We have been **focused on Directors** over the last few months on The 9:30 Call.

On September 30, Donna Denette presented **"You Can't Pour From An Empty Cup"** and shared the results of a survey from over 100 Directors in Massachusetts.
You can see the slides and watch the recording.

Donna shared the presentation and survey results with the EEC Board Members before the October Board meeting.

The **November EEC Board Meeting** is a good opportunity for Program Directors to follow up and share comments during the Statements from the Public.

Click here for more information about the EEC Board Meeting. The November link should be live **by** Monday, November 11.
See who is on the Board of Early Education and Care here.

Complete this quick google form to let us know you are interested in going to Boston in person on November 13!

Meeting Information
Wednesday, November 13, 2024
1 – 4 PM
Department of Early Education and Care, 50 Milk Street, Boston, MA 02109
*You need an ID to enter the building.
When you get there, check in with security about what floor the meeting room is on.
Parking can be tough! Do some research **and try to reserve ahead of time.**

Agenda
While the November Board Meeting agenda is not posted yet, this is the typical start to the meeting:

- Welcome and Comments from the Chair, Paul Belsito
- Comments from the Secretary Tutwiler
- Comments from the Commissioner Kershaw
- **Statements from the Public***
  *The Board of Early Education and Care also makes up to 30 minutes available for persons in the audience to address the Board on specific agenda items. In order to hear as many speakers as possible, **the Board limits individuals to 3 minutes,** although written material of any length can be submitted. The Board asks associations or groups to select only one speaker to represent the organization. Those wishing to speak should indicate their intent by filling out the sign-in sheet that will be available during the half-hour prior to the start of the meeting. Please submit written public comment to: office.commissioners@mass.gov. Public comment received by 10 am on Wednesday will be sent to the Board in advance of Wednesday's meeting. Public comment received after 10 am on Wednesday will be sent to the Board shortly after the meeting.

Getting Prepared
If you want help with your comments, we will help you.
We can share sample templates for you to use.
It would be great to have a variety of perspectives and stories.

Consider these themes / perspectives as you are preparing your 3-minute statement.

1.) **Incoming Directors** – The need for training, mentorship, apprenticeship, higher-ed collaboration, relationship with EEC/licensors, pay/benefits, ratios, work-life balance. What do you want Board Members to know?

2.) **Current Directors** –How do we stabilize and support you? We know that many answers involve time and emotional/mental capacity that too many just don't have. Siloed, scarcity, competition for resources. The growing prevalence of posting anonymously – what does that show us? What do you need?
3.) **Directors Leaving or Considering Leaving** – What is influencing your decision? Can outgoing leadership get harnessed to mentor/coach/support/teach/support the next group of leaders? What exists? What could we create?

A few things to keep in mind when preparing:

- You need to keep your comments to **3 minutes**. It is best to write them out, practice saying them out loud and using a timer. Three minutes goes fast!
- Assume positive intent!
- **SET THE CONTEXT** - You should start with your first and last name, the name of your program, where it is located, how many children and families you serve, a breakdown of your funding (contracts / vouchers/ private pay/ philanthropy) how many staff work in your program and how long you have been working in the field.
- **SHARE 1 – 2 HIGHLIGHTS** – challenges, wins, worries, etc. Pick one or two things to focus on – you can't tell your whole story or share all the challenges in 3 minutes – pick one or two.
- **SHARE SOLUTIONS** – what could help? What do you want the Board members to know?
- **THANK YOU and INVITE THEM FOR A VISIT / OFFER to HOST A FOCUS GROUP OR OTHER WAYS TO HELP.**

LOGISTICS - When you arrive at the Board Meeting

- You should plan to **arrive between 12:30 – 12:45 PM.**
- There will be a **sheet to sign up on if you want to speak**.
- Paul Belsito, the chairman, will use this list to call people up. Make sure you print your name clearly.
- Find a place to sit and take a few deep breaths!
- **Look for Donna Denette!** She will be there!
- When your name gets called, you will go up to the table, sit down and use the microphone. Take a deep breath. Speak clearly and slowly!
- They may set a timer – don't be surprised if it goes off. Try to wrap up your comments.
- When you finish - they will thank you, so don't jump up from the table too early.
- Bring copies of your remarks to leave with the Board Members.

YOU CAN DO IT!

We will have 2 "Testifying at the EEC Board Pep Rallies!"
9 -9:30 AM – Tuesday, November 12
9 – 9:30 AM - Wednesday, November 13
We will use the 9:30 Call Zoom Link. Click here to get the link if you don't already have it.
Let us know what else you need to know! Email aoleary@strategiesforchildren.org.