State Initiatives to Expand Early Head Start

ZERO TO THREE & CLASP Webinar
September 13, 2012
Agenda

- Findings & recommendations from *Expanding Access to Early Head Start: State Initiatives for Infants and Toddlers at Risk*
- State efforts to expand and enhance Early Head Start (Idaho and Illinois)
- Question and answer

Report is available at:
www.zerotothree.org/expandingehs
www.clasp.org/childcare
Speakers

Jamie Colvard
ZERO TO THREE

Stephanie Schmit
CLASP
What Do We Know About Babies?

- 4 million babies are born every year
- All babies need good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences
- 25% of infants and toddlers live in poverty
- Young children in poverty face challenges that can negatively impact their development
What is Early Head Start (EHS)?

• Federally-funded, community-based program that provides comprehensive child and family development services to low-income pregnant women and children under age 3
  – Access to health care and screenings
  – Support for full range of child development
  – Parent support and linkages to services
  – Prenatal health care and support
What is Early Head Start (EHS)?

- Services provided in centers, homes, child care or a combination of settings
- Programs must comply with federal Head Start Program Performance Standards
- Program positively impacts:
  - Children’s cognitive, language and social-emotional development
  - Parental support of child development
  - Family self-sufficiency
Who Receives EHS Services?

Less than 4% of eligible children are served by federally funded EHS
Expanding Access to Early Head Start

EXPANDING ACCESS TO EARLY HEAD START:
STATE INITIATIVES FOR INFANTS & TODDLERS AT RISK

SEPTEMBER 2012

www.zerotothree.org/expandinggehs and www.clasp.org/childcare
23 States Are Building on EHS

- States that have state initiatives are shaded green.
- States that do not have state initiatives are white.

DC

Legend:
- Green: Have state initiatives
- White: Do not have state initiatives
Four Primary Approaches

- Extend the day/year of existing services
- Expand the capacity of EHS programs
- Provide resources and assistance to child care to deliver EHS
- Support partnerships between EHS and centers and family child care to improve quality of child care
Findings

1. Initiatives to extend the day of EHS services are funded through a variety of sources and policy strategies

   - Funding sources
     • Tobacco settlement funds, state general revenue, Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), and private foundation funds
       • Example: Maine

   - Policy strategies
     • Illinois, Montana, and New Hampshire
       • Example: Illinois
Findings

2. Several states are utilizing MIECHV funding to expand EHS services

- 15 states utilize the EHS home-based option
  - Example: Michigan

- EHS representatives were involved in MIECHV planning in many states
  - Example: New York
3. Several states have supplemental funding initiatives that are open to Head Start and EHS grantees

- A majority of these states have supplemental funding initiatives in which both existing Head Start and EHS grantees are eligible to participate
  - Example: Oklahoma
- Oregon and Kansas direct funds specifically to EHS
  - Example: Kansas
Findings

4. A few states continue to provide resources to child care providers

- Illinois and Oklahoma build on EHS by providing resources to help child care providers meet EHS standards
Findings

5. States continue to encourage EHS-child care partnerships

– States primarily use two strategies:

  • Establishing policies to lessen the burden of partnership
  
  • Providing funding to EHS programs that partner with child care providers so EHS services are delivered in child care settings.
  
  • Examples: Nebraska and Kansas
Recommendations for States

- Leverage federal funding streams to further state investment in EHS and increase the availability of comprehensive services to more children and families

- Provide sufficient state funding to the EHS initiative and participating providers to ensure stable resources in communities
Recommendations for States

• Use EHS initiatives to partner with and enhance the quality of child care for infants and toddlers in the state

• Cultivate champions for EHS and the needs of vulnerable infants and toddlers, inside and outside of state government

• Integrate EHS into the broader early childhood system so that more infants and toddlers receive high quality services
Speakers

Carolyn Kiefer
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Gina Ruther
Illinois Department of Human Services
State Initiatives to Expand Early Head Start: Idaho’s Efforts in Rural Areas

Carolyn F. Kiefer, M.S.
Idaho Head Start Collaboration Director
IDAHO: the Northwest I, A, O state

- 1.5 million people: 44 counties
- 26 “frontier” counties: <6 people / sq. mile
- 9 “rural” counties: no city over 20,000
- 9 “urban” counties: 1 city over 20,000
- 72,475 children under 3
- Estimate of 58% infants WIC eligible
Early Head Start

- 9 of Idaho’s 13 Head Start Programs have EHS
- 2 Tribal Programs and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start
- 2009 ARRA funding added 244 slots
- 755 funded “slots,” 876 enrolled last year
- About 5,000 children served in all of Idaho’s Head Start Programs.
$1.5 million dollars TANF funds

Initiated 1999 as an annual contract between Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare and Idaho Head Start Association

Purpose is to expand Early/Head Start services to an additional 180 eligible children. Includes Tribal and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start

Grantees receive funds based on a program size formula. Can be used for either HS or EHS slots
Careful process to identify counties for service by multiple risk factors

2 N. Idaho: Kootenai and Shoshone

2 S. Idaho: Twin Falls and Jerome

Decision to serve counties with some existing home visitation program: EHS, Part-C Infant Toddler Program
MIECHV Program Models

- Early Head Start
- Parents as Teachers
- Nurse Family Partnership
- N. Idaho has capacity for all three models
- S. Idaho starting with Early Head Start — MSHS branching out into home visitation.
- MIECHV grantees now recruiting families!
Challenges

- Building professional capacity
  - Home visitors
  - Supervisory staff--reflective supervision
- Community resources
  - Mental health
  - Referral process
- Sequence of funding stream and grant cycles
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STATE INITIATIVES TO EXPAND EARLY HEAD START: ILLINOIS CHILD CARE COLLABORATION INITIATIVE

Gina Ruther, Head Start State Collaboration Director and Acting Child Care Bureau Chief
BACK DROP: IL LANDSCAPE

- **Early/Head Start** — 4,909 Early Head Start & 36,834 Head Start. 48 grantee agencies. 19% Early & 46% Head Start in Chicago

- **Child Care** — More than 173,000 average monthly

- **Preschool for All** — About 84K preschool & 19K infant/toddler children

- **Rural, Urban, Metropolitan**

- **State Administered**
DESCRIPTION

- Child Care Collaboration Program
- Promotes collaboration between child care & other provider, including Early Head Start through policy bridges, not funding – extend day/year of Early Head Start
- Annual redetermination of eligibility; 90 day job search period; categorical eligibility if part of TANF Responsibility & Services Plan
BEGINNINGS

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families; changing family needs
- Key Partners: Discussions with Directors about collaboration barriers
- Partners in Care & Education Pilot 1999
- Statewide in 2003
PROCESS

- Collaboration providers apply to Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Must have collaboration already in place
- Services must be provided in 1 location
- Demonstrate improved quality
- Demonstrate continuity of care
ELIGIBILITY & THE NUMBERS

- **Income:** same as most restrictive collaborating program. IL Child Care is 185% of federal poverty ($2,944 family of 3); Early Head Start is 100% federal poverty

- **Service:** parents must be employed, attending school or in job training

- **Fiscal year 2012:** more than 15,000 total slots; about 1,700 Early Head Start; 100 agencies
SUPPORTS & EVALUATION

- Head Start Program Performance Standards and Licensing
- Policy clarification, technical assistance & professional development
- Resource match improves quality
- 2007 Evaluation Report
IMPACTS

- Program Practice – Continuity of Care
- Broadening – Impacts on Other Policies
- Paradigm Shift for Child Care – OCC Policy Principles

PreK/Prevention Initiative

Early Head Start

Child Care

Families
IL CONTACTS/RESOURCES

- Gina Ruther, DHS Head Start State Collaboration Director, Acting Child Care Bureau Chief
  Gina.Ruther@illinois.gov

- Online Child Care Assistance Program Manual
  http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=9877

- IL Early Childhood Collaboration Web Site
  www.ilearlychildhoodcollab.org

- Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development & IL Early Learning Council
  http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/OECD/Pages/default.aspx
Facilitated Discussion

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Paper is available at:  
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Webinar recording and PowerPoint will be posted at: www.zerotothree.org/policywebinars and http://www.clasp.org/resources_and_publications/filter?type=presentations

Report is available at: www.zerotothree.org/expandingehs www.clasp.org/childcare

To request printed copies of the report, email: Patricia Haigler at policycenter@zerotothree.org or Emily Firgens at efirgens@clasp.org