



News and Updates

September 2018

Thank you from the B8 Team!

Thanks are due to the many early childhood stakeholders in Minnesota including: the 900+ people who have participated in meetings to learn more about our work to transform the early childhood workforce in Minnesota; the over 250 people who filled out a survey; and the 37 experts who served on our subcommittees to help us incorporate all the feedback we have gathered.

Note: The "B8 Team" is the Birth to 8 Early Childhood Workforce Core Team - an independent group of early childhood stakeholders and advocates that is organized through the support of West Central Initiative and the McKnight Foundation. We are working to develop a Minnesota plan to implement some of the recommendations from the 2015 Institute of Medicine report, *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation*, and to connect that plan with the recommendations from *Minnesota's Workforce Compensation Advisory Group Report*. **We strongly believe that Minnesota needs qualified, diverse, supported and fairly compensated early childhood educators.**



Subcommittees Help Hone Strategies and Activities

In April and May, we created five new subcommittees that corresponded to the five priority areas of our draft plan. We invited subject matter experts and those who had indicated an interest in being involved to participate and held a series of meetings that looked at all the data gathered to date and then organized the data into appropriate categories for consideration and action.

The B8 Team held an all-day retreat in early June where we reviewed all of the work and identified activities that could begin in the immediate future - these are primarily things that do not need law change or funding - as well as those that will require some more resources.



Focus Groups Will Further Refine Plan

We are very excited that several funders have stepped forward and provided resources so that we can do outreach and engagement with early childhood educators who might not have been heard in the earlier rounds of data gathering. We are reaching out to family, friend and neighbor providers; rural educators; child care professionals who speak languages other than English; and communities of color. We will be holding focus groups and interviews in the metro areas as well as in Greater Minnesota. Khyre Solutions and the Improve Group will be leading this work. A big thank you to the Sheltering Arms Foundation, Child Care Aware of MN, and the Departments of Human Services and Education for helping to support this important next step.

Connecting with Higher Education

Our first priority area is to develop and enhance programs in higher education for care and education professionals so that Minnesota has a unified, statewide early childhood education system. We are currently meeting with key deans of education departments in public, private and nonprofit institutes of higher education and partnering with ACCESS and MnAECTE (Minnesota Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators) which represent faculty at our 2- and 4-year colleges and universities. We hope to create and support mechanisms for collaboration among institutes of higher education, regulatory bodies, policy makers, NAEYC and other stakeholders. Let us know if your department of education wants to get involved!

Future editions of this e-newsletter will provide updates about our other priority areas.

For more information visit: www.ecworkforcemn.org