

# Early Childhood Consolidation Workgroup Stakeholder Feedback Session

July 15, 2021

Rebecca Banner, Office of Child Care, DWS  
Sarah Woolsey, Division of Family Health and Preparedness, UDOH

# Objectives

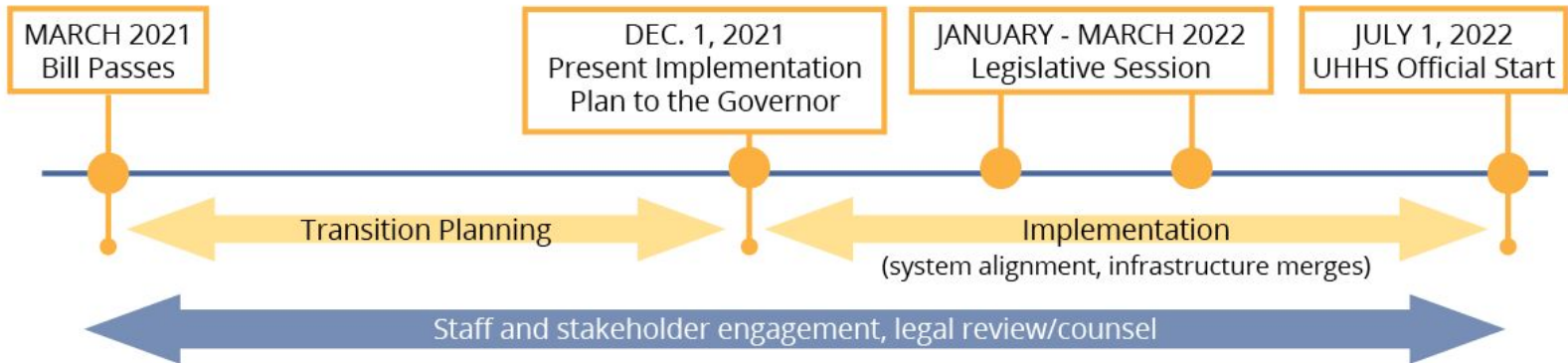
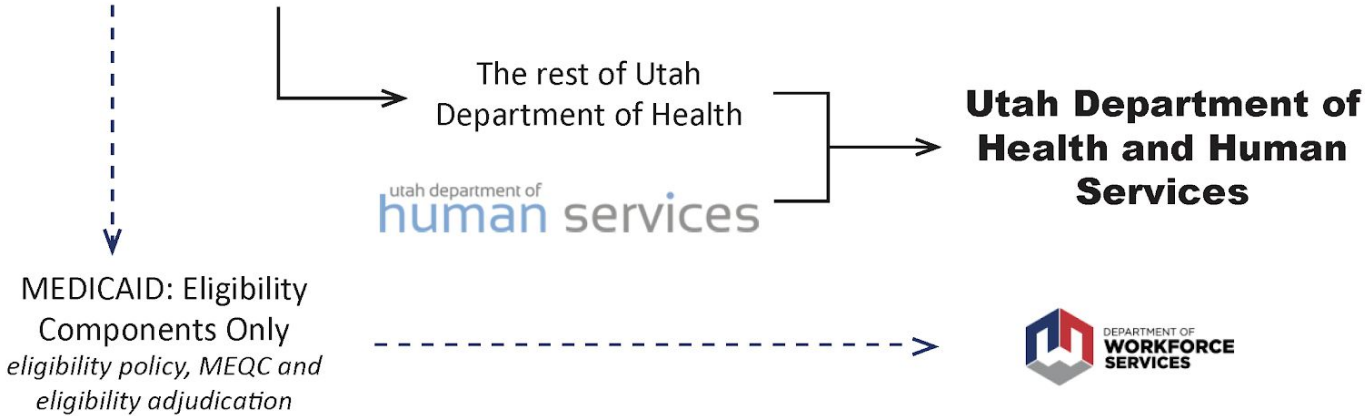
1. Background
2. Workgroup process and timeline
3. Share draft recommendations and seek your feedback
4. Set up follow-up and next steps



# Background

2011	Early Childhood Advisory Committee/Early Childhood Utah established
2017	Early Childhood Services Study presented to the Legislature
2019	Early Childhood B-5 Strategic Planning Completed
2019	Early Childhood Commission was established in statute
2020	Early Childhood Mental Health in Utah review published
March 2021	HHS Consolidation set in statute and consolidation work commenced
May 2021	HHS Consolidation process added Workgroup to make recommendations on Early Childhood Governance





# Health and Human Services Consolidation Steering Team

## Vision:

The Department of Health and Human Services will advocate for, support, and serve all individuals and communities in Utah. We will ensure all Utahns have fair and equitable opportunities to live safe and healthy lives. We will achieve this through effective policy and a seamless system of services and programs.

*[hhsplan.utah.gov](http://hhsplan.utah.gov)*



# Governor's Early Childhood Commission Task - May 2021

Tasked Workgroup with reviewing and providing recommendations related to the early childhood governance and incorporating work from the needs assessment to analyze the current structure about consolidation, collaboration, and coordination to provide better service access for parents.

August meeting: Bring recommendations for review and consideration.



# Workgroup Members

**Sarah Woolsey**, Co-Chair Division Director Family Health & Preparedness, UDOH

**Rebecca Banner**, Co-Chair Office of Child Care, DWS

**Carrie Martinez**, Family Youth Outreach Program including Early Childhood Utah Program, UDOH

**Lisa Davenport**, Program Manager Baby Watch Early Intervention, UDOH

**Eric Grant**, Assistant Director of Medicaid, UDOH

**Lana Stohl**, Director of System of Care, DHS

**Tracy Carpenter**, DCFS Project Administrator, DHS

**JoEllen Robbins**, Manager of Quality Operations, Office of Childcare, DWS

**Heather Adams**, Program Specialist, Childcare Professional Development, DWS

**Kyla Clark**, Program Manager for Department of Human Services, DHS

**Annie Coyle**, Utah Department of Health Family Health & Preparedness and Maternal & Child Health, UDOH

**Nicole Bissonette**, Formally with Early Childhood Utah Program, UDOH

**Jared Lisonbee**, Preschool Specialist at Utah State Board of Education, USBE

## Leadership Guidance and Support

**Casey Cameron**, Executive Director, DWS

**Tracy Gruber**, Executive Director, DHS

**Heather Borski**, Deputy Director, UDOH

**Mark Brasher**, Assistant Director, DHS

# Work Accomplished and Forthcoming

To June 2021

- Development of recommendations on Governance of ECC, ECU, Agency Programs
- Compilation of Analysis of all programs represented in the 4 agencies

July 1-Aug 30

- Stakeholder input on Early Childhood recommendations
- Presentation to ECC
- Recommendations share with Steering Committee

Sept 1-October 1

- Report Draft due to Steering Committee
- Program consolidation framework development and model development
- Assess financial framework



# Governance

“The laws, policies, processes, and structures used to allocate resources, ensure accountability, support collaboration across groups and drive planning”

*Dichter, H., Connors-Tadros, L., & Horen, N. (2021). Early Childhood Governance: A Toolkit of Curated Resources to Assist State Leaders. SRI International.*



# Governance Framework

Alignment  
Coordination  
Sustainability  
Efficiency  
Accountability  
User Experience  
Local Engagement

*Education Commission of the States: Governance in Early Childhood Education, 2018*  
<https://www.ecs.org/governance-in-early-childhood-education/>



# Alignment

Recommendation:

To ensure governance alignment throughout Utah's Early Childhood work, the consolidation workgroup recommends that the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council and Governor's Early Childhood Commission formally adopt the following documents to guide decision-making for actions at the state level.

- [B-5 Strategic Plan \(already adopted\)](#)
- [Early Childhood Mental Health Needs Assessment](#)
- [Utah's Early Learning Guidelines Birth to Age 3](#)
- [Utah Core Standards Ages 3-5](#)

These documents should be used as appropriateness guides and be referenced as planning occurs. Updated materials should replace these when available.



# Alignment

## Recommendation:

To ensure measurement alignment and accountability for Utah's early childhood work, the consolidation workgroup recommends that the Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council and Governor's Early Childhood Commission (ECC) develop a sustainability plan for outcome measurement building on the following databases that exist across agencies:

- Utah's Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS),
- Utah Data Research Center (UDRC),
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) databases (including Child Health Advanced Records Management (CHARM)),
- Utah Registry for Professional Development (URPD)
- Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Data System (Pre-Kindergarten Entry and Exit Profile, Kindergarten Entry and Exit Profile)

Aligned financial and staffing resources for these databases will be an early effort of the ECC.



# Coordination

## Recommendation:

The Governor's Early Childhood Commission (ECC) and Early Childhood Utah (ECU) Advisory Council will become operationally interdependent. The ECC will set the goals for cross-sector outcomes that will be evaluated using data from supported databases to track longitudinal outcomes. The ECC will formally adopt the ECU advisory subcommittees as advisory committees. The ECC will refer goals and topics to ECU advisory subcommittees as appropriate. The ECU advisory committees will refer topics and ideas to the ECC for consideration and support. A charter will formalize working operations.



# Coordination

## Recommendation:

To facilitate communication and coordination between the community-based Early Childhood Utah (ECU) stakeholders and the largely agency-based Governor's Early Childhood Commission (ECC), the workgroup recommends a full time staff be dedicated to the ECC and ECU Advisory Council to ensure brisk and efficient coordination. The workgroup advises that this proposed staff position should operate independently of the representing agencies to ensure neutrality of the function of the position.



# Coordination

Recommendation:

The workgroup recommends the ECC add 20% or at least 2 parent representatives to the ECC.

The workgroup recommends the ECC add private sector representatives to the ECC (roles to be determined).



# Sustainability - Preliminary Discussion

Long-term knowledge and leadership maintenance

Funding: getting grants, support after one-time funding is spent, long-term data funding

Long-term data strategy



# Next Steps

Survey to allow for written feedback on each recommendation requested by Tuesday, July 20th

- Comments can also be shared with any workgroup member

DHHS organization structure being discussed and new alignments announced

Deep dive into analysis spreadsheet to guide discussion on program alignment



# Questions