

**Essentials for Childhood First Update Committee Meeting  
July 30, 2024**

**Attendance:**

• Ivana Muszkiewicz, NC Institute of Medicine	• Kella Hatcher, NC Child Fatality Task Force
• Ingrid Bou-Saada, NC Division of Public Health	• Lena Harris, UNC-Chapel Hill
• Michelle Ries, NC Institute of Medicine	• Rep. Maria Cervania, NC General Assembly
• Kaitlin Phillips, NC Institute of Medicine	• Meghan Shanahan, UNC-Chapel Hill
• Amanda Dale, NC Institute of Medicine	• Marian Earls, Guilford Child Health
• Tripp Ake, Center for Child and Family Health	• Meredith Archie, NC Chamber Foundation
• Mebane Boyd, NC Partnership for Children	• Micere Keels, NC Early Childhood Foundation
• Kristi Snuggs, Child Care Services Association	• Paul Lanier, UNC-Chapel Hill
• Cassie Koester, UNC-Chapel Hill	• Robin Jenkins, UNC-Chapel Hill
• Devonya Govan-Hunt, Black Child Development Institute-Carolinas	• Samantha Cole, NC Department of Commerce
• Andrae Banks, NC Central University	• Sharon Hirsch, Positive Childhood Alliance NC
• Kelly Graves, Kellin Foundation	• Sheila Arias, MomsRising
• Ereka R. Williams, Dogwood Health Trust	• Susan Osborne, NC Division of Social Services
• Erica Palmer Smith, NC Child	• Thomas White, NC State University
• Jenna Barnes, BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina Foundation	• Vernisha Crawford, Trauma Informed Institute, LLC

**Welcome and Introductions**

*Ivana Muszkiewicz, Research Specialist*

*NCIOM*

Committee members were welcomed and began with an icebreaker activity. The goals for the meeting were reviewed ( i.e. share purpose and structure of update committee, level-set the relationship of economic supports to family well-being, review and revisit recommendations from the 2015 report) and the agenda was presented.

Update Committee meetings will be held on July 30, August 28, September 17, October 1, and October 23. The final report will be published in February 2025. There will be optional office hours held on September 9 (1p-2p), September 12 (11a-12p), September 24 (1p-2p), and September 30 (3p-4p).



Update Committee Member Roles: attend task force meetings when able or review summaries if unable to attend; share your expertise and perspective – discussions, chat comments, email, one-on-one meetings, office hours; review draft recommendations and provide comments; review draft report text and provide comments; review draft report text and provide comments; share report with networks and identify next steps.

### **Introductions to the NCIOM and Purpose of the Update Committee**

*Michelle Ries, President and CEO*

*NCIOM*

An overview of the work of the NCIOM was provided as well as the purpose of the Essentials for Childhood Update Committee.

### **Background of the last 10 years of the Essentials for Childhood Initiative**

*Ivana Muszkiewicz, Research Specialist*

*NCIOM*

Information about the previous 10 years of Essentials for Childhood in NC was presented.

### **State Action Plan and CDC alignment**

*Ingrid Bou-Saada, ACEs and Resilience Program Manager*

*NC Division of Public Health*

The updated plan will align with various state actions including the NC DHHS Strategic Priorities, Early Childhood Action Plan, Health North Carolina 2030, NC State Health Improvement Plan, and Perinatal Strategic Plan.

### **Building Family Financial Stability and Economic Mobility: A Review of the Evidence and Potential Solutions**

*Sharon Hirsch, President and CEO*

*Positive Childhood Alliance North Carolina*

An overview of childhood maltreatment and adverse community conditions that affect families was provided. One thing that was highlighted was that Black and indigenous children are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. There are multiple material and economic hardships that overwhelm families and increase risk for child welfare involvement: income loss, housing hardship, economic insecurity, utility shut offs, etc. Research suggests that changing adverse community conditions reduces child abuse and neglect. For example, for every \$1,000 states spend per person in poverty to address financial stability, housing, and access to childcare and health care there is a 4.3% reduction in reporting, 4% reduction in substantiations, 2.1% reduction in foster care placements, and 7.7% reduction in fatalities.

## Context setting and NC Chamber Child Care report

*Meredith Archie, President*

*NC Chamber Foundation*

The NC Chamber's study on child care, *Untapped Potential*, was discussed. 77% of voters believe that the lack of quality, affordable child care is a serious problem. This is a nonpartisan, rural, and urban challenge. Child care-related employee turnover and absenteeism costs NC employers an estimated \$4.29 billion per year. NC misses an estimated \$1.36 billion annually in tax revenue due to turnover and absence costs stemming from child care issues. This results in \$5.65 billion in annual losses for the state. 35% of parents that experienced disruptions to their employment in the past year reported leaving the workforce as a direct result of issues with child care. 15% of working parents (18% women and 13% men) are planning to leave employment over the next 12 months.

## Discussion

*Ivana Muszkiewicz, Research Specialist*

*NCIOM*

The purpose of the original 2015 report (raise awareness and commitment to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments and prevent child maltreatment; use data to inform actions; create the context for healthy children and families through norms change and programs; and create the context for healthy children and families through policies) was reviewed. A discussion about recommendations from the 2015 report was facilitated.

## Discussion on 2015 Recommendations

- **Recommendation 3.1: Establish coordinated state leadership efforts to address essentials for childhood through a collective impact framework.**
  - Division of Child and Family Wellbeing was one way state trying to coordinate across sections and divisions
  - EarlyWell Initiative was a huge coalition to do collective impact, engaged families in a specific way, recommendations and policies
  - Early Childhood Action Plan has been sitting for a long time, hasn't been updated or evaluated/checked progress
  - Are mutually beneficial outcomes well defined and articulated for every identified collaborating partner in the CI team/model? And what other infrastructure(s) are specifically intended to align each initiative toward the EfC framework and intended outcomes?
  - There is maybe a planned update to the Early Childhood Action Plan?
    - Strategies are being updated but not the full document
  - Reality check – we might have to revisit recommendations after new administration



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- Try not to silo reports – how do we do a better job helping each other share out information
- Who else needs to be there in terms of expertise
- Something like a recommendation for dedicated resources for formalized sharing - such as resource library, convening support, facilitation of relationships and collaboration
  - To Mebane's point, maybe creating step by step guide organizations to follow for data sharing. Something that everyone follows as soon as reports are finalized.
- Articulate mechanisms of collective impact
- Where is the private sector?
- **Recommendation 3.2: Support the establishment and continuation of trauma-informed practices and communities.**
  - Another area where there is so much work and progress to capture outside of the direct language of this recommendation
    - NC Impact and FPG design report - The report is the collaborative work of some cross-system partners envisioning what a state level infrastructure might look like in service to this 3.2 goal. The report was finalized last month and will be released in the next few weeks. It offers suggestions and strategies for a public-private partnership toward achieving this type of goal
    - Maybe it's about learning about and dissemination of best practices that have already been implemented
    - Since 2015, several reports have been released. Kellin Report (2021), NCPC Healthy & Resilient Communities Report (2021)
  - Benchmarks has done great work in the child welfare space and there is work happening in the schools through the Public School Forum
  - ACEs Workgroup of the State Health Improvement Plan
  - Focus only on trauma informed practices, or trauma centered practices and trauma-healing resources for all levels needing or desiring those supports?
  - Need for parent/family voices
  - Maybe county-specific information
  - Our Children's Place
  - AAP grant to develop a center on best practices re trauma informed care

#### **From Zoom chat:**

PCE study has 7 elements: PCEs score included 7 items asking respondents to report how often or how much as a child they:

- (1) felt able to talk to their family about feelings;
- (2) felt their family stood by them during difficult times;
- (3) enjoyed participating in community traditions;
- (4) felt a sense of belonging in high school (not including those who did not attend school or were home schooled);
- (5) felt supported by friends;



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(6) had at least 2 nonparent adults who took genuine interest in them; and  
(7) felt safe and protected by an adult in their home

- The Tri-Share Pilots being rolled out now are a cost-sharing model where employers, govt and families each pay a third
- Are mutually beneficial outcomes well defined and articulated for every identified collaborating partner in the CI team/model? And what other infrastructure(s) are specifically intended to align each initiative toward the EfC framework and intended outcomes?
- <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/ecap-report-final-web-f/download>
- ECAP was very recently updated : <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/early-childhood/early-childhood-action-plan>
- Re: 3.2 – I think this is another area where there is so much work and progress to capture outside of the direct language of this recommendation
- Since 2015, several reports I can think of have been released. Kellin Report (2021), NCPC Healthy & Resilient Communities Report (2021)
- <https://indd.adobe.com/view/f9cca8b9-d326-4666-99d0-afe7ea06bd73>
- <https://www.nccourts.gov/commissions/chief-justices-task-force-on-aces-informed-courts>
- Benchmarks has done great work in the child welfare space and there is work happening in the schools through the Public School Forum
- We have discussed the possibility of working with partners who have existing parent advisory groups to bring these discussions and recommendations to them for input and feedback
- [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60b77f4205f48f0d1fd5addc/t/622e5db3fae4ea772ad49a60/1647205825131/resilient\\_nc\\_full\\_report-updated\\_march\\_2022.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60b77f4205f48f0d1fd5addc/t/622e5db3fae4ea772ad49a60/1647205825131/resilient_nc_full_report-updated_march_2022.pdf)