Coming Together for Young Children and Families
What we know
Where we have been
Where we are today
Where we need to go
What we know

- Biology and experience, nature and nurture
- The growth of self regulation as a cornerstone of early childhood development across domains of behavior
- Relationships as the building blocks of human development
Vulnerability and resilience, risk and protective factors

The course of development can be altered in early childhood by effective interventions……

Source: From Neurons to Neighborhoods
A Child’s Developmental Trajectory Can Be Modified With Appropriate Interventions

Source: Edward L Schor, MD
The Commonwealth Fund
Social Transformation for Families

- Changes in nature, schedule and amount of work engaged in by parents of young children
- More children spending time in childcare, starting at a young age, quality varies
- Distance from other family members
- Increasing cultural diversity
- Persistence of disparities
- High levels of economic hardships among families
- Exposure to stress
Child Poverty
Children living in low-income and poor families, by age group, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Low-income</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 3</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–11</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–17</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policies and Early Childhood Development

- Early Care Education
- Health, Nutrition and Mental Health
- Family Support and Child Protection
- Family and Community Well Being
Where we have been: looking back on progress

- Maternal and Child Health
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Child Care and Development Fund
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment
- Family and Medical Leave
- Child Support and Fatherhood
- Children’s Health Insurance Program
- Family Preservation and Support
- States as laboratories of innovation
- State Pre K expansion
Where we are today

- Health and Education
- Prenatal to age eight
- Prevention and health access
- Evidence based policies
- Place based strategies
Moving from diverse programs to more systems approach

- Governance
- Program standards
- Early learning standards
- Professional development
- Family engagement
- Health promotion
- Data systems
Expansion and quality improvements in child care, Head Start and Early Head Start through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
Looking Forward......seven steps to change
Step up efforts to support families

- Improve parent child relationship
- Include fathers, grandparents, foster parents, extended family, unite the generations
- Provide time, information and networks of support
- Meet families where they are
- Build the higher education capacity to focus on families
Have high expectations for children

☐ Joy
☐ Order
☐ Persistence
☐ Curiosity
☐ Language and math
☐ Compassion
☐ ..................................................
Put in place the key elements of effective programs

- Positive teacher-caregiver/child interactions
- Mentoring and working conditions
- Intentional use of data/feedback to guide practice
- Infrastructure of support for families, health and mental health promotion
Create early learning communities

- Governance
- Data
  - During pregnancy and at birth
  - At three years old
  - At five years old
  - At the end of third grade
- Quality assurance system
- Linkages with schools
Continue to find evidence

- What are the key elements that lead to improved child outcomes in early childhood programs?
- How can the gains be sustained over time/ how does one program build on another?
- What is the impact of media and technology on young children and family relationships?
Build the next generation of leaders

- Leaders that understand research, practice and policy

- Leaders that reflect the languages and the cultures of the children we serve

- Leaders that understand the importance of a round table.
Take care of yourself!

- Your health
- Your family
- Your friends
- Your spirit
“In the final analysis, healthy child development is dependent on a combination of individual responsibility, informal social supports, and formalized structures that evolve within a society.”

p. 337 From Neurons to Neighborhoods