Early Childhood System Governance: State Models and Experiences

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Recent state experiences raise key questions

1. What authority should governance have?
2. What does it mean for governance to be effective?
3. What about governance should we try to sustain?

State governance models

- Massachusetts
- Pennsylvania
- North Carolina
Approaches to Governance

• **Coordination**: multiple agencies
• **Consolidation**: pick one agency
• **Creation**: a new agency
What authority should governance have?

1. **Coordination** (across programs and services)
2. **Alignment** (to promote a developmental continuum)
3. **Efficiency** (no duplication, more value for money)
4. **Accountability** (for quality, equity, and results)

**Influencing Factors**
- Gubernatorial Leadership
- Strong Leadership (of the Structure)
- Clear Statutes
- Control of $
What does it mean for governance to be effective?

**For Elected Officials**
- Useable Advice that Informs Decision Making

**For Administrators**
- Ability to innovate without bureaucratic constrains

**For Providers**
- Ability to move and connect vertically and horizontally in the system

**For and Families**
- Seamless system of programs and services

**Influencing Factors**
- Representation
- Transparency
- Data
- Plurality of Leadership
- Bureaucratic Expertise
What about governance should we sustain?

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Create a New Agency: Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE

Governor

Legislature

Office of the Secretary of Education

Early Childhood
Board of Education and Care
Commissioner

K-12
Board of Education
Commissioner

Higher Education
Board of Higher Education
Commissioner

State Advisory Council
Public-Private: North Carolina

General Assembly

Smart Start/NCPC State Board

Department of Public Instruction

Department of Health and Human Services

SMART START/NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Local Partnership Advisory Board

77 Smart Start Local Partnerships

$
Diffusing Innovation

Chance Interactions  Meetings/Networking  Technical Assistance  Advocacy  Formal Training/Mentoring

Let it Happen  Help it Happen  Make it Happen

Social Networks  Peers  Experts  Champions  Change Agents