

Goal 1: The ECAC strengthens its structures and capacity to provide strategic direction and formal recommendations to the Governor, while communicating to and engaging with its stakeholders and other agencies and organizations to ensure that every young child thrives in early childhood, particularly the most vulnerable populations.

Goal Coordinators: Sherry Cleary and Patty Persell

Q1: January, February, March 2021

- Conducted an audit of the ECAC membership on diversity (race, gender, geographic representation, role and function) and designed a recruitment plan to create a more inclusive body.

Q2: April, May, June 2021

- Local, State and National Initiatives are highlighted on the ECAC website.
- Actively recruiting new ECAC Nominees.

Q3: July, August, September 2021

- ECAC Co-chairs met with the Governor’s office to discuss ECAC priorities to include in the Governor’s State of the State address/book.
 - Co-chairs met with the Governor’s office in support of the CCATF, joined the Child Care Desert work group.
 - Working to address PreK suspensions and expulsions with a Race Equity Lens in collaboration with the Leading with Race Equity Initiative.
 - ECAC Membership Handbook is being developed.
 - A paper, targeting business leaders, *Making the Case for the Support of High-Quality Early Childhood Services*, was commissioned and written. Currently being edited.
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Goal 2: Family engagement and leadership are essential to inform ECAC early childhood system building efforts. *B5 funded

Goal Coordinators: Pedro Cordero & Tim Hathaway

Q1:

- Reviewing Family Engagement Best Practices.
- Identifying workforce initiatives.

Q2:

- Head Start Federal Technical Assistance Team presented on the Head Start Family & Community Engagement Framework to a core leadership team of the ECAC.
- Team is identifying best practices, shared the family engagement framework and is determining how it can best be used by the ECAC and the PAC.

Q3:

- Convened a team comprised of PAC parents, state agencies and nonprofits to create a *family engagement survey* for state agencies.
- Creating a document on family engagement framework and best practices that State agencies can use to implement stronger family engagement practices.
- Five PAC parents are active in three projects.
- CCF’s ECCS grant was renewed for another five years, it includes family engagement.
- PCANY, under direction of OCFS, is offering a monthly networking call for all Trust Fund Family Resource Centers.
- Parents are joining a workgroup discussion for the Primary Prevention Agenda for the legislature.
- NYSPEP continues to promote Parent Café Train the Trainer events across the state.

Goal 3: All New York State early childhood care and education programs are prepared to provide children and families with high quality settings and have supportive services and resources in place to improve quality.

Goal Coordinator: Kristen Kerr

Q1:

- New QSNY programs were recruited.
- Data analysis and collection for future expansion/recruitment The QSNY team conducted the QSNY Standards review.
- The QSNY team began updating and evaluating state and local resources.

Q2:

- QSNY: Continued recruiting and determining which communities to expand in, looking at family choice in and beyond QSNY.
- Provided guidance and support of programs through the pandemic.

Q3:

- QSNY is awarded \$35 million for expansion across the state and has begun adding capacity.

Goal 4: All system building efforts are informed by a whole child perspective that includes mental health, oral health and physical health as integral for high-quality early care and education programs.

Goal Coordinator: Kirsten Siegenthaler

Q1:

- Pyramid Model has been implementing and expanding supported by CCR&Rs as local hubs in 5 Regions. The Pyramid Model Implementation Data system is up and running.
- Bridget Walsh is supporting the oral health work with a 5-year grant.
- Baby Bundles include information about the importance of hearing screening.

Q2:

- Pyramid Model work is moving forward, the virtual trainings have been successful and the CCRR hubs have been creating local pyramid implementation teams.
- Oral health work is building and moving forward.
- ACE's work is underway: integrating mental health in whole health.

Q3:

- The new 2020 Master Cadre have completed all of the TOT trainings and are starting to deliver module trainings, classroom coaching and classroom observations. This expands the current Master Cadre by 20.
- Cohort 5 (a group of newly implemented programs and schools) has started. The Pyramid Model Hubs at 5 CCRRs have grant funded contracts to manage the new implementation sites in their region. Cohort 5 includes both centers and FCC/GFCC sites.
- The API between Aspire and PIDS has been created, tested and is going live. This will send data from Aspire to PIDS.
- 10 more Positive Solutions for Families series of 6 workshops have been completed.
- 7,500 Baby Toothbrushes are being added to the NYS B5 Baby Bundles, along with a parent friendly one page information sheet with pictures and important facts about brushing baby's teeth.

Goal 5: An increased number of successful partnerships will further develop the mixed-delivery system of high-quality early care and education programs. **B5 funded*

Goal Coordinator: Patty Persell

Q1:

- Kindergarten Orientation was conducted, inviting communities across the state to apply for up to \$10,000 (*B5 grant Seed Money*) to implement innovative kindergarten transition practices locally with the mixed delivery system.

Q2:

- Nine Kindergarten Transition Seed Money awards made. More Kindergarten transition teams are forming across the state. KT best practice webinars are posted on B5 website.
- WIC materials have been added to the baby bundles, they include farmers markets that take EBT/SNAP card.

Q3:

- In 2021 we conducted 9 Kindergarten Transition community events to help raise the awareness of registering on time for Kindergarten and provided community resources and school supplies and books for children entering kindergarten and Pre-K in the fall.

Goal 6: Comprehensive interdisciplinary strategies are in place to grow the workforce and to support children from birth through age five and their families. **B5 funded*

Goal Coordinator: Sherry Cleary

Q1:

- The Credit Bearing CDA for infants launched.
- Currently revising the NYS Early Childhood Career Ladder.
- The Early Childhood Leadership Initiative held their first panel discussion: Exploring Leadership Pathways: Voices from Our Field.

Q2:

- As early education has suffered in the child care system, we are advocating for increased investment.
- Developing PD to be as inclusive as possible throughout the workforce.
- The revision of the career ladder is underway. Compensation element is being added.
- The Early Childhood Leadership Initiative held a panel discussion: Advancing Equity in Early Childhood: Putting your Equity Stance into Practice.

Q3:

- Career centers have been established in all 10 regions of NY. On-boarding includes an orientation and heavy emphasis on recruiting and serving BIPOC populations and creating pathways to success. Career advisors are trained on how to mitigate barriers and address challenges.
- PDGB5 CUNY/SUNY Scholarship launched. 624 applicants have been processed; 179 courses taken in Spring '21; 87 courses taken in Summer '21; and as of 8/24/21 180 courses to be taken in Fall '21. Additional applicants are still be processed.
- Relationships with CUNY and SUNY campuses are established with each Career Center; work with SUNY to ensure that 4-year colleges welcome part-time students is on-going.

- With the release of the revised Early Learning Guidelines, a train-the-trainer project was designed and implements to provide series-based training on the new ELG's and their use in all programs, including family child care sites. Professional development is available and being delivered for licensors, registrars, faculty, trainers, and directors as well as educators across the state. The Core Body of Knowledge is currently under revision and will have a similar roll out.
- NYWfC Career Ladder committee includes a wide range of stakeholders and has met consistently in small groups and as a committee to revise the ladder to include a competency-based approach acknowledging qualifications and experience. Compensation is also at the heart of this effort.

Goal 7: New York State's early childhood education workforce system, New York Works for Children, is fully implemented. **B5 funded*

Goal Coordinator: Jeanne Galbraith

Q1:

- Increased enrollment in the Aspire Registry.
- "Welcome Kits" for new child care sites are being created and sent out when new licenses are established.

Q2:

- Career Center work is underway, pushing for the CUNY/SUNY scholarship, looking at recruitment and higher education (doctoral programs specifically), looking at advisement circles to recruit people into higher education.
- Recommendations from 7.A.2 were made to the ECAC, these recommendations include;
 - 1. That all early childhood professionals be required to have Aspire Personal profiles and organizational accounts for agencies and training agencies.
 - 2. To allow synchronous distance/online learning to satisfy training requirements provided the training meets event approval requirements similar to those for in-person training.
 - The recommendations were sent to OCFS for official comment.

Q3:

- The Foundations in Healthy Sexual Development: Infants and Toddlers Training of Trainer (PCANY) sessions were held throughout 2020-2021.
- At present we have 62 TTAP credential coaches within New York State.
- The ECLC sponsored ACE institute Level 101 TOTs continued this year.
- 70 trainers attended the Introduction to the Revised NYS Early Learning Guidelines for Trainers.
- Early childhood Career Centers and Leadership Initiatives are connected statewide and work collaboratively with each other in a number of ways.
- In each region the regional career and leadership coordinators work closely with their local partners to ensure our work is customized and responsive to the unique needs and dynamics of the region.
- Additionally, the Leadership Initiatives have each established a local advisory council to provide strategic guidance, furthering our communities of practice approach. The Long Island and Western NY (formerly known as Buffalo) Leadership Initiatives are fully established and operational. The Long Island Leadership Initiative & the Western NY Leadership Initiatives have grown. Additional Leadership Initiative chapters have been fully established and operational in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions. Launched Leadership Initiative in the Central NY and Mid-Hudson regions in collaboration with regional partners in each region.
- Higher education survey committee is engaging in data analysis & preparing recommendations to share with the Goal 7 team in October.

Goal 8: Actionable short and long-term strategies are in place to fund essential elements for New York State's mixed-delivery system.

Goal Coordinators: Meredith Chimento and Bob Frawley

Q1:

- Goal team reviewed Annual Performance Progress Report (APPR) for the B5 grant.
- Work was completed as part of the development of recommendations for the CCATF report.
- Blending and Braiding Guide created, ECLC and CCR&Rs are working to deliver B&B trainings.
- Utilized the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) and the Child Care Desert Report to support the development of a new funding option that allows philanthropic organizations and businesses to contribute funds to support a high-quality early childhood care and education system.
- Infographics to promote employer tax credits and NYS Child Dependent Care Credit completed.
- Submitted the NYS ECE Map which includes all the business initiatives that support ECE programs.
- Workforce report using Aspire data published in conjunction with Raising NY; provided the basic workforce analysis that will inform the salary study.
- Year-over-year growth of 9% in active Aspire member accounts from January 2020 (baseline) to January 2021.
- Webinar with the NYS Collaborative Team to discuss and develop a plan to address regulations and laws that create barriers to braid and blend focusing on Early Head Start Child Care Partnership and SED & CBO partnerships.

Q2:

- The NYS TA Collaboratory Team submitted the 11 financing strategies with four levels of difficulty.
- OCFS will award \$100M in child care desert funding to support new child care providers and existing providers that want to expand.
- OCFS launched an external workgroup to give input on the Child Care Deserts grant process. OCFS and CCF are working together to define and map out the current child care deserts. In addition, OCFS launched an internal work group of state agency representatives to develop the RFP.
- Work group continues to meet to identify necessary modifications for NYS tax law.
- Met with IRS to promote Child Tax Credit.
- Alignment with Raising NY Business Workgroup has begun.
- QUALITYstarsNY worked with CCATF to develop the request for increased funding to increase participation across the state. Federal Stimulus funding of \$35M awarded and \$5M from NYSED sustained FY22.

Q3:

- Work beginning on creating a data dashboard as a preliminary step (potential funding need).
- REDCs opened applications for their 10th round of funding. Each REDCs had to submit updated strategic plans on June 30, 2021. Applications for REDC funding were due on July 30, 2021.
- The Child Care Tax Credit info graphic will be distributed at the New York State Fair.

Goal 9: An Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) is created for tracking service delivery, outcomes and system improvements to drive accountability, policy development, funding and best practices across New York State.

Goal Coordinator: Laurie Black

Q1:

- Presentations from OCFS on the Feasibility Study, current data systems and next steps, the Aspire Registry and QUALITYstarsNY.

Q2:

- Doing data system exploration, what data exists in NYS, Demo’s include CCRR, ECLC, Aspire, QUALITYstarsNY.
- Presentations for goal team: ECData Works on ECIDS from across the country, Head Start Data collection and PIR reporting by grantee and the NYS Pyramid Model Data system.
- Circulated a baseline survey to committee members assessing the common understanding of an ECIDS and collecting input about what data sets are available and what data individuals encourage us to consider.

Q3:

- Presentation for goal team by the Departments of Education and Human Services about the Pelican System (ECIDS for subsidized children) in Pennsylvania.

Goal 10: Research findings and evaluation results are used to recommend policy, statutory and regulatory changes, as well as structures and best practices to strengthen the NYS early childhood system.

Goal Coordinators: Sherry Cleary & Patty Persell

Q1:

- Mailed hard copies of the *NYS Birth – Five Needs Assessment* to all ECAC members.

Q2:

- Created, with the ECAC members, a list of early childhood research questions and posted them on ECAC website for doctoral students and researchers to use.

Q3:

- Collected from ECAC members a list of children’s books that embed social justice and race equity and posted on the ECAC website.