

***School Readiness Indicators Initiative:
Making Progress for Young Children***

Final National Meeting

May 19th – 21st, 2004

**Hyatt Hotel - Goat Island
Newport, Rhode Island**

Participating States:

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

Purpose:

This is the sixth and final National Meeting of the 17-state School Readiness Indicators Initiative which aims to use child well-being indicators to improve school readiness and ensure early school success. Over the three years of the Initiative, states have worked individually and collectively to develop comprehensive sets of measures to monitor and track progress related to the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and economic well-being of young children.

Each state has selected a set of indicators that reflect state policy goals and state investments in programs and policies for young children and families as well as child outcomes. States have also put in place communications strategies to share their selected set of indicators with policymakers, opinion leaders, and the public in order to improve school readiness in their states. This final meeting of the 17-state teams will be an opportunity to celebrate achievements, share lessons learned, discuss common indicators and explore ways to sustain an early childhood agenda within states and across the nation.

Meeting Objectives:

- To share and celebrate each state's school readiness indicator product(s) including indicators, policy agenda and communication strategies.
- To learn from each other's work and to share successes and challenges.
- To highlight lessons learned and challenges in using indicators and communications strategies to move an early childhood policy agenda.
- To develop strategies to sustain promising approaches related to indicators, communications and early childhood policy.
- To review the indicators that have emerged in each state and explore the possibility of a common set of indicators across states.

*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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Newport, Rhode Island*

Final Agenda

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

1:30 – 2:00

Foyer

General Registration

2:00 – 2:30

Brenton Hall

Welcome and Opening Remarks

*Catherine B. Walsh, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT*

2:30 – 4:00

Brenton Hall

Keynote Address

David Lawrence Jr., Former Editor of The Miami Herald

Mr. David Lawrence retired in 1999 as publisher of *The Miami Herald* to work in the area of early childhood development and school readiness. His presentation is informed by his work as the president of The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation at the University of Florida. In 2002, Mr. Lawrence was a key figure in passage of a statewide constitutional amendment that will provide high-quality pre-Kindergarten for all Florida four-year-olds beginning in the year 2005. He will share his perspectives on the urgency of engaging influential leaders in ensuring that all children enter school with the social, emotional and cognitive skills they need to achieve at high levels.

4:00 – 4:30

Foyer

Break

4:30 – 5:00

Brenton Hall

Sharing Successes

In a quick, upbeat, energizing round-robin, each state will highlight a key success of their work together over the last few years. This session will be a window into the kinds of ideas and strategies that will be shared more fully during the Poster Exhibit Showcase that follows.

5:00 – 7:00

*Rose Island II
and Deck*

Evening Reception and Poster Exhibit Showcase

The evening reception will be a time to share food and conversation while visiting the poster exhibits highlighting each state's work. Each exhibit will have a state team member available to answer questions and share stories. The exhibits will be an opportunity to describe successes and lessons learned and share written products. Eat, drink, network...and celebrate a job well done.

Thursday, May 20, 2004

8:00 – 8:45

Heritage

State Team Coordinator Breakfast

8:30 – 9:00

*Foyer A and
Brenton Hall*

General Breakfast

9:00- 10:15

Brenton Hall

Lessons Learned: Indicators and Data Challenges

Moderator: Theresa Hancock, Rhode Island

*Panelists: Suzanne Clark Johnson, Virginia; Joyce Cussimano, Kansas;
Susan Wilson, Connecticut*

Respondents: Martha Cranley, Wisconsin and Jaci Holmes, Maine

Panelists will share critical indicators they are now tracking and their indicator wish list (critical indicators that are in development). Following these highlights, there will be a facilitated discussion of the ways that participants have used these data to move a policy agenda in their states.

10:15-10:45

Foyer

Break

10:45-11:15

Brenton Hall

Common Indicators: Making Progress for Young Children

Catherine B. Walsh, Deputy Director, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

Ms. Walsh will highlight policy issues and common indicators that have emerged as the 17-state teams have worked within states to develop an early childhood policy agenda and select key indicators to track progress over time. This presentation is meant to stimulate thinking about critical early childhood issues and sustainability that will be discussed more fully during the Friday morning sessions.

11:15-11:45

Brenton Hall

ECS Update

Kristie Kauerz, Education Commission for the States

Ms. Kauerz will provide an update on the technical assistance conference calls organized by the Education Commission for the States to share components of the No Child Left Behind Act that inform our school readiness work.

12:00 – 1:15

*Rose Island
Ballroom*

Luncheon Speaker

Lisbeth B. Schorr, Pathways Mapping Initiative

Lisbeth B. Schorr will share perspectives on why a shared understanding of school readiness is so essential to public policy change on behalf of young children and their families. Ms. Schorr leads the Pathways Mapping Initiative; Project on Effective Interventions at Harvard University. School readiness team members will be seated with others who play similar roles in other states and will be encouraged to share their ideas on common indicators and sustainability.

1:30 – 2:45

Brenton Hall

Lessons Learned: Policy Successes and Challenges

Moderator: Ann Segal, Action Strategies

Panelists: Carol Kamin, Arizona; Deborah Scott, Missouri; Bruce Atchison, Colorado

Respondents: Kathy Stegall, Arkansas and Sandra Miller, Ohio

Panelists will share their key successes and challenges in moving a specific early childhood policy issue in their state. Following these highlights, participants will engage in conversation at their tables to identify lessons learned that are relevant to their own state work.

2:45 – 3:00

Foyer

Break

3:00 – 4:15

Brenton Hall

Lessons Learned: Communication Strategies

Moderator: Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Rhode Island

Panelists: Phil Baimas, Massachusetts; Lisa Silverman Pickard, United Way of Massachusetts;

Commissioner Nicholas Donohue, New Hampshire; Kerrie Ocasio, New Jersey

Respondents: Cheryl Mitchell, Vermont and Karen Pucciarelli, Rhode Island

Panelists will highlight successful communications events and discuss successes and challenges in sustaining public interest in early childhood policy issues.

4:15

Brenton Hall

Adjourn

5:00

Sayer's Wharf

Boat Tour of Newport Harbor

6:00

Evening on your own

Friday, May 21, 2004

8:00 – 9:00

Rose Island I

Breakfast

Charles Bruner, Child and Family Policy Center

Mr. Bruner will share key findings from a recent report prepared by the Child and Family Policy Center and several states that are members of Voices for America's Children: *Early Learning Left Out: An Examination of Public Investments in Education and Development by Child Age*. He will also provide an update on the SECPTAN technical assistance.

9:00 – 10:30

Brenton Hall

Toward a National Set of School Readiness Indicators: What Have We Learned?

Lisa Klein, Hestia Advising

Ms. Klein will facilitate a roundtable discussion that will explore common themes that have emerged through our work together. What does our work tell us about the notion of a core set of indicators to guide policy work on behalf of young children? What does our work mean within our states? What are the implications for the nation?.

10:30 – 11:00

Break and Hotel Check-out

11:00 – 12:00

Brenton Hall

Sustainability: Opportunities and Challenges

Moderator: Catherine B. Walsh, Rhode Island

National partners will facilitate discussions among participants about potential sustainability strategies in the states and will share ideas on how their national association is approaching issues related to school readiness. National partners include the National Governor's Association, Education Commission for the States, NAEYC, Council of Chief State School Officers and National Council of State Legislators.

12:00 – 1:00

*Rose Island II
and Deck*

Lunch and Wrap-Up

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT