

Session #B4

Title: Improving Access to Quality Care for Infants and Toddlers: The Growing Body of Knowledge

Moderator: Diane Stetson, M.S., Project Director, National Infant and Toddler Child Care Initiative

Tamara Halle, Ph.D., Researcher, Child Trends

Kelli Thompson, Community Initiatives Project Manager, Pennsylvania

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

National Infant & Child Care Initiative (Zero to Three): Dianne Stetson

- main priority working with and supporting the states
- long-term change required a systematic approach
- Maine as an example of success
- Phase two: learning communities that engage CCDF administrators (or their representatives) and share information using multiple means to meet (electronic, telephone)
 - It is a major effort for states. It is recommended they only participate in one.
- Products regarding Credentials for the Infant/Toddler Child Care Workforce and Infant/Toddler Specialist Networks were released by CCB today.
- How effective is the QRS when dealing with infants/toddlers? What are the appropriate constructs, measures, etc.?
- The importance of FFN Care for infants/toddlers. Often the parents' first choice.
- Phase Three of the Initiative is in the works.

ECLS-B Analyses: Tamara Halle

- Descriptive analyses of nationally-representative data looking at cc arrangement at 9 mos. according to income, maternal employment status, maternal work shifts.
- Generally, lower-income infants are more likely to be in relative care (or less likely to be in non-relative care) and lower-income infants are more likely to be in relative care.
 - The relationship between primary care arrangement and household income varies somewhat by mother's employment status and work schedule

State Initiatives: Kelli Thompson (PA)

- Many factors influenced PA to begin to focus on infants/toddlers. A major one was the statistic that 42% of infants/toddlers nationwide are "expelled" due to social or emotional problems
- PA's Office of Child Development is physically housed in the Dept. of Ed. And staffed by child welfare and child care subsidy professionals.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Did PA every focus solely on low-income children? No, they targeted all infants/toddlers with no special focus.

It is difficult to get large bodies (researchers, administrators, etc.) to focus on infants/toddlers. There are a lot of competing priorities.

Lots of activities in and around PA that are exciting and Initiatives around Infant/Toddler (IT's) focusing in the right directions, which due to a lot of activities will not be able to be ignored.

Presence within the Dept. of Ed.

Strong emphasis on Mental Health and Social and Emotional Development.

Early Intervention (coming in and providing services and quality for IT) will play a big and important role as those grow up.

Early Learning Standards, Why does the Federal Government not implement it nationwide? Does doing things statewide only make sense?

One needs intentional approach. PA has an evaluation that will be done.

KEY POINTS

NEED: equip CC providers better so they have the training and resources to deal with challenges around infant/toddler.

Quote at the beginning of the session from Dianne Stetson: "ONE PERSON CAN AFFECT CHANGES."

Comment at the end of the session from Dianne Stetson: "Kelli Thompson proved that that is possible."