



new mexico early childhood development partnership

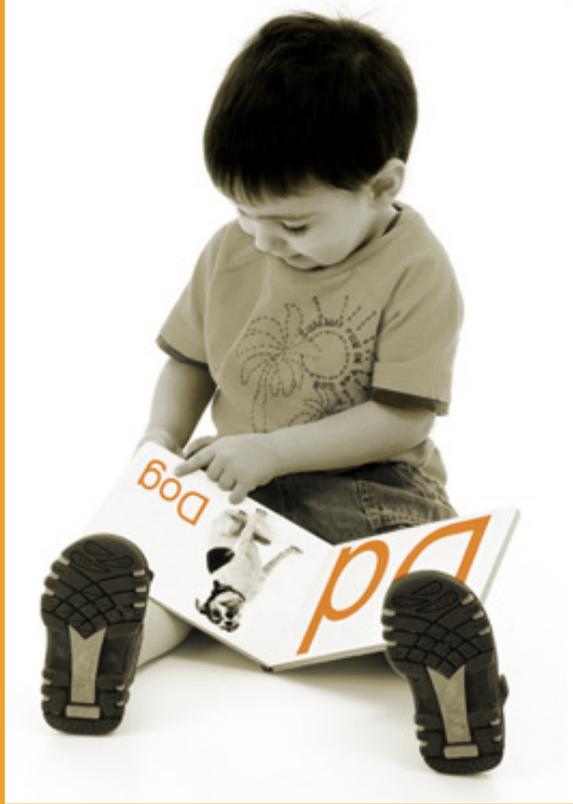
# LESC Update on Child Care & Education Task Force

**November 18, 2014**

# New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership

## Mission & Vision:

The mission of the NMECDP is to create the public awareness and political will for investments in early childhood care and education in New Mexico.



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# How does NMECDP work?



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# NMECDP Critical Success Factors



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- Public, private **partnership**
- Respected as impartial and **non-partisan** by all stakeholders
- Ability to broker meetings among all critical **stakeholders**, and across the aisle
- A focus on **quality and accountability** in all policy analysis and implementation
- A nimble and responsive organization, able to move quickly to address a rapidly **changing political landscape**

# NMECDP Work



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- New Mexico Early Care and Education Cost Model
- Early Childhood Education Cost Analysis & Recommendation
- Early Childhood Education Revenue Options
- Early Childhood Care and Education Act
- Home Visiting Accountability Act



# Goals of early childhood programs

- Target the 6.9% of the state's population (about 143,764) that are under age five.
- Impact the 62% of New Mexico's children (ages 3 and 4) that are not attending pre-school.
- Provide foundation for school readiness.
- Reduce the number of children in New Mexico who enter kindergarten without important pre-literacy skills.

# Importance of High- Quality Early Care and Education

## High-quality child care helps children succeed in school

“Research indicates that children who receive a high-quality early childhood education have better math, language and social skills as they enter school, and as they grow older require less special education, progress further in school, have fewer interactions with the justice system and have higher earnings as adults.”

-Steve Barnett, National Institute for  
Early Education Research

# Child Care and Education Task Force

- Respectfully engage a variety of stakeholders to build consensus
- Research best practices on implementing quality efforts in child care and education settings
- Analyze policy levers to improve the quality and accountability of child care and education
- Develop policy recommendations to include in legislation to be proposed during the 2015 legislative session
- Present recommendations to interim legislative committees and other interested stakeholders
- Regional meetings for input from additional stakeholders

# A Focus on Child Care



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## Dual Mission of Child Care



Provide quality care  
that emphasizes  
school readiness



Support working  
families

What  
would it  
look like  
to have  
both?

## High Quality Care & Support for Working Families

1. Ensure ALL child care providers accept child care assistance.
2. Increase % of children under age 6 from low-income families who are eligible for child care assistance.
3. Lengthen the average stay in child care for a child receiving child care assistance.
4. Work so that state policies support child care assistance.
5. Increase efficiencies in program management for recipients of child care assistance.

## Stability for Children & Families Eligibility

1. Change childcare re-certification period from six months to up to 12 months;
2. Extend childcare assistance to remain in place during high school and college breaks;
3. Set entrance eligibility for childcare assistance to 200% of the federal poverty level and exit at 250%.

## Stability for Children & Families Reduce the Administrative Burden

1. Eliminate reporting of income increases between certification periods;
2. Expand the ways people can apply for childcare assistance.

## Support for Early Education & Care Professionals

1. Offer tax credit incentives to:
  - Early childcare employees for furthering their education
  - Early childhood directors for improving their businesses
  - Individuals and businesses for donating to early childhood programs (in addition to the charitable contribution deduction)
2. Eliminate the gross receipt tax for CYFD-contracted Pre-K providers.

## Workforce Development

1. Encourage job-embedded professional development through grants from CYFD that address the following through a collaborative approach:
  - Provide mentoring / coaching in the classroom
  - Involve floater-substitute pools
  - Consider alternatives to pay employees planning / reflection time
  - Allow ratios to go down during nap time
  - Supply substitute teachers for after-hours care
  - Provide support for leadership in early childhood programs in schools
2. Provide joint professional development opportunities for birth-to-5 and K-3 teachers.

## Workforce Development Enhance Higher Education

1. Make higher education more accessible to all students, including non-traditional students, by funding and supporting the following:
  - Dual Language Learners
  - Expand course availability options
  - Provide childcare to students
  - Strengthen current and create new education pipelines. Strategies include:
    - Link high schools/charter schools with community colleges that have early childhood degree programs (e.g., Santa Fe Teen Parent Center's *Mother Tongue* program)
    - Redefine the role of high school vocational programs to serve as a feeder to higher education early childhood degree programs
2. Revise the educational requirements for program directors.

## Develop Child Care Effectiveness Indicators

1. Evidence of the availability of affordable, high-quality childcare for families with low-income, working parents
2. Evidence that children are healthy and safe:
  - Regular attendance
  - Immunization rates
  - Regular health and developmental screenings
  - Evidence of an referral system to other social services
  - Evidence that children receive regular meals
3. Evidence of high quality early education:
  - Staff retention rates
  - Teacher education levels
  - Percent of children who enter kindergarten ready to learn, as measured by a kindergarten entry assessment
  - Evidence that children are happy and engaged
  - Evidence that families are engaged constructively

## Task Force Recommendations

# Supporting Successful FOCUS Implementation

1. Ensure FOCUS training is widely accessible to different audiences (i.e., online, bilingual, geographically dispersed, etc.);
2. Recognize equivalent training;
3. Reduce the initial employee professional development requirement from 100% to 80% of teachers who have taken mandatory training;
4. Assign each multi-site childcare facility only one FOCUS consultant, and ensure that all consultants are trained consistently and;
5. Create a structure where experienced teachers can “test out” of new training if they can demonstrate proficiency with the content.

## Task Force Recommendations

### Ensure the Highest Needs Children Receive the Highest Quality Care

1. Research and pursue incentive options that would encourage childcare subsidy families to select high quality, evidence-based childcare;
2. Set an attainable goal for the percentage of subsidized children who attend high quality programs within the next five years and;
3. Provide support enabling registered home-based providers to become licensed.



**“IF WE COULD HAVE BUT ONE GENERATION OF PROPERLY BORN, TRAINED, EDUCATED AND HEALTHY CHILDREN, A THOUSAND OTHER PROBLEMS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD VANISH...”**

**– HERBERT HOOVER**

Thank you!



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