunities utilized in an equitable manner?
• What role does the workforce play in the quality of early care and education programs in the state?
• Are there communities where disparities in quality exist that could be better supported through workforce initiatives?
Strategies for Integrating Early Childhood Data
7 Key Areas to Focus on For Implementation

1. Stakeholder Engagement
2. Data Governance
3. Privacy, Security, and Transparency
4. Linking, Matching, and Sharing
5. Data Access and Use
6. Data Quality
7. State Capacity
## 2016 ECDC Policy Tracker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>SB 109</td>
<td>Provides for confidentiality of applications and client case records for child care assistance clients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>SB 3208</td>
<td>Creates a legislative task force on child care to review the shortage of child care providers in the state, assess affordability issues for providers and parents, and identify areas that need to be addressed by the legislature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>AB 9902</td>
<td>Codifies the Early Childhood Advisory Council. Responsibilities include developing recommendations regarding the establishment of a statewide unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>SB 5999</td>
<td>Adds the Department of Social and Health Services to the list of departments working with the education data center to develop data-sharing and research agreements</td>
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</tbody>
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Our vision

Policymakers, practitioners, and parents consistently use quality early childhood data to make decisions that improve outcomes for young children.

READ MORE

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Early Childhood Data Systems

How consolidation can address data sharing, program alignment, and ongoing costs
SECTION 1

Why Colorado Wanted Change

Colin Tackett
Manager, IT Solutions and Strategies
Colorado Office of Early Childhood
WHY:

We want to optimize our resource use to better support the public.

We had structural inefficiencies (IT and Org Charts), procedural inefficiencies (Policy Siloes), and budgetary inefficiencies.
SECTION 2

How We Implemented Change
HOW:

Consolidate Business Units
- Office of Early Childhood
- Child Care Focused Services
- Health and Development Services

Align Policies
- Cross unit IT procedures
- Cross unit policy enforcement

Consolidate Technology
- Websites
- Includes Help Desk
- Mobile Compatible

Align Experiences
- Office of Early Childhood
- Child Care Providers
- Families
BEFORE:

Resource & Referral (x17)

Quality Rating

No State Access

Child Care Licensing

IDEA Part C

Child Care Subsidy

Quality Improvement Grants

Professional Development Register & Learning Management

Home Visitation and Early Childhood Mental Health Service

No formal systems
SECTION 3

What We Changed
WHAT:

• Common Technology - We switched all major systems across the office to a common cloud-based platform, simplifying the skillset needed and reducing our costs.
  • Ex. We are projecting to save $1 million by next fiscal year compared to legacy hosting costs. We reduced from 25 different systems to 5, all on Salesforce.

• Policy Alignment - As we wrote policies and procedures for the new systems, we incorporated multi-business units in the writing process.
  • Ex. By incorporating licensing into the first level of the quality rating, we jumped from 10% provider participation historically to 100% participation with over 50% in higher quality levels.

• Resource Simplification - The cloud-based platform allows greater in-house configuration reducing vendor dependency, and in consolidated systems we needed less duplicate roles.
  • Ex. In child care referrals we went from 17 staff regionally taking parent referral calls to 4 staff in a central call center with statewide coverage.
TAKE AWAY:

• Policy and business process challenges may be symptoms of underlying issues with state infrastructure. For Colorado, we are addressing those issues with consolidation and technology.

• Modernization efforts help government provide services the way the next generations expect to receive them.

• When considering government tech projects ask:
  • Can we combine like services for like stakeholders into a common system?
  • Do newer technologies offer more cost effective solutions over maintaining existing products ongoing?
Discussion

• What is happening in your state to create a positive culture of data sharing and reduce program silos?
Questions?
THANK YOU!