

***Early Childhood Advisory Council
(ECAC)***

***Strategic Planning Workgroup Meeting
January 25, 2019***

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Meeting Participants

Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

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Vision Statement

All children in Kentucky will have the foundation that enables school and personal success and are supported by strong families and communities.

Mission Statement

The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) provides leadership and direction for the Commonwealth of Kentucky by providing a comprehensive and sustainable prenatal to age five early childhood system that will ensure a strong foundation for all children.

Plan Length

Based on the awarding of the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), the group discussed extending the length of the strategic plan to align with the PDG. The following new dates were agreed upon.

ECAC Approval of Plan:	April 2019
Regional Approval of Plan:	May 2019
Plan Start Date:	July 1, 2019
<i>*Associated dollars start July 1, 2020</i>	
Plan End Date:	June 30, 2024

Draft Goal Statements

Goal statements were approved by the ECAC in December 2018; however, the goal statements were written to be accomplished by 2020. With the extension of the strategic plan until 2024, the goal statements were slightly revised. The new draft goal statements are presented below in alphabetical order and items in bold indicate where the verbiage was changed.

- **Advance comprehensive** early care and education through strategic messaging.
- Grow and strengthen the early care and education workforce by providing a career pathway for advancement and professional learning opportunities.
- Increase coordination, program quality, and service delivery by fostering effective collaboration between agencies and stakeholders.
- Provide quality resources that promote and support the family’s role in child development.
- Secure new, diverse funding and **utilize existing resources more effectively**.

First Draft Objectives

The group developed draft objectives to broadly identify how each goal would be achieved by 2024. They are presented below in alphabetical order. As a result of the discussion, potential strategies naturally emerged for objectives and were also captured as they may be useful at the next meeting.

GOAL 1: Advance comprehensive early care and education through strategic messaging.

Objective 1.1: Conduct an outreach and education campaign on the importance of early childhood learning.

Potential Strategies:

- *Strengthen state clearinghouse of validated, best practices in early childhood; actively used*
- *Tailor a unified message towards specific audiences at the state, local and family level*

Objective 2.1: Promote and increase engagement of mothers, fathers, and other family members in the development and education of their children.

Potential Strategies:

- *Prenatal +*

GOAL 2: Grow and strengthen the early care and education workforce by providing a career pathway for advancement and professional learning opportunities.

Objective 2.1: Support pipeline of young professionals in early care and education.

Potential Strategies:

- *Apprenticeship*
- *Succession and sustainability planning*

Objective 2.2: Update/Revise career lattice to encourage advancement and longevity in the field of early care and education.

Potential Strategies:

- *Professional Development (PD) Committee*
- *Refresh standards*

Objective 2.3: Develop/Enhance supports for talented professionals in early care and education with reduced turnover.

Potential Strategies:

- *Align compensation with cost of living*
- *Market Rate Survey (bi-annual)*

Objective 2.4: Align training and technical assistance of early care and education professionals across state/local agencies.

Potential Strategies:

- *Colleges/Universities on same page*
- *Training & Technical Assistance*

GOAL 3: Increase coordination, program quality, and service delivery by fostering effective collaboration between agencies and stakeholders.

Objective 3.1: Effectively implement a cross-agency, state-level structure to ensure high quality programming for children and families.

Potential Strategies:

- *Redesign structure*
- *Stay connected with the field*
- *Monitor progress, review current research, make decisions and facilitate feedback loops*

Objective 3.2: Reduce barriers and provide support for blended service delivery models.

Potential Strategies:

- *Collaborate with state partners*
- *Create policy*

Objective 3.3: Strengthen the collaborations within local communities to foster school readiness and better support specific community needs.

Potential Strategies:

- *Specific to Community Early Childhood Councils*
- *Childcare desert*

Objective 3.4: Facilitate collaboration and increase coordination of state health, mental health, and wellness support systems to support children and families.

Potential Strategies:

- *Educate families*

GOAL 4: Provide quality resources that promote and support the family's role in child development.

Objective 4.1: Promote ongoing family education opportunities across agencies.

Potential Strategies:

- *Identify current opportunities*
- *Disseminate the information*

Objective 4.2: Expand Kentucky Strengthening Families into more communities.

Potential Strategies:

- *Increase Training of Trainers to build capacity*
- *Incorporate into the Community Early Childhood Councils*
- *Share successful models*

Objective 4.3: Increase the knowledge base of early childhood professionals.

Potential Strategies:

- *Assess pre-service and in-service opportunities to identify gaps*
- *Provide additional materials and training*

Objective 4.4: Develop a state-wide transition to Kindergarten plan.

Potential Strategies:

- *Enact and facilitate a state level transition work group*

GOAL 5: Secure new, diverse funding and utilize existing resources more effectively.

Objective 5.1: Prioritize tobacco dollars to align with the strategic plan.

Objective 5.2: Conduct fiscal mapping to identify gaps and opportunities to prioritize funding.

Potential Strategies:

- *Develop tools that can be reused*

Objective 5.3: Secure new grants to support vulnerable populations.

Objective 5.4: Track and monitor funded services that impact early childhood.

Potential Strategies:

- *Request reports*