

Vital Communities ECE Initiative

Workforce and Program Models Workgroup

Monday, February 13, 2023

12:30-2:00 pm

Next meeting, Monday, February 27, 2023 12:30-2:00 pm via Zoom

ECE Workforce and Models Workgroup

12:30 – 2:00pm

First and Third Monday of the Month

From Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88144914668?pwd=VkJXWjQ3bVhhVUZLeFB2N2Z0YzRyUT09>

Meeting ID: 881 4491 4668

Passcode: 383671

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Vital Communities Early Childhood Initiative

North Star: The goal of the Early Childhood Education Initiative is to facilitate an increase in high-quality, accessible, and affordable early childhood education in the bi-state Upper Valley area.

Agenda

- Introductions and Icebreaker
- Update from Shaun Mulholland-Progress on NH legislative bill
- Update from Shaun Mulholland -Lebanon ECE Provider; Lebanon architect design work
- Update from Amy Brooks- Progress on workforce pipeline

- Training for landlords to open opportunities for ECE programs-Does this exist?
- Other Business

Next meeting: Monday, February 27, 2023

- If available, Damian might be able to provide an update on ECE work in Orange County

Meeting Notes:

In Attendance:

Damian DiNicola
 Anna Hubbard
 Shaun Mulholland
 Faye Gearson
 Alison Chisholm
 Lori Brown
 Amy Brooks
 Julie McConnell
 Michael Bennett

Update from Shaun Mulholland-Progress on NH legislative bill

Shaun: Senate Bill 221 allows for property tax exemption for childcare facilities has not been scheduled yet but is likely to be scheduled for the first full week of March when I return from vacation. Senator Prentice is sponsoring that bill. We had a strategy meeting last week with some key stakeholders and there are a number of task items that other people are working on in terms of lining up speakers for all of the sectors we want to cover. We'll make that case in front of the head, which will be election in Municipal Affairs Committee.

Update from Shaun Mulholland -Lebanon ECE Provider; Lebanon architect design work

Shaun: Just left the kickoff meeting with the architect, which is placed out of Portsmouth, and the selected provider is the Boys and Girls Club of Central NH. Chris Eamon is the director there.

Met with the rest of the project team and the timeline is basically between now and the middle of October is when we expect to have the conceptual design put

together, as well as have our committee conversations and have our project total project costs. Our goal is submitting for grant applications development block grant, presumably in the January round, and then also we'll be looking for state tax credits. We're also looking at federal tax credits under the IRA program, or the energy components of that project, as well as direct congressional appropriation. We'll be applying for one of those and then there's going to be a lot of fundraising that goes on with the Boys and Girls Club. They just raised \$5 million for their facility in Concord to their building. So they're really good at that capital campaign work, which will be necessary for this project.

Update from Amy Brooks- Progress on workforce pipeline

Amy: We have 14 in our program right now. Fingerprinting process was amazing. The first group is quite experienced in the work. not necessarily in the field, but in the workforce. We predict they will be in a sub pool within four weeks. They would be in the sub pool for 4-5 months before completing the process. We will bring additional cohorts in and maybe plan ahead to do the same thing in the Claremont area.

Still working on the process of getting a modular unit to add space because we are definitely cramped for space. We just need to work on a scale model of the parking lot. Shaun, would we get the building specs to the building inspector ahead of time?

Shaun: It's best to get it to him as early as possible so they can provide feedback if anything pops up.

Training for landlords to open opportunities for ECE programs-Does this exist?

Alison: The idea of business support for home-based centers that are renting, not owning the home. Renting sometimes presents issues with the landlord - could we provide training for landlords to make them more open to having a home-based provider rent from them? This could be a longer term planning item for us.

Amy: One page cheat sheets - small town zoning boards don't have an understanding of what is covered in licensing.

Alison: SO maybe we just keep this on a parking lot board of possible resources to be developed - I don't hear any urgency to bring this to the top of the list. I think it could be much better if we heard from providers themselves about their questions and issues.

Amy: The Family Child Care Network won the Homegrown Grant - to develop a strategic plan for that group to explore self-governing, with the ECEA facilitating and supporting and of course in cooperation with the municipalities.

Other Business

Alison: I've been sitting in on the CDFA tax credit grant application processes and there are two organizations that look like they are going to materialize that are related to ECE on the NH side.

- Trying to fund the quality improvement fund that would enable them to encourage centers to make improvements and then they would release a set of monies to pay their workforce a higher wage. There was interest in seeding that fund with a tax credit grant. That's one model that is being pursued that is different from what we are pursuing here.
- Second model is the Cheshire County concept of a grant that would be focused on home-based centers. That would allow capital grants to make improvements to your property to allow for expansion. It would also support progressing toward licensing and allowing for expansion there.

Amy: In need of about 10 laptops, they only need to access the internet and have Word, because people are coming in with just their phones or tablets and that's not a big enough screen.

Alison: Chromebooks are very cheap. Staples has donation programs for educational organizations and Sara Hiebert, the librarian at River Valley, has some they can't use - see if they would loan them out?

Anna: Working to redo the Workgroups, so expect an email about that soon. No more zoom link issues!

Shaun will not be at the next meeting.