

Vital Communities ECE Initiative

Facilities and Program Models Workgroup

Agenda

October 5, 2022

6:00-7:00 pm

[Meeting Video](#)

Agenda

- Update on ECE proposal post-Regional Leaders meeting on 9/22. Next steps.
- Update on RFI for the Lebanon ECE project
- Revised Lebanon ECE center regulations
- Approve focus and goals (See below)
- Other Business

-Next meeting date: Wednesday, October 17, 2022,1-2:30 pm

Attendees:

- Shaun Mulholland
- Amy Brooks
- Joanne Roberts
- Julie McConnell
- Amelia Struthers

Update on ECE proposal post-Regional Leaders meeting on 9/22. Next steps.

Shaun: We met with several folks in Vermont, mostly home care providers with some center providers. Basically, that was our second meeting with providers that we had talked about with the steering committee. We felt that it would be appropriate that we met with the providers first to get their input before we move the concept any further. This meeting offered an opportunity to understand what the city is proposing in terms of a childcare center. That the capital cost would be absorbed by the city through grants and then a provider would operate that facility, presumably on city property. Really helpful to get the insight from them. So I think that meeting went well and they expressed similar concerns that the first folks in the first meeting expressed that the potential for a facility of this size to poach their employees, you know, for better pay and benefits was a significant concern.

And then but there was another, it was a different concern that maybe I didn't fully understand in the first meeting and that was that, if they're going to this facility for a preschool program or

something of that nature, the in home care providers, you're going to lose that that child and potentially another sibling and it doesn't value them to have them for part of the day they need to make the money obviously to make it economically feasible. They need that child for the whole day. And if they're going to this facility parents are not going to want to move from one place to the other. So that presents a problem for a competition in terms of, other than infants, for a facility of this nature.

Update on RFI for the Lebanon ECE project

One of the providers asked if they could participate or submit a proposal in regards to the RFI that the city is going to be putting out and I said absolutely, and that's why we're doing it as an RFI. We're not doing it as an RFP because an RFP is usually open for 30 days. And when someone submits a proposal like a bid, what you get is what you get and there's really no room for negotiation. An RFI is open for 90 days and it allows us to actually work with a prospective partner that wants to participate in this and we could help them craft their proposal because it has a lot more flexibility.

What we were pushing out was just the ability for providers to pre-register because they have to register in our program to see the RFI. RFI finalized and launch planned at the end of this month. The providers will receive an email that the RFI is available to view. The expectation is that once that is launched, people have to ask questions through that portal. That way everybody else gets to see those questions. And the responses to those so it's a fair process. So the expectation is there will be a lot of questions and a lot of back and forth so that people understand how the whole process works.

See blurb from ECE listserve:

“Submit a Proposal for the Lebanon Childcare Facility”

The City of Lebanon has developed an RFI (Request For Information) from parties that might be interested in partnering with the City to operate a childcare facility. The City has a procurement system that is completely digital. If you are interested in submitting a proposal you would need to pre-register in the system at the link below,

<https://lebanonnh.gov/682/Bids-RFPs-RFQs-and-RFIs>

The RFI is in the review process with an anticipated release date of sometime the end of this month. The RFI process will be open for 90 days and is intended to be a conversation between interested parties and the City to develop the concept further. The City anticipates the selection of a partner through this process as this project moves forward.

As a potential vendor you would want to use the NAICS codes listed below when prompted in the registration.

92400- Educational/Training Services

92471- School Operations and Management Services

This is an open process. If there are any questions pre-release of the RFI please do not hesitate to contact me. After the RFI is released, all questions must be submitted and responded to in the portal which can be viewed by all registrants.

Revised Lebanon ECE center regulations

So the council will actually talk about those tonight. Basically what it does is it streamlines the process if you want to operate a childcare facility. There are special exceptions in some zones and variances that are required in others and we're removing those or asking the council to remove those provisions so it speeds up the process. So tonight, they'll discuss it, and then there'll be a public hearing in January but there'll be community conversations that have not been scheduled yet that will occur between now and the date of that public hearing.

Advocacy could send a letter to support this bill. ECEA could too.

Could we have a standard letter we can collect signatures on like Moms Rising?

Approve focus and goals (See below)

We're fixing the language and making sure that it matches. I added the last sentence and I'm open to ideas, but currently it reads. ***This group will identify and catalyze strategies to reduce operational costs including cooperative procurement of services, tax breaks, etc. support current ECE providers and ways to bring new ECE professionals into the field.*** That sounds a bit more recruitment. What I was thinking about was what Shawn just did to help with the regulations to make it easier for people to open a business.

We get rid of that and just put in zoning requirements or something like that.

Tapping the resources of this committee to navigate barriers like fingerprinting, zoning, in opening a childcare center.

Jen Ligier is working on this aid. I think it's HB 230 to give some statewide guidance so towns know for family based childcare that they don't need a commercial kitchen. They don't need a parking area. They don't need hardwired fire alarms and they don't need a sprinkler system.

Can we go to corporate counsel and promote supporting in-home childcare startups?

This is the season right now when towns and cities across the entire state are making changes to their zoning regulations. We've got a draft that people can use, there's no copyright on it. That helps streamline the process to help facilitate childcare facilities. Communities might want to consider looking at this model or versions thereof to adopt in their own communities.

How to support towns in being family based childcare friendly? Extend to the VT side too. Many family childcare centers can give more flexible hours than center based childcare.

The best way to do this may be at the very grassroots in each community.

Fingerprinting

Shaun: I got an email yesterday from the director of Health and Human Services Karen Hebert in regards to the fingerprinting and she just wanted me to link her up with the Chiefs of Police Association so that we can do what we're doing in Lebanon throughout the state so I'm making that connection right now to facilitate that. What Lebanon is doing is to allow child care program applicants to get scan fingerprinted on a much more relaxed basis **This may fall under recruitment.**

North Star:

- Focus - Identify, develop, and support strategies to reduce barriers such as operational costs, including cooperative procurement of services, tax breaks, zoning requirements, etc.

Updates:

Shaun sent out version seven of the tax exemption legislation. Some more changes were made by attorneys on that. That went out to Senator Bradley and Senator Prentice. Have three state rep signing on as sponsors.

No headway yet on the consumer cooperative. Still waiting for the data to be able to complete that. What is the consume cooperative idea?

A mass of businesses that would help subsidize the cost of childcare. And that can happen in a couple of different ways. It could be for instance, we would have arrangement with a childcare provider. We would subsidize some of the cost of that childcare. We would pay a higher amount for our particular employee, which would allow that childcare provider to pay their staff better benefits and salary. But you would need enough mass to be able to do that, enough businesses to sign up to do that.

Next meeting:

-Connections to Kim Votta's survey and this committee (Amy Brooks) Big ideas

-Tax legislation update, Senator Prentice involved

-RFI

-Consumer cooperative concept- Mass of businesses to help subsidize childcare costs. Employer offsets parents' childcare costs paid directly to the provider. What is the true cost of care per each slot? Many variables. What percentage would need to be paid to allow the provider to increase salaries?

Collective Impact Model

Common Agenda	All participants have - a shared vision for change - a common understanding of the problem - a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions
Shared Measurement	Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants to ensure efforts are aligned and participants hold one another accountable.

Mutually Reinforcing Activities	Participant activities are differentiated while still coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action .
Continuous Communication	Consistent and open communication is maintained across the collaborative to - build trust - assure mutual objectives - appreciate common motivation - share lessons learned
Backbone Support	Responsible for providing support that helps mobilize, coordinate, and facilitate collective impact towards the identified key outcome.

From June 2022:

