



**TRANSITION  
ADVISORY  
GROUP**

**Universal Preschool  
Meeting 1  
July 22, 2021**

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction
- Consider mission, vision, and guiding principles for new early childhood department
- Discuss logistics – Breakout format and GroupMap
- Group discussion and next steps

\* This meeting will be recorded via Zoom. Please prepare to mute your microphone if you are not actively speaking.

# **Introduction**

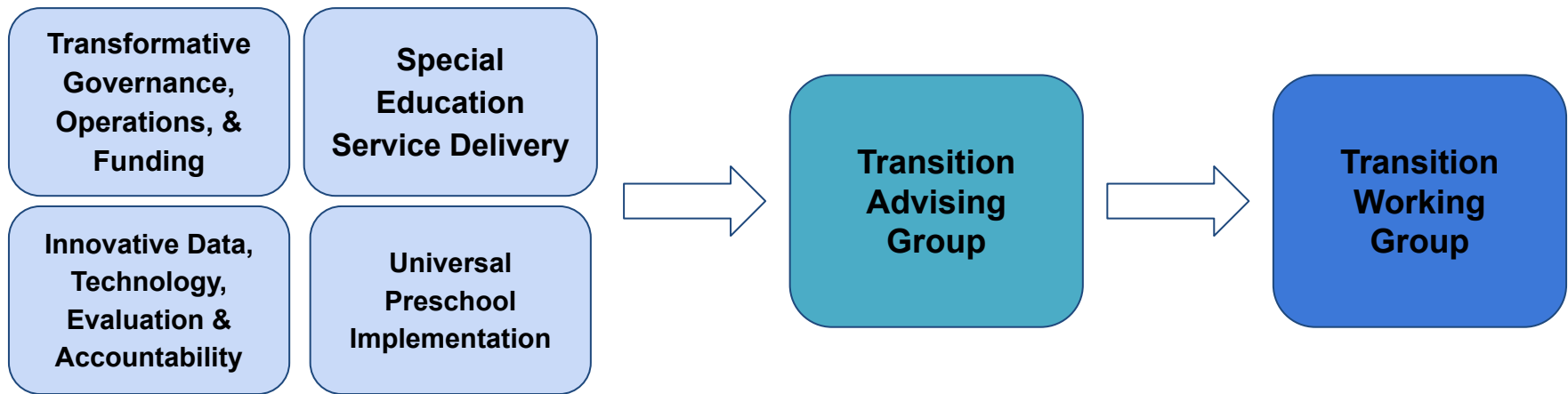
# Background

**HB21-1304** was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor in June 2021. The law requires:

- The creation of a new unified Colorado Department of Early Childhood on July 1, 2022.
  - *To create the new department, the bill requires a transition plan, written by the Transition Working Group (TWG), be submitted by November 1, 2021. The ECLC is to approve the transition plan within 14 days after receiving the plan from the Office of the Governor.*
- A planning process for Colorado's new universal, voluntary preschool program, which will be overseen by the new unified Department of Early Childhood. This new Colorado Department of Early Childhood will also be charged with the implementation of this program, beginning July 2023.

# Subgroup Structure

The ECLC Transition Advisory Group is convening subgroups to offer insights that will guide the creation of a transition plan to the new unified department of early childhood. Each group will offer recommendations from their perspectives or in their areas of expertise.



Stipends may be available for parents and members of the early childhood workforce to participate fully in the meetings - please reach out to [Kristina.Heyl@state.co.us](mailto:Kristina.Heyl@state.co.us) for more information.

# Listening Sessions

In addition to the TAG and its subgroups, the ECLC is also convening the following interactive user-centered listening sessions to ensure that the new department will meet the needs of those who are involved in and/or experience Colorado's current early childhood system.

- Children and Family Experience
- Provider Experience
- Workforce Experience

These listening sessions will offer critical insight into the user experience of existing programs and systems. They will be working in tandem with the subgroups to offer insight to the TAG.

*\* Additional information will be available soon!*

# Other Ways to Engage

Stakeholder engagement is a critical component to this process. To offer updated information and gather feedback the ECLC will be managing the following resources for the public:

## Updates

- Monthly Transition Plan [Newsletter](#)
- Monthly Town Halls (to be scheduled\*\*)
- Transition [Website](#)

## Opportunities to provide input

- Feedback [Form](#)
- Statewide Listening Tour (to be scheduled\*\*)

Additionally, a human centered design project will be conducted with design sessions and prototype creations for what the future system should look like.

*\*For more information or to participate, please reach out to Rebecca Peterson, Gary Community Investments - [rpeterson@garycommunity.org](mailto:rpeterson@garycommunity.org)*

**The Universal Preschool Implementation Subgroup will identify strategies to align the state's preschool programs into a new statewide, universal, high-quality, voluntary preschool program in a mixed-delivery system.**

This group will be tasked with discussing the following topics:

- Meeting 2: Program outcomes/goals
- Meeting 3: Factors for aligning with CPP/other EC programs
- Meeting 4: Local infrastructure needed for implementation
- Meeting 5: Balancing universal access with targeted needs
- Meeting 6: Encouraging mixed delivery
- Meeting 7: Managing blending/braiding of funds
- Meeting 8: Meeting needs of children with special needs
- Meeting 9: Opportunities for unified enrollment
- Meeting 10: Ensuring supply of teachers and facilities
- Meeting 11: TBD



# Meeting Norms

- Come prepared.
- Mute yourself when not speaking.
- Stay engaged (e.g., actively participate in breakout rooms).
- Be mindful of how much “air time” each member receives.
- Always assume good intent.
- All ideas are valued.

# Expectations

**Every meeting you should expect the following:**

- **Via e-mail:**
  - Agenda for meeting
  - Suggested pre-reading
  - Online – ECLC transition subgroup webpages
  
- **In meeting:**
  - Subgroup Updates
  - Focused discussion around a specific part of the transition plan
  - Closing/next steps

# **Review Guiding Principles and Mission/Vision**

# ECLC Guiding Principles

The ECLC is committed to the following guiding principles in the development of the transition plan and universal, voluntary preschool recommendations:



# Colorado's Department of Early Childhood

## **Vision**

All Colorado children, families and early childhood professionals are valued, healthy and thriving.

## **Mission**

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood champions a comprehensive, community-informed, effective, high quality and equitable early childhood system that supports the care, education and well-being of all Colorado's young children, their families and early childhood professionals in all settings.

# UPK Subgroup Topics

Today's meeting  
sets the  
foundation for  
future meetings.

M1: Intended outcomes/goals of a UPK program? Successful UPK implementation for families and providers.

M2: Factors to consider when aligning or integrating CPP and UPK. Other EC programs a successful UPK program interacts with.

M3: Existing and needed infrastructure to support UPK rollout.

M4: Balancing universality of programming, serving children of greatest need, and ensuring access to half day or full day care (beyond 10 hours).

M5: Ideas to encourage mixed delivery of UPK services (including quality standards, supports, funding rates)

M6: Ideas to encourage blending/braiding of UPK dollars with other dollars to serve four-year-olds (e.g., HeadStart, CCAP, local dollars)

M7: Ensure children receiving special education services are included in UPK

M8: Support all students accessing UPK with a unified enrollment system and protect students most at risk and students receiving special education services

M9: State supports for local providers to ensure adequate teachers, staff and facilities exist to achieve true universal voluntary implementation

M10: Save for following up on any unanswered questions/topics

**Breakout 1. What are the intended outcomes of a UPK program?**

# Breakout 1: Brainstorming Process

## Assign a single “Mapper” for your group

1. Brainstorm (20min) – populate the Map
  - If you see an idea you like, do not repeat – instead use the “thumbs up” button to like it.
2. We will return to whole group for 10min to rate and reflect.



Brainstorm ⓘ ▾

→ Rate outcome importance → Results

What are the intended outcomes of a UPK program? ⚙

Tap to add

Help children be  
ready for  
kindergarten

Provide high-  
quality preschool  
for all children



# Whole Group: Reflect and Rate

- **Review and reflect on the ideas**

- **Add a comment**
- **Add a question**
- **Give a “thumbs up”**

- **Rate**

- **How important is this outcome? Low, Medium, High**

**Break – 5 minutes**

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**Breakout 2. What does successful UPK implementation look like for families and providers?**

# Breakout 2: Brainstorming Process



## • Assign a single “Mapper” for your group

- Brainstorm - populate each map (Families, 20min; Providers, 20min)
  - Think & Feel
  - See
  - Hear
  - Do
  - Measure
- If you see an idea you like, do not repeat – instead use the “thumbs up” button to like it.

## •2. We will

A screenshot of a digital brainstorming application. The interface has a dark header with the title 'Brainstorm' and the text 'Everyone can add Brainstorming collaboratively'. The main area is divided into four colored quadrants by a central white speech bubble containing the word 'Families'. The quadrants are: top (light blue) with 'Think & Feel? : How will families feel when UPK is successful?'; left (yellow) with 'Hear? : What will we hear families say if UPK is successful?'; bottom (orange) with 'Do? : What will families do when UPK is successful?'; and right (teal) with 'See? : How will families look when UPK is successful?'. Each quadrant has a 'Tap to add' button. At the bottom, there is a green section with a plus sign and the text 'How will we measure success for families?' followed by 'Measure :'. A close button 'X' is in the top right corner.

# Whole Group: Reflect and Rate

## •Review and reflect on the ideas

- Add a comment
- Add a question
- Give a “thumbs up”

## •Rate

- How much do you agree with this idea?
- Low, Medium, High

**Closing/  
Next Steps**

# Next Steps



If you would like to receive meeting materials, including meeting dates, emails and agendas, please subscribe to the Newsletter and update your subscription profile to include information on this subgroup.

Participants of each subgroup are **highly encouraged to attend all meetings of that group** and should be prepared to review approximately 1 hour of materials prior to the meetings.

## Future Meetings for Universal Preschool

- Meeting 2, July 29
- Meeting 3, August 12
- Meeting 4, August 19
- Meeting 5, September 2
- Meeting 6, September 9
- Meeting 7, September 30
- Meeting 8, October 7
- Meeting 9, November 4

## Contact us:

- Early Milestones – [mfranko@earlymilestones.org](mailto:mfranko@earlymilestones.org)
- Marzano – [carrie.germeroth@marzanosresearch.com](mailto:carrie.germeroth@marzanosresearch.com)
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