



Council on Children and Families

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EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS: Building Health through Integration 2013-2016 Work Plan Summary

OVERVIEW

In August of 2013, the Council on Children and Families received a new, three year Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. This new project period will build on the work done through ECCS initiative and the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) over the last three to five years. The strategies outlined below for this new ECCS project period will focus on improving health practices for infants and toddlers in early childhood education programs based on selected best practices defined in *Caring for Our Children; National Health and Safety Performance Standards, Third Edition*.

Through an extensive analysis of the existing components of New York's early childhood system, the state ECCS Project developed strategies that capitalize on existing system structures in the state's early childhood education system, the coordination of the ECAC the between different elements of our childhood system, and our partnership with the New York Docs for Tots Network.

The goal of the ECCS Project is to **strengthen health promotion practices in early childhood education programs serving infants and toddlers**. Below is a brief outline of the strategies developed by the ECCS Project for the 2013-2016 ECCS work plan. The ECCS Project envisions the development of an ECCS Team that will be integrated into the work of the Promoting Healthy Development Work Group of the ECAC to capitalize on the expertise of the work group's membership and the ensure the work outlined below aligns with the overall work of the ECAC.



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Council Member Agencies

State Office for the Aging * Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
Office of Children and Family Services * Division of Criminal Justice Services * State Education Department
Department of Health * Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs *
Department of Labor * Office of Mental Health * Office of People With Developmental Disabilities
Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives * Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



Deborah A. Benson
Executive Director

STRATEGIES

Strategy 1: Develop a system of training, coordination, and technical assistance for child care consultants

The ECCS Team will support the development of a curriculum and system of training for child care health consultants. Partnering agencies and organizations will inform the curriculum, which will be based on the curriculum developed by the former National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants and tailored to fit the needs of New York's workforce. Training efforts will initially target child care health consultants working with child care resource and referral agencies to take advantage of an existing network. Secondary recruitment efforts will focus on additional child care health consultants who are certified medication administration or health and safety trainers. The ECCS Team will also facilitate local technical assistance collaboratives to provide ongoing support and coordinate the effort of child care health consultants with other consultants working with early childhood education programs. The training of child care health consultants will be incorporated into the Aspire workforce and trainer registries to provide the ability to track these training efforts.

Caring for Our Children Standard: 1.6.0.1 Child Care Health Consultants

Strategy 2: Increase communication between early childhood education programs and medical homes.

The ECCS Team will implement several strategies to increase early childhood education programs' ability to monitor the health care of infants and toddlers in their care. Strategies include developing medical forms for early childhood education programs that include a HIPPA waiver and increasing the capacity of child care health consultants to facilitate communication between medical homes and early childhood education programs. The medical community will also receive training to increase their awareness of early childhood education system resources and methods to increase communication with programs.

Caring for Our Children Standards: 3.1.2.1 Routine Health Supervision and Growth Monitoring and 3.5.0.1 Care Plan for Special Needs

Strategy 3: Increase early childhood education programs' capacity to support the social and emotional development of infants and toddlers.

Through the ECAC Promoting Healthy Development Workgroup's work with the Children's Institute and the work of the Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, training resources are being developed to increase early childhood education providers' knowledge and competencies for promoting the social emotional development of the children in their care. The ECCS Team will leverage these and other existing professional development resources, including an existing cadre of trainers who are certified in ZERO to THREE *Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect* curriculum, to increase early childhood education providers' ability to support social emotional development of infant and toddlers. Early childhood education providers will also receive technical assistance from trained child care health consultants about

promoting the social emotional development of infants and toddlers augmenting the technical assistance provided by Infant Toddler Specialists.

Caring for Our Children Standards: 1.4.5.2 Child Abuse and Neglect Education; 2.1.2.1 Personal Caregiver/Teacher Relationships for Infants and Toddlers; 2.1.2.2 Interactions with Infants and Toddlers; 2.1.2.3 Space and Activity to Support Learning of Infants and Toddlers; and 2.2.0.6 Discipline Measures

Strategy 4: Promote nutrition and physical activity practices in early childhood education programs.

The ECCS Team will work to create stronger linkages between the work of existing groups including the Obesity Prevention in Child Care Partnership and the professional development activities of the ECAC and to incorporate nutrition and physical activity topics into the curriculum for child care health consultants. Physical Activity Specialists funding through the NYS Department of Health will also be included in the local technical assistance collaboratives of consultants working with early childhood education programs.

Caring for Our Children Standards : 4.2.0.6 Availability of drinking water; 4.3.1.1 Plan for Feeding Infants (encourage breastfeeding); 4.3.1.3 Preparing, feeding & storing Human Milk; 4.3.1.11 Introduction of age-appropriate solid foods; 4.3.2.2 Serving size for toddlers & preschoolers; 2.2.0.3 Limiting Screen Time – Media, Computer Time; and 3.1.3.1 Active Opportunities for Physical Activity

Strategy 5: Improve injury prevention practices in early childhood education programs.

The ECCS Team will incorporate injury prevention information into the training curriculum for child care health consultants to increase their ability to provide technical assistance that re-enforces trainings required by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

Caring for Our Children Standards: 4.5.0.10 Foods that are choking hazards; 3.1.4.1 Safe Sleep Practices and SIDS Risk Reduction; and 3.4.4.3 Prevent & Identify Shaken Baby