

State Early Childhood Advisory Council Priorities 2019

Priorities

Currently, the Council is focused on two priority areas: Communication / Public Awareness and Workforce Development.

Communication / Public Awareness (Priority 1): Objectives for this priority are:

- To update and develop communication policies and procedures to ensure effective communication with local jurisdictions as well as effective interdepartmental communication. This will include a plan for the use of social media and SMS services.
- To develop a public awareness campaign to educate the community and reinforce the importance of early childhood education. This public awareness campaign will serve as an “umbrella campaign” that will support the efforts of the local councils and link the community to effective and reliable resources.

Workforce Development (Priority 2): Objectives for this priority are:

- Increase capacity for behavioral health consultation to child care, home visiting, pre-kindergarten, Early Head Start and other early childhood programs, including kindergarten, and Head Start.
- Increase capacity for behavioral health consultation to pediatric providers through Baltimore Health Integration in primary Pediatric Care. (Lead – Health Department)
- Establish behavioral health consultation to maternal health providers with focus on pregnant and postpartum women. (Lead – Health Department)
- Convene collaborative State and Local implementation teams to establish and sustain systemic change to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and their families. (Lead - Special Education/Early Intervention)

To support these initiatives, the state will need to review its training component and ensure that it has the capacity to support all early education and care providers. Objectives for this work are:

- To develop effective strategies that addresses the use of technology in the classroom and in early education and care programs as well as family engagement and challenging behaviors. To successfully address the latter, strategies should consider training or coaching models that are also inclusive of communication skills, relationship building, cultural competencies, and trauma informed care.

Birth-8 (Priority 3): We will be asking our State Early Childhood Advisory Council members for input and feedback as we begin our work this fall. Education Counsel, a non-profit educational consulting firm, has invited Maryland to participate with Connecticut, Delaware, and Mississippi in a multi-state workgroup as our states begin to implement the Birth to 8 opportunities that are in our new ESSA plan. They will be supporting us with evidenced based ideas in order to expand opportunities and improve outcomes for all students from birth through age 21.