



Focusing on Young Childrens' Learning & Supporting Families

The New Mexico Early Learning System

A Journey to Coordinate and Align Early Care and Education Programs serving New Mexico's Children and their Families

Legislative Education Committee – Legislative Finance Committee
July 19, 2018



Children Youth & Families Department

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Early Childhood Services

Three Key Elements of today

- Early Learning New Mexico
- Coordinating and Aligning the Early Learning System
 - Successes, Lessons Learned, Strategies
- Next Steps



“Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me.”
— Fred Rogers



The first five years form a foundation for success in school, college, career, and life!

Early Learning New Mexico promotes quality early learning experiences for children prenatal to age five, so that kids are ready for Kindergarten and beyond.

cyfd

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Not an easy Journey

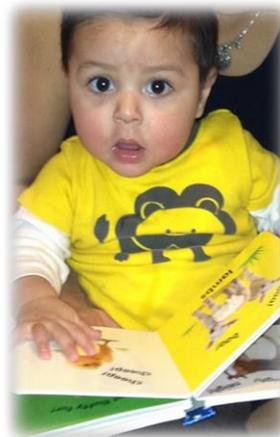
Different state agencies in New Mexico are responsible for different early childhood programs

Each early childhood program has different requirements

The complexity of the early childhood funding and accountability creates challenges to the implementation of a cohesive and coordinated system, both at the state and local level

What is Early Learning New Mexico?

Prior to RTT–ELC, the Public Education Department (PED), the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), and the Department of Health (DOH) – the three state agencies with authority over one or more of the state’s early childhood programs – operated with limited coordination



Department	Early Childhood Program
Public Education Department (PED)	Part B, Section 619 IDEA (Early Childhood Special Education) PreK Program* Title I, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
Department of Health (DOH)	Part C, IDEA – Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program
Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)	Head Start State Collaboration Office Child Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing • Assistance • Quality – FOCUS • Child Care and Summer Food Program Home Visiting Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level I- Prevention Promotion • Level II - Targeted • Level IIS – Targeted specialized • Level II - NICU PreK Program* Early PreK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early PreK Mixed Age - Pilot Early Childhood Services Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Higher Education Taskforce • Early Learning Advisory Council

*The New Mexico PreK program is jointly administered by PED and CYFD.



As a result of New Mexico's Race to The Top-Early Learning Challenge work, the inter-departmental structure that administers all early childhood programs birth to age five was branded as ***“Early Learning New Mexico”***.



Formerly referred to as the “System of Systems”, the New Mexico Early Learning System connects strategies and initiatives with one-another for the overall goal of a seamless cohesive and aligned system.

The New Mexico Early Learning System					
Ages					
PRENATAL	BIRTH TO ONE	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR TO KINDERGARTEN ENTRY
Home Visiting					
	IDEA Part C Early Intervention— NM FIT PROGRAM			IDEA Part B EC Special Education	
	Title I				
	Child Care				
Early Head Start				Head Start	
				NM Early PreK	NM PreK

First Step: A Governance Structure

- As part of RTT–ELC, a coordinated early learning governance structure across PED, CYFD, and DOH was created.
- The approach was consistent with research.
- Collaborative, cross-systems early childhood governance can improve services for children; support greater stakeholder involvement; and create stronger K–12 linkages.^(A)
- The governance structure allows each agency to retain control of the programs as required, while putting in place procedures for sharing information and coordinated decision-making.

The Governance Structure was the beginning

- In addition to the collaboration, communication and shared governance, there are other Early Learning New Mexico initiatives to promote coordination and alignment
- FOCUS – Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Professional Development
- The NM Early Learning Guidelines
- Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)



Starting at Home... What is CYFD doing?

- Alignment of the Training and Consultation System
- In-house Verification by cross-trained ECS staff
- PullTogether:
 - Resource and Referral for Child Care, Home Visiting and more
 - Am I Eligible - Survey, Application and Referral (CC, HS, HV, PreK, FIT)
- Cross-referral and case management for PS, JJ and BH
- Working with non-state funded programs: Head Start, Tribal, Home Visiting
- Programming designed for coordination within early learning programs: HV-FIT, Mixed Age PreK-HS, CC-PreK, HV-SleepSafe

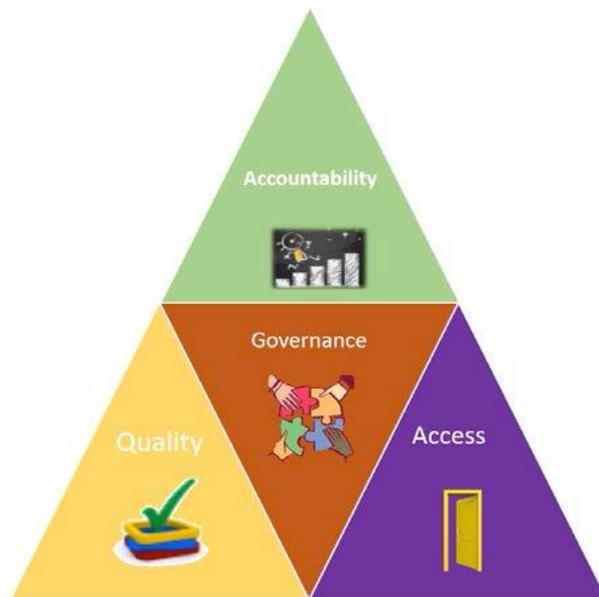


Lessons Learned

- Not an easy Journey... but is worth it!
 - Collaboration takes time
 - Needs to be beyond the person at the table
 - Relationship-based, trust and ongoing communication
 - Selective participation
 - Balance between access and quality, accountability and support
 - Funding restrictions
 - Changing culture: State, programs, families, funding sources, advocates
 - The role of the Early Learning Advisory Council
- Lack of understanding of the learning system can lead to further fragmentation
 - Ongoing, meaningful involvement of councils, programs, families, advocates, communities and partners, is needed to continue shaping and sustaining a comprehensive early learning system for all children in NM

Next Steps

- Develop a formal Governance agreement between state agencies (DOH, CYFD and PED) for shared governance, decision making and planning.
- Establish formal relationship and accountability with the Governor's Early Learning Advisory Council.
- Coordinate communications for Early Learning.
- Conduct a comprehensive community assessment.
- Establish ECIDS data governance committee to oversee the implementation of ECIDS, in accordance with established data governance policies and procedures.
- Utilize statewide KOT data as a measure of school readiness to analyze the impact of various early learning experiences.



New Mexico's Race To the Top Early Learning Challenge Summit
Celebrating Today • Building for Tomorrow

<https://www.earlylearningnm.org/media/NM%20RTT%20Summit%20Program.pdf>

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Core Elements of Early Childhood Governance

Researchers have identified five core elements, or values, that all early childhood governance models should embody to be successful. These include the following:

Coordination: The governance model should connect the different parts and programs of the early childhood system, reflecting its comprehensive nature.

Alignment: The model should provide coherence across system-wide tasks like data collection, quality standards, and outcome measurement, and should break down silos associated with the administration of funding and oversight of programs.

Sustainability: The governance model should be able to navigate political and administrative changes and be designed to best account for the breadth of the early childhood system's reach (in terms of programs and services).

Efficiency: The model should allocate resources wisely, reduce duplication of effort, and provide a significant return on investment.

Accountability: The governance model should be accountable to the early childhood system and its stakeholders in terms of quality, equality, and outcomes and also should be able to hold services and programs accountable for their performance

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I'll never forget the sense of wholeness I felt when I finally realized what in fact I really was: not just a writer or a language buff or a student of human development or a telecommunicator, but I was someone who could use every talent that had ever been given to me in the service of children and their families.

FRED ROGERS

Thank
you!

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