



Looking Ahead.....

What do you believe will be the most important external forces affecting young children in South Carolina in 2020?

- Need to adapt to changing technology
- Using technology to deal with increasing diversity of children/backgrounds (individualizing education)
- Technology may cause different kinds of deficits. Wise use of technology with young children.
- Reliability of assessment
- Who is storing/controlling data?
- Technology doesn't replace traditional, hand-on experience, interactions, etc.
- Need for multiple tools, multiple experiences, parent/community friendly resources
- Economics of high-quality care
- Needs of children being met – meals, play, nap, education. Poverty's negative impact.
- Policies for families in poverty have a long way to go. Correlation between neglect and poverty...families often lack the resources they need to care for children.
- Getting the state's children ready to succeed is key to state's success. Empower parents. Parents cannot assist their children without livable wages, steady employment.
- Need to get good information to decision-makers from across sectors.
- State doesn't need to parent our children...teach moms and dads how to do their important jobs. Parenting supports...mentoring to couples...partner with faith-based ministries. Help them to find jobs. Help them find quality child care. Importance of fathers...teach dads to be dads.
- Population shifts, links between education and pregnancy rates. Help communities to understand what it means to raise children.
- Raising of American documentary series to be promoted by PBS, TLC/Discovery
- New Carolina/TransformSC – what needs to be done to address K-12 system needs. FS an adaptor that helps families plug into K-12. May include workplace policies/flexibility.
- Who are the key informants...Access and equity. How do people move economically? Learning about diversity important.
- Boeing an example in Charleston. We bring in companies who sometimes need to recruit from elsewhere. Sometimes these newcomers have different/higher expectations re access.

- Family literacy and parenting... literacy development, including to non-English speakers. Helping families understand the importance of reading.
- Are we meeting the physical needs (initially)...then family becomes the environmental context. Helping parents to have success. How can we help mobilize communities to help make families as strong as possible? There are stresses on families that make families unstable. How can we help to incubate families against these stresses? Need to develop on FS goals #5: Mobilizing communities. Can't put the whole burden on government.
- Competition for scarce budget resources over the coming years. EC will be in competition with road, infrastructure, increasing health care costs. Fighting for a smaller slice of the pie.
- Early childhood education in zero-three range has as much to do with the lives of the parents as with the child.
- Experiences of the child lays foundation...reduction of experiences of young children. With introduction of technology we are seeing a reduction of hands-on experience. Idea of education may be shifting away from what science tells us that young children need to develop optimally.
- International competition...people at the bottom are going to have a more difficult time enhancing their lives/opportunities in an increasingly global economy/workforce.
- Need for entrepreneurs. How do we build ourselves to be adaptable?

As we begin the strategic planning process, from your perspective what are the top 3 priorities the Early Childhood Advisory Council should consider over the next 5 years?

- Enrollment of churches as a resource to support family strengthening (parenting classes, financial, English as a second language...) No state money involved. Chance to support families is a win-win for churches. State could supply syllabus...chance to train many more by utilizing existing networks.
- Continued strengthening of private resources (churches, civic clubs, chambers of commerce) would allow state to focus limited resources on those in greatest need.
- Collaboration and sharing/support of best practices
- Communication and community outreach...helping families access the services/resources they need.
- Raising public awareness of the importance of ECE and available resources...in a focused pithy way that communicates who we are. Needs to be succinct, easily understandable.
- Breaking down silos
- Training of system
- Coordination of services... cooperation vs. collaboration. Needs to happen on frontlines as well.
- Building relationships with frontline service providers.
- Convener role vs service provider role