

School Readiness Indicators Initiative: Making Progress for Young Children

Fourth National Meeting

**May 13th – 15th, 2003
Kansas City, Missouri**

Participating States:

Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin

Purpose:

This is the Fourth National Meeting of the 17-state initiative to use child well-being indicators to improve school readiness and ensure early school success. Over the course of the Initiative, states will work individually and collectively to develop a comprehensive set of measures to monitor the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and economic well-being of young children. Indicators will reflect state investments in programs and policies for young children and families as well as child outcomes. States will develop policy goals and communications strategies to improve school readiness in their states.

Meeting Objectives:

- To explore and develop policy strategies for early childhood programs and systems.
- To highlight state work on school readiness collaboration and policy issues.
- To expand knowledge in two critical areas: the use of Medicaid to improve health and child development and strategies to support the transition to kindergarten.
- To provide opportunities for participants to meet in state and cross-state teams to apply information from experts and initiative colleagues to their own state work.
- To be briefed on outcomes from the Hart Research survey of early elementary professionals' views on school readiness.

*The National School Readiness Indicators Initiative is supported by
the David and Lucile Packard Foundation,
the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Ford Foundation.
The 17-state initiative is managed by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.
www.GettingReady.org*

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Final Agenda

Tuesday, May 13, 2003

- 12:00 – 2:00** **State Team Coordinator Lunch**
Kauffman Conference Center
- 1:45 – 2:15** **Shuttle from Hotel to Kauffman Center**
- 2:00 – 2:30** **General Registration**
- 2:30 – 3:00** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Lisa Klein, The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Kathy Reich, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- 3:00 – 3:30** **Orientation to the Meeting**
Jolie Pillsbury, Facilitator
- 3:30 – 5:00** **Indicators and Policy of Children’s Health**
Sara Rosenbaum, Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy, George Washington University
School of Public Health and Health Services
- An essential domain of ready children is physical health and motor development. Ms. Rosenbaum will discuss the interaction between health and child development and discuss the role of Medicaid. She will describe the relationship between data and policy in the health field and provide the national context on issues such as health insurance and access to health and child development services. Participants will discuss how Medicaid resources can be used to support school readiness in their states.
- 5:00 – 5:30** **Shuttle to Hotel**
- 6:00 – 7:00** **Evening Reception with Lori Hauser Holden, First Lady of Missouri**
The Fairmont Hotel Ballroom

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

7:30 – 8:00 Shuttle Trips from Hotel to Kauffman Center

8:00 – 8:30 Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 What Schools Are Telling Us About Ready Children

Geoff Garin, Peter D. Hart Research Associates

Mr. Garin will share results from a recent survey of K-3 teachers and professionals about what it means for a child to be “school ready.” Participants will learn about what education professionals see as the most important aspects of a ready child and what they believe children need to succeed in school.

9:30 – 9:45 Break

9:45 – 11:15 Transitions: What We Need To Know When Children Change Environments

Robert C. Pianta, The Curry School of Education, University of Virginia

Children undergo several transitions between the ages of birth to eight: hospital to home, home to early education, early education to school, etc. What do we know about the best practices of transitioning children from one environment to another? Dr. Pianta will describe ways to implement and measure transition practices in states in a way that supports the needs of all children and families. Particular attention will be paid to the social factors that impact child outcomes.

11:15 – 12:00

Technical Assistance Opportunities

Charles Bruner, Child and Family Policy Center

Royce Conner, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

Mr. Bruner and Mr. Conner will present the options for Technical Assistance provided by the School Readiness Indicators Initiative and the State Early Childhood Policy Technical Assistance Network. State teams will then discuss their technical assistance needs.

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch

Authentic Kansas Style BBQ courtesy of the Kauffman Foundation

1:00 – 3:00

State Team and Cross-State Meetings

Participants will choose between meeting as state teams or cross-state groups. Cross-state groups will self-select topics of discussion based on issues developed during the meeting.

3:00 – 3:15

Break

3:15 – 4:15

Improving School Readiness: Legislation, Community Outreach, Collaborations

Presenters: Bruce Atchison, Colorado Children's Campaign

Rachel Hutson, CO Department of Public Health and Environment

Colorado has recently passed a school readiness bill to improve ECE in neighborhoods with “low-performing” elementary schools. Mr. Atchison and Ms. Hutson will discuss the new legislation, their strategy for involving a broad group of community voices in their school readiness work, and their collaboration with other school readiness projects.

4:15 – 4:30

Summary Comments

Jolie Pillsbury, Facilitator

4:30 – 5:00

Shuttle to Hotel, Evening on Your Own

Thursday, May 15, 2003

- 8:00 – 8:30** **Shuttle Trips to Kauffman Center**
Participants are encouraged to check out of the hotel in the morning and leave luggage in hotel storage.
- 8:30 – 9:00** **Breakfast**
- 9:00 – 10:30** **Examining Statewide Early Childhood Systems**
Ceil Zalkind, Association for the Children of New Jersey
Sandy Miller, Ohio Department of Education
- Ms. Zalkind and Ms. Miller will discuss their states' work on developing a comprehensive early care system through the BUILD Initiative. State teams will then discuss how to apply these lessons learned to their own development of statewide early childhood systems.
- 10:30 – 10:45** **Break**
- 10:45 – 12:30** **Policy Development Strategies**
Thabiti Anyabwile, Policy Matters, Center for the Study of Social Policy
- Mr. Anyabwile will discuss the research base for evaluating and developing state policy goals to improve school readiness. Policy will be discussed broadly, including legislation, regulation, appropriation, etc. Mr. Anyabwile will share a set of policy strategies that are likely to have a positive impact on children and families. These strategies were identified by Policy Matters based on work with state policymakers, child advocates, and the research community. Participants will share their insights on how these policies relate to the work in their own state.
- 12:30 – 1:00** **Wrap-Up and Next Steps**
Jolie Pillsbury, Facilitator
Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
- 1:00 – 1:30** **Lunch**
- 1:30 – 2:00** **Adjourn, Shuttle to Hotel**
- 2:00 – 4:00** **Shuttles will make trips between the Hotel and the Airport (see schedule)**