

# Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council

Presentation to Health & Human Services Committee

Colleen Quint, CCECAC Chair

February 4, 2021

# CCECAC - What Is It and What Does It Do?

- ▶ As the name says, the CCECAC advises the Children's Cabinet on matters pertaining to early childhood (defined here as Birth – Grade 3), drawing from experience/expertise of Council members and others
- ▶ We also fulfill certain statutory duties, federal grant requirements for advisory councils, etc
- ▶ We engage in ongoing research and information-gathering about what is happening in the field
- ▶ We make recommendations to the Legislature and others to improve early care and education for Maine children and their families
- ▶ The makeup of the Council drives its ability to do work

# Bigger Picture

- ▶ Advise Children's Cabinet, focusing on birth through Grade 3
  - ▶ Support priorities
  - ▶ Respond to needs for information/input
- ▶ But, more broadly, also seek to support and make recommendations to agencies that oversee policies impacting children from birth through Grade 3
  - ▶ Identify needs and resources
  - ▶ Draw on expertise from Council and others
  - ▶ Lend voice re prioritization among many needs

# CCECAC Composition 2020

## **Legislators:**

- ▶ Senator Rebecca Millett
- ▶ Senator Matt Pouliot
- ▶ Representative Teresa Pierce
- ▶ Representative Heidi Sampson

**Parent with Young Children:** Casey Henderson, Educare's Parent Ambassador Program

## **Philanthropy:**

- ▶ Jennifer Beck, John T. Gorman Foundation
- ▶ Colleen Quint, President and CEO, Alford Scholarship Foundation

**Child abuse and neglect prevention:** Dana-Michelle LaPlante, Care Manager, The Aroostook Medical Center

**Postsecondary:** Donna Karno, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, University of Maine, Farmington

## **Members of organizations that advance the well-being of young children and their families:**

- ▶ Annie Colaluca, Director of the Enrichment Preschool Program at the Bath Area Family YMCA
- ▶ Sue Powers, Head Start Director at Aroostook County Action Program
- ▶ Rita Furlow, Maine Children's Alliance

## **Family child care providers:**

- ▶ Chrissie Davis, Bouncing Bubbles Child Care, Skowhegan
- ▶ Sasha Shunk, Shunk Child Care, Portland

**Business roundtable on early childhood investment:** Jeremy Fischer, Maine Early Learning Investment Group

**Children's Health Care:** Dr. Stephen Meister, Developmental Pediatrician, MaineGeneral

# 2020 Areas of Focus - initial work & plan

- ▶ Early stage (Oct '19 - Dec '19)
  - ▶ Review of Statutory Requirements
  - ▶ Children's Cabinet Plan for Young Children
  - ▶ PDG Grant - Needs Assessment
- ▶ Next stage (Jan - March '20)
  - ▶ Info gathering → Landscape Report → ID areas for focus and inquiry
    - ▶ Year 1: early care and education system
    - ▶ Years 2 & 3: early intervention/prevention and early elementary years
- ▶ And then....COVID

# How 2020 Actually Played Out

- ▶ Information from and feedback to OCFS, DOE and others related to COVID needs and experiences in the field
- ▶ Series of letters to elevate and support prioritization of key issues identified by the Council → all informed by views and input from the field
  - ▶ July - DOE re Re-opening of Schools
  - ▶ Aug - CC re Concerns, Principles and Priorities
  - ▶ October - Economic Recovery Committee re hybrid learning and quality, affordable ECE system
  - ▶ November - Maine Delegation re additional resources
  - ▶ Dec - CDC re vaccination of teachers and ECE

# CCECAC Composition 2021

## **New Legislative members:**

- ▶ Senator Matthea Daughtry
- ▶ Senator Marianne Moore
- ▶ Representative Rebecca Millett
- ▶ Representative Laurel Libby

## **New Children's Health Care expert:**

- ▶ Dr. Steve Motyl, Pediatric Specialist, MaineHealth

# Where we expect to head in 2021

- ▶ Statutory Requirements
- ▶ Continuing Efforts
- ▶ New/Emerging Issues & Gaps
  - ▶ Learning loss, mental/behavioral health and equity
  - ▶ Integrated childcare system per ERC
  - ▶ CDS
  - ▶ Early screening and interventions
  - ▶ Whole family approach