

## Plenary 3: Promoting Equity through State and Community Early Childhood Initiatives

Thursday, April 18, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Constitution CDE

### 1. Descriptive Information

#### Plenary 3: Promoting Equity through State and Community Early Childhood Initiatives

Building on the momentum generated at the 2018 CCEPRC Annual Meeting, this session addresses the critical topic of equity by showcasing innovative multi-sector early childhood initiatives in communities across the country and three national networks that are supporting them. First, the Networks of Opportunity for Child Wellbeing (NOW) focuses on building community capacity and developing data systems that can highlight inequities and promote cross-system alignment, and, through Project HOPE (Harnessing Opportunity for Positive Equitable Early Childhood Development), supports building connections across community and state efforts. Second, the Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (EC-LINC) brings together communities that are committed to building integrated early childhood systems and testing innovations. The presentation will highlight different community strategies being tested to promote equity. Third, the National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers brings together national partners supporting initiatives in 29 communities and 15 states to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers and their families. This presentation will highlight examples from specific communities to address disparities in the areas of health, family support and early care and education. The facilitator will help identify the common threads across the three networks and the unique approaches each is taking to address equity. Time will be available for questions and discussion with the presenters.

#### Facilitator

**Kathryn Tout**, Child Trends

#### Presenters

**Diana Rivera**, Vital Village Community Engagement Network | *Project HOPE (Harnessing Opportunity for Positive Equitable Early Childhood Development)*

**Ngozi Lawal**, Center for the Study of Social Policy | *Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (EC-LINC)*

**Kathy Stohr**, Pritzker Family Foundation | *The National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers*

#### Scribe

**Katie Caldwell**, ICF

### 2. Documents Available on Website

- Plenary Resource List
- Promoting Equity: CSSP & EC-LINC Community Initiatives
  - Early Learning Multnomah Parent Accountability Council (<https://youtu.be/pjamu2Ym2GY>)
- Promoting Equity Through State and Community Early Childhood Initiatives
- Building Community Capacity to Advance Equity and Cross-Sector Systems Alignment
- The Pritzker Children's Initiative

### 3. Brief Summary of Presentations

- **Summary of Presentation #1: Kathryn Tout**
  - 2018 CCEPRC opened with an equity plenary and it carried throughout the meeting and added great value.
  - Equity is achieving the highest level of health and education for all people.
  - All presenters are national networks that promote equity and build equitable systems

- **Summary of Presentation #2: Ngozi Lawal**

- Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) is a national nonprofit that seeks to promote racial, social and economic equality
- Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network (EC-LINC)
  - 14 communities across the country who are local level system leaders
  - 3 highlighted here today
- Multnomah County, OR- Early Learning Multnomah
  - Actively engaging parent voice
  - Racially diverse population
  - Parent accountability council that ensures that Early Learning Multnomah is on track in supporting children toward school readiness
  - Elevating the needs of children who are at a disadvantage- investing in those who have less
  - Parents are driving the agenda
- Volusia/Flagler Counties, FL
  - Effort to reduce fetal and infant mortality
  - 1 zip code is a “hot spot” in the McCoy neighborhood in which fetal and infant mortality is high
    - Brought social services to the neighborhood, have seen an increase in WIC access
    - Local library has partnered to let social services use their space to allow families to sign up for needed services
- Los Angeles County, CA
  - Geographically diverse
  - One approach will not work, fact finding mission to identify why are 3 black infants dying at the rate of 1 white infant
  - What are the barriers and challenges?
    - Systemic racism as resources do not appear to be the issue
    - Focus group was held:
      - Black moms shared experiences with the health care system which were often not positive
      - Distrust of service providers
      - Cultural barrier to home visiting
  - Black Infants and Families website was recently launched
- CSSP: Manifesto for Race Equity and Parent Leadership in Early Childhood Systems
  - January 2018 Oakland convening of parents
  - EC-LINC Parent leader network
  - Established 5 Commitments for Change
- Early Childhood System Performance Assessment Toolkit
  - Assesses how well an organization is engaging parents and creating equity in their systems

- **Summary of Presentation #3: Diana Rivera**

- Vital Village Network at Boston Medical Center
  - Networks of residents and organizations focused on promoting child wellbeing and preventing early life adversities.
  - Capacity building of three neighborhoods that are low income communities of color
- Vital Village uses an equity approach to community capacity building
  - Trauma informed and early life adversity lens
  - Cross-sector collaboration to foster alignment
  - Community co-design and leadership model
  - Strengths based, solutions-finding approach
  - Iterative improvement cycles
  - Curate and share data
- Networks of Opportunity for Child Wellbeing (NOW), a national initiative led by the Vital Village Network
  - Scaled up from communities in Boston to a national level

- NOW learning community:
    - 10 selected communities over 18 months focus on building knowledge, skills and tools to scale and sustain equitable transformation of early childhood education and health systems in their neighborhood, city, county
  - Innovations
    - Linking Immigrant Families with Early Childhood Education Project (LIFE)
      - Serving immigrant families in poorer communities in NYC
      - Culturally responsive outreach and enrollment to empower immigrant families to access quality PreK and 3K that meets their needs (NYC DOE program)
      - Model for partnership, parent engagement, and robust advocacy
      - Currently working on data storytelling and strategic communication to policymakers
    - Essex County Council for Young Children
      - Newark, NJ
      - Establish Newark as a trauma-informed early care and education community
      - Established infrastructure and partnerships
      - Lead agency is the child care R&R agency
      - Strong parent leadership structure
    - Young Child Wellness Council
      - Tuscaloosa, AL
      - Rural area far from transportation, economic opportunities and educational resources
      - Services have been seasonal in the past
      - Focusing on integrating family voice to address priority needs such as stable social and health services in the community
  - What is being learned?
    - Making parents and leadership pathways as part of governance structure or an organization
    - Data storytelling tools to create counter stories (show equity is a win for all)
    - Building adaptive, flexible (data) systems and process to respond to community needs
    - Fostering cross-site peer learning through diverse modalities
    - State-community feedback loops, leveraging existing relationships, letting communities lead
- **Summary of Presentation #4: Kathy Stohr**
  - The Pritzker Children's Initiative
    - Project of the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation
    - Expand equitable access to and participation in high quality services
    - National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers
      - Healthy Beginnings
      - Supportive Families
      - High Quality Care and Learning
    - Policy Priorities
      - Increase the number of families with children prenatal-to-age-three who are connected to essential health, development and social emotional support services
      - Increase the number of low-income infants and toddlers receiving affordable, high-quality child care in a range of settings
    - Measuring health development by age 3
      - Can be a challenge, have partnered with Child Trends to develop a framework
    - Equitable Access and Equitable Outcomes Trending Strategies for PN-3 (29 communities are involved)
      - Improve birth outcomes by addressing racial disparities and/or targeting under-served populations
      - Universal newborn screening and referral
      - Targeting specific, high needs populations to facilitate access to high-quality services

- Coordinated system for developmental screening and referral across health and early learning
- Focusing on CQI efforts on specific service to ensure effectiveness for specific populations
- Integrated data systems
- Expansion of high-quality, targeted services
- NCIT's online solutions center: [www.thencit.org](http://www.thencit.org)

#### **4. Brief Summary of Discussion**

- There was no time for questions and answers during this session.

#### **5. Summary of Key Issues Raised**

- Using data to track progress toward equitable outcomes helps demonstrate progress for stakeholders.
- The inclusion of the family voice when creating organizations and initiatives is key to ensuring equity.
- Connections and feedback loops between the community and the state to leverage resources and support collaboration are a vital part of these network projects.