

C2: Early Care and Education Coordination: Descriptive Research Findings and Policy Implications

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. | Penn Quarter B

1. Descriptive Information

C2: Early Care and Education Coordination: Descriptive Research Findings and Policy Implications

In the past year, new research findings present a more complete picture of who is engaged in early care and education collaborations, why they are collaborating, and what features of collaboration predict success. The session will build on the "Coordinated Services for Children and their Families: Research Approaches, Benefits, and Challenges" at CCEEPRC 2018 and will begin with an overview of new research findings in a forthcoming Special Issue of Early Education and Development focused on Early Care and Education Collaboration. The next presentation will discuss findings from the national descriptive study of Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships. The third presentation will share findings from a study on coordination of early care and education with family economic security and/or other health and human services. The final presentation will describe emerging findings and methodological challenges of conducting a needs assessment that focuses on coordination of services for children birth to age five. Presenters will draw implications and discuss policy questions in light of the newly funded Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five. Each presenter will briefly discuss definitions of collaboration/coordination, methods employed, and the unique contribution of the research to our understanding of the issues of coordination/collaboration. Although each presenter's research is on a similar topic, the perspectives are unique with regard to the reasons why providers are collaborating, the collaborating partners, and the populations engaged in the studies.

Facilitator

Diane Schilder, Education Development Center (EDC)

Presenters

Diane Schilder, Education Development Center (EDC) | *Early Care and Education Collaboration: Overview of Definitions, Methods, Emerging Findings and Implications*

Patricia Del Grosso, Mathematica Policy Research | *Approaches to Developing and Maintaining Relationships and Coordinating Services in Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships*

Scott Baumgartner and Jessica Harding, Mathematica Policy Research | *Early Findings about Models of Coordinated Services for Low-Income Families with Young Children*

Noreen Michael, University of the Virgin Islands | *The Early Childhood Care Mixed Delivery System In the US Virgin Islands: Preliminary Findings of a Needs Assessment*

Scribe

Gabi Kirsch, ICF

2. Documents Available on Website

- a. [Del Grosso Working Together for Children & Families](#)
- b. [Michael U.S. Virgin Islands' Preschool Dev. Grant](#)
- c. [Schilder Early Care and Education Collaboration](#)

3. Brief Summary of Presentations

- Diane Schilder, Education Development Center (EDC) | *Early Care and Education Collaboration: Overview of Definitions, Methods, Emerging Findings and Implications*
 - Diane started the session by asking attendees to write down what coordination means. She then asked people to share their thoughts about the term collaboration.

- According to attendees: collaboration is about intentional planning, co-design, and co-creation. Coordination is more of a static term.
 - Diane is doing a special issue on collaboration for Early Education and Development. In her team's review, she found that two articles discussed process success (are they working together towards a mutual goal).
- Patricia Del Grosso, Mathematica Policy Research | *Approaches to Developing and Maintaining Relationships and Coordinating Services in Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships*
 - Patricia's team started with a conceptual framework. There are four parts of the puzzle: Early Head Start programs, the child care providers, state and local systems providers, and families.
 - The study focused on the first cohort of Early Head Start child care partnership grants. There were 250 grantees.
 - Building relationships between EHS programs and child care providers' increases buy-in. Many EHS program and child care providers had experiences collaborating before the EHS-CC partnership grant. Nearly all grantees had agreements with the childcare providers that they were working with.
 - There is joint motivation for partnering for EHS programs and child care providers. Gaining new access to funding and resources, more training for staff, and increasing family's access to comprehensive services are all motivations.
 - Nearly all EHS programs reported holding regular meetings with lead child care provider staff; most participated in discussions with frontline staff. Building a relationship was an important part of addressing quality improvement needs.
 - Diane highlighted Patricia's comment that relationships are key, which is an emerging trend in the research.
- Scott Baumgartner and Jessica Harding, Mathematica Policy Research | *Early Findings about Models of Coordinated Services for Low-Income Families with Young Children*
 - Low income families need many supports (income, nutrition, and childcare). Since these supports are siloed, they must go to a few different places and show complex proof at each application. Siloed programs do not meet the needs of whole families. For example, families that are trying to participate in employment and training programs, they may not have sufficient childcare.
 - Jess's team is interested in child care programs that coordinate at adult and/only the child level. Are there coordinated services that work? Her team is doing field work to address research questions by looking at publicly available information. Her team then did a telephone interview with some of them. The research and evaluation literature is limited on coordinated services approaches. Most of the literature is focused at coordination at the local level.
 - Scott spoke about the model scan that is aimed at identifying coordinated services approaches. There are some co-location, blending funding, and combining data systems. This part of the study is preliminary. 25 states have some coordinated approach. There are 49 cities who have approaches independent from the state approach. State level coordination may be influencing local level coordination.
 - Scott talked about the two-generation approach in Hawaii. They have combined the departments of health and human services. They are developing an enterprise data system.
 - In Minnesota, they have a two-generation policy network.
 - South Carolina has Smart Steps to School Readiness. This is a public private partnership.
 - Scott asked the room: How can state-level coordination efforts influence local-level coordination, and vice versa? What have you observed in your work? An attendee commented to think about what disincentives exist that keep states from collaborating.
- Noreen Michael, University of the Virgin Islands | *The Early Childhood Care Mixed Delivery System In the US Virgin Islands: Preliminary Findings of a Needs Assessment*
 - The USVI PDG B-5 project has five essential purposes: (1) develop strategic plan, (2) coordinate this work with the PDG B-5 including developing partnerships with service providers, (3) optimize funding, (4) give

parents the knowledge to expand their options, and (5) enhance the school readiness for vulnerable children.

- The project has five required activities: (1) conduct a needs assessment, (2) develop a strategic plan based on the needs assessment, (3) maximize parental choice in a way that is culturally sensitive, (4) share best practice among providers, and (5) improve the overall quality of early childhood care.
- Noreen's team works with a state advisory council, partner agencies and organizations, and project committees.
- Her team collected secondary data by establishing a workgroup and identified, retrieved, and analyzed secondary and administrative data. Her team has an IRB application that is currently under review to collect primary data.
- 20% of the families in the territory live in poverty. Half of these families are headed by single females. Of those families, 44% of them have children under 6 years old. Over a quarter of people in the territory receive SNAP benefits. 1 in 4 people are ensured by Medicare.
- The territory has faced many challenges. They are recovering from the two category five hurricanes. Many infrastructures have not been fixed (both physical but also data infrastructures). There is a new government which has many implications due to leadership changes in agencies.
- This federal grant is encouraging the relationships building that other presenters have spoken about.

4. Summary of Key Issues Raised

- Diane commented after the other presentations on implications. Research should have racially, culturally, and linguistic competence and focus on the relationship between formal collaborations and issues of equity. Research should employ consensus definitions of collaboration and associated processes and outcomes are needed. It should use mixed methods to unpack the processes that are related to success in different contexts and with a range of populations.
- Policies are needed that focus attention on issues of equity, are informed by the latest research on collaboration, and support technical assistance as well as processes that research suggests are predictive of desired outcomes.