



New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council Initiatives Update December 13, 2012

QUALITYstarsNY – As of December 5, 2012 there are 216 centers/community-based organizations and 174 family homes participating in QUALITYstarsNY. These programs are completing a self-study using the QUALITYstarsNY program standards. Participants are able to indicate the standards they meet and submit documentation. Participants are also able to complete self-assessments using the Environment Rating Scales and complete Quality Improvement Plans based on the results.

40 public school-operated Universal Prekindergarten programs have recently been selected to participate in QUALITYstarsNY. These programs will engage in the standards self-study and observations on an alternate timeline.

The Quality Improvement Work Group is engaged in a cultural competence initiative supported by BUILD. A strategic plan was developed that outlines goals and tasks to further incorporate issues of cultural competence in QUALITYstarsNY. The strategic plan was adopted by the Quality Improvement Work Group at the October meeting. Support will be provided by Taniesha Woods to advance some of the tasks outlined in the strategic plan, such as further developing the standards Resource Guide to reflect cultural competence. The cultural competence sub-group will spearhead this work.

Common Metric - New York University researchers are in the process of examining the three most commonly utilized formative child assessment systems (Work Sampling System, Child Observation Record, Creative Curriculum GOLD) to create a Common Metric (utilizing item response theory) aligned to all three assessment systems (Phase 1). Once developed, the Common Metric will function as a tool that takes data from different assessments and communicates results in a common language, enabling program leaders and policy makers to understand trends across delivery systems. The Common Metric will enable early childhood education programs to retain their autonomy and use tools they have already invested in while contributing to geographic and programmatic understanding and analysis of the progress children are making.

Because these major assessment systems have been extensively studied and are valid and reliable, the Common Metric would build upon the strong foundation of the existing assessment systems. The Common Metric will then be aligned to Common Core Learning Standards, NYS Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, allowing early childhood providers using any of these three major formative assessment systems to determine their students' progress against various sets of standards. This is especially important for providers who work to provide seamless, full day service to students through blending Universal Prekindergarten, Head Start and/or Child Care funding and must be able to evaluate how their children meet different sets of standards/ outcomes required by each funding stream.

The Common Metric for prekindergarten is planned to be tested and validated through a representative sample of New York City (NYC) children across all early childhood settings (6000) in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. To scale up the common metric to a statewide level, the testing and validation will include 4 year olds in Head Start from targeted areas throughout New York State (7000) and will be added to the testing and validation of the Common Metric to ensure its validity and reliability across the state. Once created it is believed that other states will be interested in using the Common Metric for their child assessment systems.

The funding for the state component has been identified and includes support from BUILD, the New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council, and the Rauch Foundation and will start in February 2013.

Shared Services Alliance – The following activities have occurred:

- Shared Services Alliance Focus Groups:
 - ✓ Bonnie Cohen conducted focus groups in New York City, Albany and Rochester where roughly 30 early care and learning providers were brought together for input around shared services. The goal of these focus groups was to introduce early care and learning providers to a web platform as a statewide resource and to gain their feedback on their general interest in accessing a NY shared services website. Overall feedback was positive with three areas of concern: cost, quality and reliability of information provided, and the easy navigation through the site.
 - ✓ Bonnie Cohen conducted Stakeholder Interviews for information to be used in implementation and design.
 - ✓ Marsha and Kristen have held discussions with CCA Global regarding ECE platform innovation, technical assistance before and after a web based and program experiences.

- October 2012 Advisory Committee Meeting :
 - ✓ Shared Services Membership:
 - Members of New York State Association for the Education of Young Children (NYSAEYC), all employees of Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) members of the Early Care & Learning Council (ECLC).
 - Child care facilities and family child care providers can purchase membership directly.
 - Fee per center facility is \$225 per year; Individual fee is \$75 per year
 - ✓ Benefits of Shared Services
 - Cost Savings on Products and Services
 - Time Savings Time Savings
 - Tools to Support Quality
 - ECE Community Strengthening
 - ✓ Financing Shared Services
 - ECAC will support project to install CCA Platform and operating costs
 - Over the first three years build significant user group and demonstrate value to users, create links that support the work of QUALITYstarsNY and raise funds for future
 - ✓ Working to identify critical partners

- November and December Implementation Planning Committee Meetings:
 - ✓ Meetings held November 2 and December 7
 - ✓ Phases of development determined; questions raised for CCA Global, planning for beta testing when site ready

Work is ongoing with CCA Global to move forward with development of the Shared Source ECE NY web-based platform