



# State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care

# Background



- ❖ The Head Start Reauthorization Act 2007 mandated the creation of State Advisory Councils
- ❖ Federal Government made funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)
- ❖ Florida's State Advisory Council was established in March 2010 by former Governor, Charlie Crist, as an advisory body to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet.
- ❖ Florida was eligible and received \$4.9 million to accomplish the proposed scope of work using the Florida Framework.
- ❖ The grant period began September 2010 and ends August 2013.

# Purpose & Goal



## **Purpose:**

- ❖ The development of a high quality, comprehensive system of early childhood education and care.
- ❖ Ensure statewide coordination and collaboration among the wide array of early childhood education programs and services in the State.
- ❖ Work in partnership with state agencies and statewide organizations

## **Goal:**

Produce a stronger and more integrated early childhood system for Florida with more coordinated, more responsive services for children and families.

# Council Initiatives



## Professional Development

- ❖ Working in partnership with the Department of Education and Department of Children & Families, University's, Community Colleges, FL Head Start Collaboration Office, Department of Health, Head Start and Provider Associations
- ❖ Design and develop online training modules to support the implementation of the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards
- ❖ Conduct statewide focus groups and assessment tours with practitioners to develop professional development recommendations for early childhood professionals
- ❖ Develop methodology and coordinate training phase of the Professional Development Pilot Project

# Council Initiatives



## Professional Development (continued)

### Florida Family Child Care Home Association

- ❖ Provided 57 scholarships to the Florida Family Child Care Home Association (FFCCHA) Conference “Enhancing Our Minds 2012”
- ❖ The FFCCHA Saturday Training day was an opportunity for providers to attend a professional development event that specifically addressed the Family Child Care Home.

# Council Initiatives



## Professional Development (continued)

### ❖ Partnering for Success Symposium

- This statewide meeting is a collaborative event between Early Steps, Florida's Office of Early Learning, Florida Head Start State Collaboration Office, the Department of Education and FSU's Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy.
- Purpose of this statewide training event is to support state-level planning that leads to shared, integrated professional development opportunities across all early childhood sectors in Florida.
- State Advisory Council will vote today on providing scholarships to the Partnering for Success Symposium

# Council Initiatives (cont.)



## Statewide Early Education and Care Workforce Study

- ❖ **Vendor:** Children's Forum
- ❖ **Contract Period:** 4/27/12 – 10/27/12
- ❖ **Purpose:** Design and implement a comprehensive, statewide early education and care workforce study to provide baseline demographic data for the collective efforts to improve professional development opportunities for teachers of young children, thus increasing provider quality.
- ❖ **Objectives:** Improve access and availability of training and education opportunities for teachers in their effort to advance in the field and increase provider quality in Florida

# Council Initiatives (cont.)



## Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASSTM)

- ❖ **Vendor:** Teachstone
- ❖ **Contract Period:** 7/1/12 – 06/30/14
- ❖ **Purpose:** Adoption of a statewide, systematized program assessment approach will ensure that Florida's school readiness programs are properly assessed and areas in need of technical assistance are identified. Such an approach will result in better social and academic outcomes and for Florida's children.



# Council Initiatives (cont.)



## Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASS™)

### ❖ Objectives:

- Increasing the quality of teacher child interactions.
- Identifying specific areas of program improvement that can be targeted and addressed through technical assistance provided by the early learning coalitions.
- Documenting program adherence to program quality standards and program improvement.
- Aggregate assessment data at the state level.
- Providing better social and academic outcomes and futures for Florida's children.
- Increased CLASS contract amount to cover cost of provider materials. Less impact on small business and more funds to ELC to use for direct services.

# Initiatives in Development



## Statewide Needs Assessment

- ❖ **Vendor:** TBA (RFP to be posted August 2012)
- ❖ **Contract Period:** 9 months
- ❖ **Purpose:** A federal priority of State Advisory Council is to conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the State.

# Initiatives in Development



## Statewide Needs Assessment

### ❖ Objectives:

- Provide data that allows the state to identify gaps and opportunities for child well being.
- Make data-driven decisions to prioritize areas and develop recommendations to improve or sustain supports, services.
- Improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of Florida's early education and care programs.

### ❖ Timeline:

- June - July 2012: Develop Scope of Work
- August - September 2012: Route and post RFP
- October 1, 2012 anticipated start date

# Initiatives in Development



## Collaborative Partnership between Early Care and Child Welfare: “Fostering the Future”

### Child Welfare Statistics

- Children age 3 and younger accounted for 33.4% of substantiated reports of maltreatment in 2009 (*Child Maltreatment 2009*)
- The highest percentage of children with verified maltreatment in Florida during FY 2010 – 2011 was in the birth to four old range (*Office of Adoption and Child Protection 2011 Annual Report*)
- Children under 3 who have been neglected are at a significantly higher risk of later experiencing developmental problems when compared to those not experiencing abuse.

# Initiatives in Development



## Pilot Project: Everybody's a Teacher

- ❖ Collaborative between Department of Children and Families and Florida's Office of Early Learning
  - Interagency Agreement between ELC and CBC
  - Awareness and engagement
    - Development of parent/partner outreach using I'M A TEACHER bracelet and information cards
  - Enroll children in quality early learning programs
  - Train foster parents and relative care givers on child development milestones

# Initiatives in Development



## **Pilot Project: Everybody's a Teacher**

### ❖ **Completed**

- Collaborative Planning Meeting
- Development of the Case Manager and Caregiver Guides.
- Development of parent/partner outreach using “I’M A TEACHER” bracelets and information cards.
- Increase the number of children in out-of-home care who are enrolled in quality early learning programs
- Development of “Every Child Counts” Curricula

### ❖ **Next Steps: Project Connect**

# Initiatives in Development



## ❖ **Project Connect:** Phase 2 of Everybody's a Teacher

- Additional partners: Department of Health, Head Start, Guardian ad Litem, and Judicial Systems.
- Establish ongoing, coordinated communication pathways between and among the early learning, child welfare, and judicial systems which are supported by an on-line portal for data sharing.
- Increase capability of early learning programs to effectively serve children in the child welfare system through professional development and provision of program resources and support.

# Initiatives in Development



## ❖ **Project Connect:** Phase 2 of Everybody's a Teacher

- Increase enrollments of children in child welfare in continuous, high-quality early care and education services.
- Increase access to information on child development and activities that promote learning and reinforce the social-emotional functioning of children that experiences trauma through phone app and web-based resource development.
- Continue implementation of “Everybody's A Teacher” campaign to engage parents and caregivers in supporting children's early learning and positive development.



# Initiatives in Development



## **Obesity Initiative Pilot: ELC of Escambia partnership with Parks and Recreation**

- ❖ **Local businesses sponsor an educational “child friendly” walking trail at a parks and recreation location**
  - Builds language and literacy skills through talking, reading, telling stories, writing, singing and rhyming with children
  - Builds social/emotion development through responsive conversation
  - Builds parent understanding on the valuable role they play in supporting early learning
  - Uses everyday moments in loving interaction to reinforce learning
- ❖ **Next Steps:** Discuss additional pilots statewide

# Initiatives in Development



## ❖ What is Parental Engagement:

- An ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, education providers, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure student achievement and success.

## • Parental Engagement Partners:

- Working in partnership with the Department of Health, Department of Children and Families, Early Learning Coalitions, Office of Adoption and Child Protection, Florida's Office of Early Learning and Georgetown University

# Initiatives in Development



## Pyramid Café – Parental Engagement Model

### ❖ Background

- One Voice for Volusia Inc. formed a collaborative initiative titled “thrive by five”
- Partners included Department of Health-Health Start, Florida’s Office of Early Learning-Early Learning Coalition, and Department of Children and Families
- Goals of the “thrive by 5” collaborative
  - Children are prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn
  - Children are emotionally and physically healthy
  - Holistic service delivery system
  - Parents serve on the boards of all member organizations

# Initiatives in Development



## Pyramid Café – Parental Engagement Model

- ❖ Healthy Start of Flagler and Volusia Counties and the Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia with significant parent leadership successfully applied for the grant funding to accomplish the following goals
  - Strengthening Families - 6 Protective Factors
  - 3 family run Community Cafes where families can gain social, technological and concrete support in setting and accomplishing goals to strengthen their families through guided conversations
  - Effective Leadership for Early Childhood Systems Change: Adaptive Leadership Training

# Initiatives in Development



## ❖ Head Start Dental Home Partnership

### Project description

- The project utilizes a dental hygienist as a community coordinator to work with local dentists and physicians to target Head Start/Early Head Start and other young children to raise awareness of the importance of early intervention and preventative services.
- Address barriers to access and challenges to the private sector and dental community regarding the treatment of Medicaid patients and the provision of Medicaid dental services
- Oral Health Awareness Training for early childhood providers
- Training of local general dentists and other oral health providers on treating young children and the application of fluoride varnish as a preventative treatment