



Quality Start San Bernardino Consortium Meeting Notes

January 30, 2018

Attendees:

PSD: Justine Bradley, Shannon Rodriguez, Angel Najera-Perez, LaTrenda Terrell ; **First 5:** Cindy Faulkner, Debora Dickerson-Sims, Karen Scott; **CCRC:** Christina Aranda, Cynthia Franco, Chantia Hollingsworth, Michael Olenick, James Moses, Susan Savage, Jesse Pineda, Olivia Pillado, Megan Sack, Niki Vonhundley; **CA-HELP Desert Mountain SELPA:** Jessica Soto, Kami Murphy; **SBCSS:** Traci Brody, Chrystina Smith-Rasshan, Jennifer Gateley, Becky Thams, Ana Garcia, Veronica Valente; **Harder & Co:** Joelle Greene; **City of Colton:** Rachel Escobar, Briana Aldeen; **CSUSB:** Amanda Wilcox, Meghan Norbryhn; **Ontario-Montclair SD:** Brenda Mason; **WestEd:** Crystal Coleman; **Colton Joint USD:** Mariana Mitroi; **Cucamonga State Preschool:** Bobbie Chavez; **Volunteers of America:** Sylvia Greenberg; **Faith Advisory Council for Community Transformation:** George Lamb
Facilitated by: Nicole Tanner and Iris Elent, VIVA Strategy + Communications

Meeting Highlights

Welcome: Nicole Tanner welcomed attendees and reviewed the Quality Start vision and mission and the plan for the day. Karen Scott, welcomed attendees and emphasized the importance of our early educator providing the highest quality care for our youngest learners. She also highlighted:

- The unique level of partnering that has happened in San Bernardino County in the development of the local QRIS including the operational partners: First 5, CCRC, Cal State San Bernardino and San Bernardino Superintendent of Schools and PSD
 - QSSB partners brought in over \$5 million just last year to operate the QRIS
 - QSSB reached 117 early care and education sites, serving more than 5,000 children
 - The importance of strengthening the link to our the Cradle to Career, Vision to Read and other key initiatives
 - And the importance of working with regional and state partners to make sure that there are the resources that we need to give all children access to high quality programs
- Karen introduced Michael Olenick, president and CEO of CCRC.

Building Quality for Kids in California

Presented by Michael Olenick, Child Care Resource Center

Michael provided a snapshot of the history of child care, what is currently happening across the state and provided some recommendations.

- There are multiple discussions and system planning efforts that are happening at the state level, not all of which are coordinated across groups (i.e. Blue Ribbon Commission, AB104 Taskforce, Children's Poverty Council, Heising Simons Think Tank,

Learning Policy Council, Children Now, Economic Policy Institute, Silicon Valley Community Foundation)

- There are also county-level propositions in the works to get bond measures passed to support early education
- There are many issues to be aware of and ideas to consider--some that Michael raised highlighted below:
 - We are nearly at full participation for kids in preschools--what should the focus be?
 - Should universal preschool be institutionalized through LEAs? If so what happens to all of the private providers? What about the kids that are not preschool age?
 - The investment in ECE is not going up. The state has a 190 billion dollar budget. What if just 10% were invested in ECE or 1.9 billion? Currently the investment is 3.5 billion
- Some of the key opportunities to be more active suggested included:
 - QSSB sharing the highlights of the success of the partnership structure, local best practices and challenges that could be addressed through changes in policy. Some avenues for sharing this could include:
 - Legislative and various committee and commission hearings (i.e. the Blue Ribbon Commission--coming to the College of the Desert March 2)
 - A white paper
 - Legislative visits
 - Hearings and visits with candidates for governor

Advancing Quality in San Bernardino: Quality Start Highlights and Impact

Presented by Susan Savage and Olivia Pillado, Child Care Resource Center and Nicole Tanner, VIVA Strategy + Communications

Highlights and accomplishments from the first year of Quality Start implementation were presented on. See the presentation slides to view the progress on the Strategic Plan and the impact that Quality Start has had thus far in the county.

What's Next? Looking Towards the Future

Attendees were presented with four small group topics to attend for two rounds of world cafe discussions. These topics were: ECE Workforce, Advocacy and Sustainability, Systems Alignment, and Outreach and Communications. Below are the questions discussed, and the highlights from those small group discussions:

Discussion Group 1: ECE Workforce

1. What is currently missing in San Bernardino County that could better support the professional growth of the ECE Workforce?
 - a. Central database where providers can assess their place on the professional development roadmap and find suitable training/courses. The professional development road map would be comprehensive and carefully conceptualized
 - b. Interactive system
 - c. Monetary reward (at all levels)
 - d. System alignment (inclusion) with other relevant systems (i.e. K-12, special education)
 - e. Licensing
 - f. Greater geographic opportunity
 - g. More training on CLASS, ASQ/SE, DAY-C

- h. Comprehensive training utilizing competencies as foundation (i.e state competencies as a guide) while still addressing critical skills in the short term (i.e. assessment, licensing)
 - i. Multiple delivery systems (in-person, online, hybrid)
 - j. Parent relations
2. What could be done to improve access to professional development opportunities?
 - a. Database with two way communication
 - b. Carefully crafted rewards
 - c. Access to technology
 - d. Time to get off site

Discussion Group 2: Advocacy & Sustainability

1. Given what is happening statewide, what could we do locally to ensure that we are able to mention the current progress on building support for high quality ECE?
 - a. Blue Ribbon Commission presentations highlighting concerns/recommendations
 - b. Inform different stakeholders/policy makers on QRIS unique needs/challenges for specific populations such as tribal, low-income, remote/rural areas
 - c. How do we sustain the “R” in QRIS (most expensive)? Perhaps advocate for more emphasis on improvement and coaching supports.
 - d. Train the trainer model - Emphasize the TOT model to build capacity within our county. Have a conversation with Higher Education on the use of graduate students to work full-time as Assessors, resulting in a more affordable model that can be sustained.
2. What could we do to contribute to change at the state level?
 - a. On a consistent basis, Quality Start Consortium members should inform and advocate for the needs/challenges of the ECE field. Also, share with stakeholders/policy makers what is working within the system and the positive outcomes for children, parents and providers.

Discussion Group 3: Systems Alignment

1. A priority for QSSB is building systems connections (i.e. K-12 alignment, ASQ-HMG). How can we move this work forward?
 - a. School readiness within the district – helping parents prepare through hands on efforts, like Kindergarten Roundup (i.e. tours, documents)
 - b. Target kindergarten teachers to help bridge between preschool (i.e. background knowledge, acronyms from ECE) and give them a voice in the transition
 - c. Have alignment across programs with regards to helping parents determine which ECE program is the best fit/developmentally appropriate (i.e. Pre-K, TK, Extended TK, Kindergarten)
 - d. Aligning data systems to allow for student tracking between ECE and K-12 to measure impact of ECE on long term outcomes
 - e. Need for unified kindergarten readiness screening
 - f. Integrate Preschools into districts so they are seen as *part of* the district versus a separate program (when both receive state funding, and the same children will move from preschool to K-12). Districts adopt P-12 model. LCAP funding.
2. What other systems could be better linked to QSSB?
 - a. Public Health
 - b. Department of Behavioral Health
 - c. Economic Development (County and City levels)
 - d. Mental Health

- e. SELPA
- f. LCAP
- g. Determine unified evidence-based tools for assessing children’s readiness for Kindergarten in a holistic way, and determine who implements/administers the tools

Discussion Group 4: Outreach and Communications

1. Which outreach and communication efforts are going well and should continue?
 - a. Website – Early Ed and QSSB Impact
 - i. 3 out of 5 participants were aware of the QSSB website
 - ii. Need for coordination across QSSB partners to raise awareness of website and the opportunities hosted there
 - b. Coaching/training orientation – Face to Face explanation on implementation and quality improvement plans
 - c. Pre-enrollment outreach (recruitment)/initial buzz
 - d. Provider marketing toolkit/signage
 - e. Facebook
 - i. Provider highlights
 - ii. Activities
 - iii. Need for more awareness of QSSB social media, perhaps through incentives and other outreach efforts
2. What other audiences need to be reached? With what messages? How should they be communicated?
 - a. **Teachers:** Resources posted on QSSB website
 - b. **Parents:**
 - i. Distribute information to parents from teachers via parent meetings
 - ii. Tap into learning centers – **PSD**
 - iii. Utilize QSSB website, Facebook and Twitter to engage parents by sharing best practices, tips, nutrition, developmental and other vital information and resources
 - c. PAC/Staff meetings
 - d. Follow up information/resources
 - i. Continued improvement supports

Your Role in Supporting Quality for San Bernardino Kids!

Presented by Megan Sack, Child Care Resource Center

CCRC presented on various opportunities for Quality Start participants and partners to spread awareness of San Bernardino’s QRIS and how the community can get involved in elevating the quality of care and education children are receiving in the county. Attendees received an overview of Quality Start collateral materials that are available for order through CCRC, such as posters, fact sheets, and informational postcards. Quality Start also has a brief video on both the Quality Start website and Facebook page that can be shared with families to explain what Quality Start is and how it improves quality for San Bernardino Kids. Megan shared that a parent focused campaign will be launching next week.

Next Steps

Attendees were invited to attend the next Consortium Meeting on April 24, and encouraged to participate in upcoming workgroups.