Priority Initiative

- Quality of Care
- Information for Families
- Access for All

Office of Early Childhood
2014
Priority Initiatives

Mission
To support all young children in their development by ensuring that early childhood policy, funding, and services strengthen the critical role families, providers, educators, and communities play in a child’s life.

Vision
All young children in Connecticut are safe, healthy, learning, and thriving. Each child is surrounded by a strong network of nurturing adults who deeply value the importance of the first years of a child’s life and have the skills, knowledge, support and passion to meet the unique needs of every child.

This year the Office of Early Childhood will focus on the following initiatives in order to help improve the quality of care and services for children and families in CT.

Quality of care
- Improve child care licensing system
- Create a quality improvement support system
- Coordinate and improve internal agency operations

Information for communities
- Inform parents of early childhood services, quality, and importance
- Integrate data systems

Access for all
- Integrate the Early Child Care and Education System
- Design an integrated home visiting system
- Design a universal screening system
Quality Improvement Supports

Quality

OEC

Improvement System

OEC
Quality Improvement System

Work Group Charge

Design a Quality Improvement System for early care and education settings in Connecticut.

Deliverables:

- Needs assessment (by May 1, 2014)
- Recommendations (by June 15, 2014)
  - Design (What could be)
  - Plan (How we can get there)
Goals for the Project

Licensed

Improving

Improving

Accredited

OEC
Goals for the Project

**OEC’s Goal**
An effective QIS for CT’s early care & education settings that promotes continuous quality improvement.

**Outcome**
More children in CT, especially children facing barriers, are in higher quality settings.
Quality Improvement For Whom?

Home-, center- & school-based programs for children birth to kindergarten

System Designed for:
- School Readiness
- Head Start & Early Head Start
- Child Day Care
- Other licensed centers
- Licensed Family Child Care
- Unlicensed home-based providers
- Public school preschools

Priority for Support
Settings where 10% or more of children meet criteria for high needs
Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Timeline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Now</th>
<th>Summer 2014</th>
<th>Fall 2014</th>
<th>Spring 2015</th>
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**Rating**
Currently we have 2 Rated Levels (Licensed and Accredited)

Finalize Rating Levels 2 & 3

**Quality Improvement**
Currently we have many TA providers with limited coordination

Recommend Quality Improvement system design

Implement Quality Improvement system in phases

Modify Quality Improvement system to reflect new rating levels and requirements
Building on What We Have

- QRIS
- Head Start
- Standards
- BUILD
- NARA and Integration
- Technical Assistance Opportunities
- Race to the Top Application

PDW Learning Cohort Calls
3-4:30pm
- 4/15
- 4/23
- 5/14
Identified Strategies

- Staffed Family Child Care Networks
- Accreditation Facilitation Project
- Annual Training Hours and 4 Hour Initial Orientation (Home Based)
- Program, Learning, and Workforce Standards
- Focus on continuous quality improvement and leadership development
- Coordinate consultative services
- Centralized Website
Our Goal

Current Supports

Quality Improvement System
Our Goal