Early Childhood and School Readiness Workgroup Meeting

September 21, 2018

Agenda

All Virginian children, regardless of background or zip code, are capable of <u>and</u> deserve the opportunity to enter kindergarten ready.

- Introduction of New Members
- Update on 10/2 Children's Cabinet
- Using Early Childhood Data to Inform Policy and Practice
- Overview of Home Visiting and Early Impact Virginia
- New Funding Opportunity: Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five
- Next Steps

Welcome to new members!

Update on 10/2 Children's Cabinet

Update on 10/2 Children's Cabinet

Children's Cabinet was updated on this group's definition of success – more children entering kindergarten ready – by 2022.

More Virginia families have **affordable access** to early childhood care and education that supports learning across the **birth through 3rd grade** continuum and **meets their unique needs**.

With a **shared** definition of **school readiness**, Virginia families and early childhood programs work together to **ensure children thrive, developing the skills** needed for kindergarten and beyond.

Virginia has **unified quality standards** for all publicly-funded early childhood programs that are **indicative of child outcomes**. Virginia **measures and rewards** programs for performance, ensuring leaders and teachers are **well compensated** for their achievement.

Overall Virginia's early childhood system will be **more unified, transparent, data-driven and resource-effective**.

Using Early Childhood Data to Inform Policy and Practice

What is VLDS?

A federated data system of equal partners sharing de-identified administrative data, expertise, and purpose to improve lives through enhanced policy recommendations.

Department of Education ✳ Community College System – Workforce ✳ Employment Commission ✳ Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services ✳ Department for Blind and Vision Impaired ✳ Department of Social Services **(+ Foster care in VLDS & plans to add Child Care Assistance & Medicaid)** ✳ Office of Children's Services **(+ Planned: CANS)** ✳ Department of Health Professions ✳ State Council of Higher Education ✳ **+ Department of Juvenile Justice + Progress on relational database capacities**

VLDS

What is an ECIDS?

An Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) connects information to answer key policy questions.

- Should include programs and services for young children (e.g., subsidized child care, pre-k, Part C and Part B, 619, Head Start, home visiting)

- Needs multiple levels of data— child, family, program, workforce

- Designed to focus on early childhood and answer critical questions that cannot be answered by any one program or data system alone

Source: The Early Child Data Collaborative

What questions can an ECIDS answer?

Building an ECIDS can help ensure Virginia's early childhood system data is more unified, transparent, data-driven and resource-effective.

Here are examples of policy decisions that an ECIDS can inform:

- Distinct counts of children– how many and which children are being served?

- How can we make our services/programs more effective?

- How many young children are on track to succeed when they enter school? What experiences did they have that may have informed this?

- What are the credentials of our workforce and how well do they meet the needs of our children?

VLDS

Example: Distinct Count Use

Using a VLDS data set to generate a distinct count can provide multiple insights.

Virginia is currently generating a distinct count of all children birth to five served by one or more participating early childhood programs and/or services. Doing this can help answer questions such as:

- How many children in Virginia are participating in individual and multiple early childhood programs and services? How do attendance patterns relate to later outcomes?

- How can Virginia's communities coordinate services better?

- How can information on the early childhood experiences of incoming Kindergartners help create "ready schools"?

VLDS

Next Steps

To best support early childhood policy-makers, stakeholders and practitioners, the Children's Cabinet should ensure that the VLDS connects all the key early childhood data sources.

1. Complete Distinct Count Use Case

2. Build out ECIDS capacity by integrating additional key data sources into VLDS:
   - Live Births and other essential health data (Department of Health)
   - Service data for children birth to three with special needs through IDEA Part C (Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services)

3. Other?

VLDS

Overview of Home Visiting and Early Impact Virginia

What is early childhood home visiting?

Voluntary home visiting matches parents with **trained professionals** to provide **information and support** during pregnancy and throughout their child's first five years—a critical developmental period.

Home visitors **partner** with parents to support the healthy growth and development of their children. They **guide, teach, and encourage** young families as they take on life's most wonderful challenge – parenting.

Research consistently demonstrates the **effectiveness** of home visiting programs in improving short and long term child and family outcomes.   **Return on investment** is well established at rates of up to $5.70.

Home Visiting in Virginia

There are seven models of home visiting in Virginia.

- CHIP of Virginia

- Early Head Start

- Healthy Families VA

- Nurse Family Partnership

- Parents as Teachers (PAT)

- Resource Mothers

- Healthy Start/Loving Steps

Program Characteristics

- Voluntary

- Free

- Long term and Intensive service delivery

- Based on best practice

- Evidence based curriculum

- Extensive professional development/training
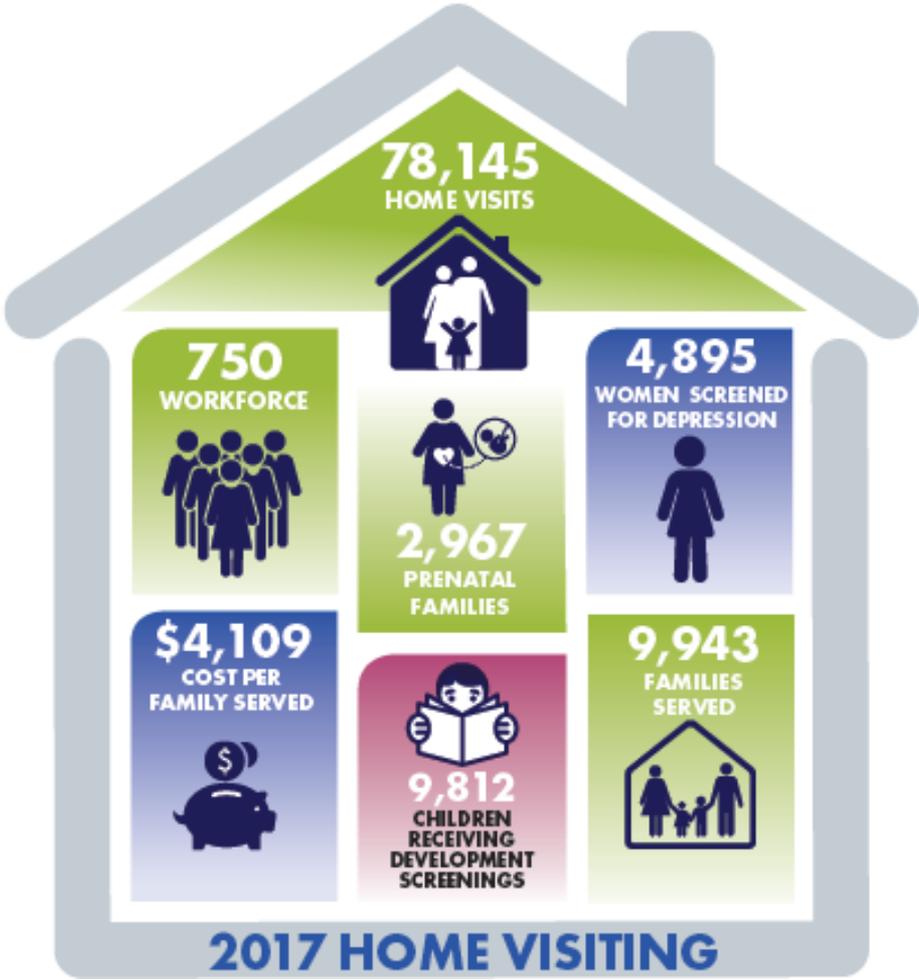
- Community based

- Data-driven

Common Goals

- *Maternal & Child Health*

- *Child Development & School Readiness*

- *Parent-Child Relationships*

- *Family Functioning*

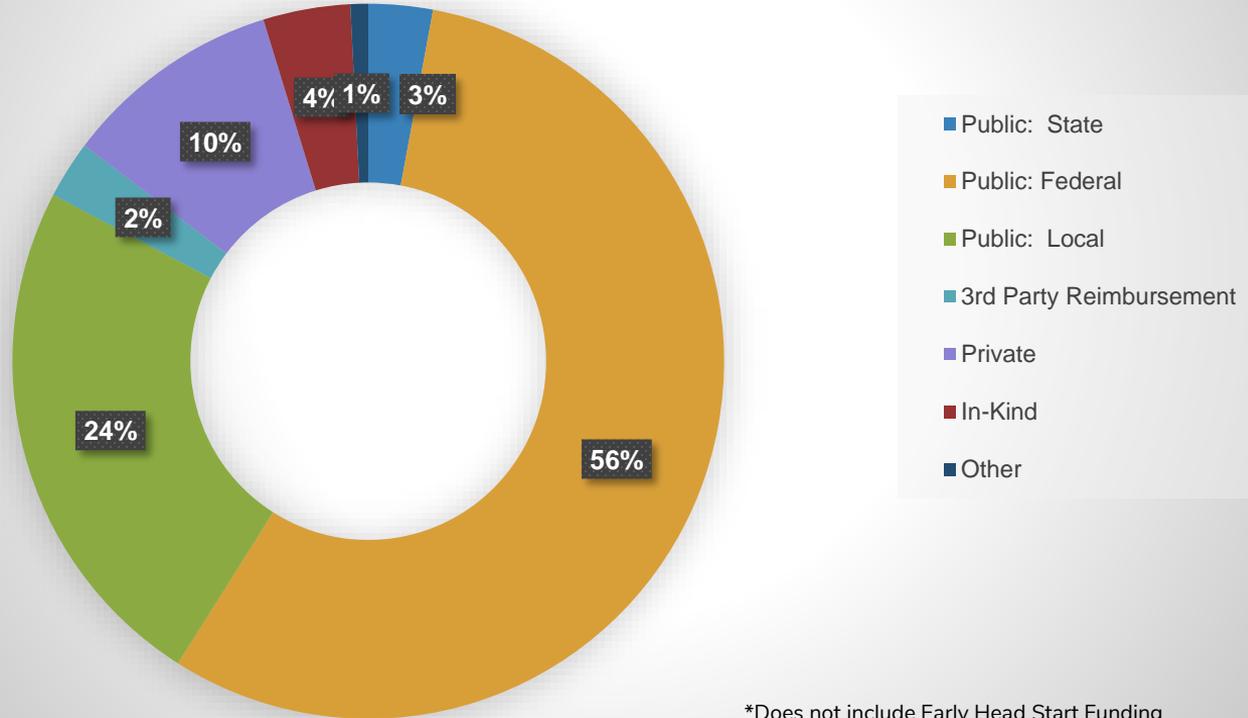# Home Visiting in Virginia

78,145 HOME VISITS

750 WORKFORCE

2,967 PRENATAL FAMILIES

4,895 WOMEN SCREENED FOR DEPRESSION

$4,109 COST PER FAMILY SERVED

9,812 CHILDREN RECEIVING DEVELOPMENT SCREENINGS

9,943 FAMILIES SERVED

2017 HOME VISITING

Funding Overview

VDSS
$9.0 M   TANF

VDH
$7.8 M   MIECHV
$4.2 M   TANF
$1.1 M   Healthy
          Start

Local Program Funding (SFY'18)* $32.4M

- Public: State
- Public: Federal
- Public: Local
- 3rd Party Reimbursement
- Private
- In-Kind
- Other

4% 1% 3%
10%
2%
24%
56%

*Does not include Early Head Start Funding

EARLY IMPACT VIRGINIA
ALLIANCE FOR FAMILY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT IN THE HOME

Public-private **collaborative**, established more than 10 years ago by early childhood leaders to **reduce duplication**, build **efficiency** and ensure the highest quality services for Virginia's young families.

- Comprehensive professional development system
- System building
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Data management and statewide reporting

www.earlyimpactva.org

JLARC 2017

Recommendation:

"Strengthen Early Impact Virginia as the lead entity for home visiting programs"

2017 Findings

1. Virginia home visiting programs are effective
2. *Programs lack adequate administrative infrastructure to ensure effective coordination, evaluation and planning across programs*

2018 Virginia Legislative Action
Early Impact Virginia

"the **authority** and **responsibility** to determine, systematically **track**, and **report** annually on the key activities and outcomes of Virginia's home visiting programs; conduct systematic and statewide **needs assessments** for Virginia's home visiting programs at least once every three years; and to support **continuous quality improvement**, **training**, and **coordination** across Virginia's home visiting programs on an ongoing basis."

Aligning the Work

MIECHV: Partnering with VDH

Leadership Council: Partnering with Early Childhood
and School Readiness Workgroup

New Funding Opportunity

Preschool Development Grant
Birth to Five

Virginia has the opportunity to apply for a federal grant to help unify and strengthen early childhood care and education system.

- Grants will range from $500,000 to $10M with average of $5M.
- States will be required to provide 30% match.
- States are expected to use funds for:
  1. *Producing needs assessment(s);*
  2. *Developing strategic plan(s);*
  3. *Maximizing parental choice and knowledge about the State's mixed delivery system of existing programs and providers;*
  4. *Sharing best practices among providers to increase collaboration and efficiency, including improving transitions to elementary school; and*
  5. *Improving the overall quality of early childhood education programs, including by developing and implementing evidence-based practices to improve professional development for early childhood education providers and educational opportunities for children.*
- This is a one year grant but renewal grants may become available.

Brainstorm on PDG Birth to Five

In partnership with Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF), the state will work closely with broad set of stakeholders to apply by November 6. Questions below provide opportunity to offer initial recommendations.

1. Think of an effective planning and implementation process you have led or participated in. What made it so effective? What would you do differently?

2. What should Virginia do differently to maximize parental choice and knowledge about the state's mixed delivery system so parents are aware of the variety of birth to five care and education programs?

3. How can Richmond better supporting planning and implementation in local communities? What about sharing best practices among providers to increase collaboration and efficiency of services, with a particular focus on improving transitions to elementary school?

Next Steps

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Virginia can lead the nation in demonstrating and sustaining an equitable, innovative and effective early childhood system.

- Workgroup members are invited to attend Children's Cabinet on October 2 at 1 pm in Patrick Henry Building.
- Next workgroup meeting will be in October. We will refine big-picture goals and strategies as well as discuss ongoing activities.
    - *Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five Proposal*
    - *Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program*
    - *Other?*
- Email additional thoughts or suggestions to me at jenna.conway@governor.virginia.gov.

Thank You!