

Brief Welcome and Updates - Commissioners

Biennial and supplemental budgets submitted to Legislature by Governor include:

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
 - Budget includes investments in programs for children.
 - \$42M investments for children's programs with \$17M dedicated for children behavioral health
 - Introduced Strategic Plan for Children's Behavioral Health approximately 4 years ago; Covid exacerbated stresses on family, youth/children and providers
 - \$8M to continue childcare salary support payments
 - \$12M for child welfare which includes keeping up with inflation and reimbursement rate increase for resource families
 - \$5M for early childhood consultation program – plan to take this pilot program statewide

- Department of Education (DOE)
 - \$101M accounts for 55% of State's school subsidy formula benefits current
 - Reinstated unfunded actual liability (State contribution toward retired educator benefits)
 - Fully fund universal school meals
 - Increase preschool access for young students with disabilities and (Individualized Education Program) IEPs
 - Funding for Maine School Safety Center
 - Make permanent Career Technical Education (CTE) pilot program for middle school students
 - Continue free community college

- Department of Corrections (DOC)
 - No major additional initiatives in current budget
 - Enabling legislation from last session that allows DOC to convert personal services money into investments into the community - \$6M annually to fund 30 nonprofits for proactive diversionary work with youth to prevent them from entering DOC custody

- Department of Labor (DOL)
 - No major initiatives in current budget
 - Traditionally DOL does not receive a lot of State money
 - Federal funding supported core services of workforce development and Maine Jobs Recovery Plan that helped with the expansion of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship and limited period positions programs

- Public Safety
 - No specific budget initiatives with regard to the children’s cabinet; act more to facilitate referrals to other State agencies and programs
 - Additional funding to assist with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy

Early Childhood Programming: Highlights of 2022 and Looking Forward to 2023 - Ana Hicks, Lee Anne Larsen, Elissa Wynne, Dr. Amy Belisle (see attachment)

- Key Initiatives of 2022
 - Welcome Elissa Wynne who had joined Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) as Associate Director
 - OCFS has done excellent work investing federal (American Rescue Plan) and state funding:
 - \$100M direct grants to stabilize/support child care programs; currently more licensed child care slots than pre pandemic; will continue into 2023
 - \$200/month salary stipends for early childhood educators; address the challenge of recruiting and retaining staff; will continue as tier salary/experience/education system with state general funding
 - \$15M through Maine Jobs Recovery Program (MJRP) to expand existing/create new child care slots; 23 grants awarded; anticipated 488 new slots; currently reviewing additional facility startup/expansion grants
 - Expanding Public Pre-K to 4 year olds investing \$10M MJRP funding:
 - First round - 10 grants awarded for 4 new programs; 6 expanded programming (full day/full week)
 - Second round - 16 School Administrative Units (SAU) conditionally awarded grants
 - Third round - currently in process
- Fall 2022 Public Pre-K enrollment at all-time high—6238 students—estimated at +50% of all 4 year olds
- A number of programs have expanded in partnerships with Head Start programs
- Help Me Grow (HMG) – OCFS launched program November 10, 2022 to connect caregivers and providers (<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/support-for-families/child-development>)
 - Caregivers/providers can call for info/support (accessing services, healthcare, early intervention, referrals, etc.) for children (up to age 8)
 - Core Components: centralized access; child health provider outreach; community/family outreach; data collection/analysis
 - Online portal added to website for ease of referrals
 - Significant outreach effort through presentations, webinars and conferences
 - Looking Forward in 2023
 - Maine Awarded Preschool Development Grant (PDG) - \$8M/year for 3 years
 - Application prepared by staff from DOE, GOPIF and DHHS
 - OCFS lead agency; with strong partnership between DHHS, DOE and GOPIF

- Support the state to continue building needed infrastructure and capacity to create a more coordinated, efficient, and high-quality mixed delivery system for children ages birth to five and their families.
- Some of the key initiatives include:
 - Increase parent leadership/engagement including enhancing Help Me Grow, increase access to critical resources for underserved children, including New Mainer families with young children
 - Pilot projects to test new designs to increase access to public Pre-K through partnership models
 - Develop and field test a kindergarten inventory to support kindergarten teachers to understand the needs of incoming students, deliver a mixed pre-K curriculum, and measure kindergarten readiness
 - Align state-funded subsidy programs to ensure no child is excluded
 - Pilot the first 10 Schools and Communities in 6 School Administrative Units
 - Pilot Kindergarten Inventory
 - Support infrastructure and capacity for an Early Childhood Integrated Data System
- Early Childhood Comprehensive System Grant – Awarded to Maine CDC
 - Prenatal to age three (P-3) program - increase referrals to and utilization of P-3 programs and services
 - Making Maine’s complex health and early childhood development systems easier for families to effectively access/navigate
 - Aligning P-3 with existing programs (e.g., health care program)
 - Development of a Systems Assessment and Gap Analysis to inform the expected Strategic Plan for this initiative. Plan will build off existing plans, in particular the Children’s Cabinet Plan. Updates to existing plan includes:
 - Equity - improving access for underserved populations; diverse representation
 - Enhance parental engagement and leadership
 - Strengthen Perinatal System of Care infrastructure (preconception to 1 year post-partum) improve links between systems of care
 - \$10M/over 5 years of federal funding awarded through a variety of grants- will supplement work already being done in DHHS and DOE
 - Defined as 3 months prior to pregnancy to one year after giving birth/child’s first birthday
 - Goals/strategies to reduce infant mortality proposed to be included in the Children’s Cabinet Plan for Young Children:
 - Strengthen infrastructure, enhance family leadership/parental engagement, and diverse representation
 - Maintain access to high quality perinatal care in Maine by expanding post partum coverage to 12 months (Mainecare expanded coverage in summer 2022)
 - Address workforce challenges – improve training/education opportunities
 - Improve data collection to inform quality improvement - all 24 Maine birth hospitals were encouraged to participate in the Perinatal Quality Collaborative for Maine and implement perinatal patient safety bundles; currently 21 hospitals are signed up

- Covid Disparities
 - Maternal Innovation grant
- Updating the Children’s Cabinet Plan for Young Children (see attachment)
 - Consolidates and updates some of the existing strategies
 - Add new state funded initiatives: Salary Supplement Program and Early Childhood Consultation Program (Maine’s Early Childhood Mental Health Program) – moved statewide in early 2023
 - Updated with new PDG initiatives
- Continued Collaboration Across State Agencies and Continued and Increased Parent Engagement
 - Early Intervention Workgroup - supporting systems alignment work (e.g., ECCS and PDG efforts) and supporting families with young children to access
 - First 10 Schools and Communities Workgroup - supporting coordination between First 10, First4ME and Community Schools
 - Transitions into Kindergarten Workgroup - coordination between OCFS, Early Learning Team at DOE and CDS to ensure smooth transitions for Moving Forward and will focus on the development of the Kindergarten Inventory
- Expanding Parent Engagement and Leadership in a culturally and linguistically accessible way
 - Parent Ambassador Program Expansion – identify ways to incorporate feedback of participants
 - Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Focus groups - continue to get feedback on implementation of Help Me Grow and efforts to coordinate programs to improve access
 - Updated Needs Assessment for the PDG Renewal Grant - regional meetings and focus groups will ensure that the PDG Needs Assessment reflects the changing needs of children and families

Programming for Youth: Highlights of 2022 and Looking Forward to 2023

- Key Initiatives of 2022:
 - Expanding Career Exploration and Apprenticeship Programming (\$25 Million MJRP funding)
 - Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) is providing the Maine Career Exploration Program in 90 high schools
 - DOE has provided grants to 23 high schools and 3 community-based organizations to expand Extended Learning Opportunities for juniors and seniors – serving over 1,000 students

Note: Community-based organizations expressed concern re:

- Heighten mental health challenges young people are facing
- Young people considering dropping out of High School are not seeing connections between academics and career opportunities

- Over 2,000 students are expected to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programming provided through grants by Maine DOL over the next 2 years
 - Gives young people opportunity to try a career path directly connected to work and earn wages during training period
 - Made possible with MJRP funding
- The Children’s Cabinet awarded grants to 5 community-based organizations to support disadvantaged young people aged 16 to 24 to participate in job readiness training, explore careers and participate in a meaningful paid work experience
- Expanding Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Health and Prevention Services in Schools – Bear Shea
 - School Based Health Centers – using federal ESSER funds
 - 4 high schools started new School Based Health Centers
 - 6 School Administrative Units (SAU) strengthened and expanded programming (e.g., dental services)
 - Social Emotional Learning for Maine (SELME)
 - Since launch, added logins/users to date: 14,606 SEL4ME users from 77 schools with 114,512 logins
 - Reduce barriers of the 400+ modules
 - Added SEL Implementation Specialist staff person (ARPA funding)

SEL4ME main page for info: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/sel/sel4me>

- New Mental Health Modules launched in 2022 – addition to SEL program aimed at reducing anxiety and depression
- Community Schools
 - DOE expanded to 4 SAUs with interest in expanding to new schools
 - Coordinate with other initiatives to share best practices, lessons learned and opportunities to leverage resources
- Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Services - Dr. Todd Landry
 - Efforts to increase availability to evidence-based services -partnering with MaineCare - reimbursed benefits; evidence-based models added to MaineCare benefits manual and OCFS offering no-cost trainings and paid time during training to clinicians

No Cost Trainings to Certify Eligible Clinicians in Evidence-Based Models

- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Triple P - Positive Parenting Program (including all four versions of Triple P)
- Research Units in Behavioral Intervention (RUBI)
- MATCH-ADTC (Modular Approach to Therapy for Children with Anxiety and Depression, Trauma, or Conduct Problems)
- A-CRA (Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach)

Evidence-Based Models Added to the MaineCare Benefits Manual

- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- Multisystemic Therapy for Problem Sexual Behavior (MST-PSB)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)
- Incredible Years Parenting Program (IY)
- Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

Children Cabinet staff is bringing together a broader group to look at SUD prevention programming and mental health services ensuring coordination/collaboration; avoiding duplication of services; identifying what is/is not working; as well as looking at what is happening in schools/communities and with healthcare providers to ensure we are supporting young people to access programs/services efficiently

Wrap up - Commissioner Lambrew

- Early Childhood Plan - engage new/diverse Maine families and strengthen the Perinatal System of Care
- For Young People – continue work around the apprenticeship program, identifying resources/funding, and intensify efforts to address substance misuse/mental health challenges
- Happy Birthday to Ana!

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 21
10:30-11:30am

Goal: All Maine Children Enter Kindergarten Prepared to Succeed

The Children's Cabinet will implement key strategies to promote the healthy development of all young children in Maine and ensure that all children grow up in healthy, safe and supportive environments. The Cabinet will strive to engage the voice of parents and caregivers in a culturally and linguistically accessible way as we further develop and implement our strategies.

Areas of Focus

The Children's Cabinet will implement strategies that will:

1. Increase access to affordable early care & education, preventive and early intervention services for young children and their families.
2. Raise the quality of our early care and education system and support families to access quality programming.
3. Recruit, prepare and retain a diverse early childhood workforce.

Short term strategies: 2023

- Provide infrastructure grants to existing or new child care programs to create new slots, particularly in underserved areas.
- Continue to offer weekly stipends of \$100 to infant caregivers receiving CCSP to recognize the high cost of providing infant care and increase the quality bump to child care programs on the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) serving infants and toddlers.
- Provide scholarships to help students with low and moderate income attain associates and bachelor's degrees in early childhood education.
- Implement the early childhood mental health consultation statewide to help parents and educators support the social and emotional development of young children, particularly children with special needs. **(Updated)**
- Implement a tiered child care salary supplement program to increase wages for early childhood educators and recognize experience. **(updated)**
- Continue strengthening the Perinatal System of Care infrastructure (preconception to 1 year post-partum) including family leadership, parental engagement, and diverse representation. **(New)**

Intermediate strategies: 2023 – 2025

- Provide grants to child care programs to improve quality and rating on the QRIS. **(updated)**
- Expand professional learning opportunities that support inclusive and trauma informed practices in early care and education settings.
- Offer a professional learning series on early childhood education to school administrators, particularly for those with ECE programs.
- Fund start-up infrastructure grants to expand the number public pre-K slots for 4 year olds.
- Provide grant funding to support new public pre-K partnerships between schools and community partners to overcome barriers to expanding public pre-K in certain communities.
- Align quality programming across state child care assistance programs. **(new)**
- Implement key models such as First 10 Schools and Communities and First4ME to provide professional development, tools and supports to improve and strengthen coordination and alignment across the birth through early elementary years in communities to ensure smooth transitions into kindergarten for children and families, quality care and education for young children, and greater access to needed resources for families. **(new)**

- Build a robust Help Me Grow program to provide a comprehensive, statewide, coordinated system of early identification, referral, and follow-up for children from prenatal care up to 8 years and their families. (updated and consolidated)
- Develop and conduct a field test of a valid and reliable Kindergarten Entry Inventory to help educators and policymakers assess children’s progress along developmental progressions to inform instruction in the kindergarten year and policymaking. (new)

Long-term strategies: 2023 – 2027

- Maintain access to high quality perinatal care in Maine by expanding post-partum coverage to 12 months for pregnant people, building linkages between early intervention and medical systems to better serve diverse and underserved populations, and improving the connection to perinatal consultation by expanding the obstetric telehealth network to all birthing hospitals. (new)
- Support perinatal health by assessing the current capacity of the perinatal workforce in Maine, improving perinatal training and education opportunities for students and current providers, and exploring the use of community healthcare workers to support maternal and child health. (new)
- Ensure access to high-quality perinatal care, including behavioral health, for all pregnant women, pregnant people, and infants in Maine at the appropriate Level of Care (LOC) by improving data collection and case reviews to inform quality improvement and policy and encouraging all birth hospitals to participate in the Perinatal Quality Collaborative for Maine and implement perinatal patient safety bundles. (new)
- Increase access to, expand and strengthen early childhood programming at Career and Technical schools.
- Develop clear opportunities and pathways for individuals interested in entering the field of early care and education to support them to access ECE training and education. (new)
- Increase professional development and coaching opportunities for early childhood educators in center-based, family child care programs and the early elementary years in public schools. (updated)
- Establish an Early Childhood Integrated Data System to track progress on early childhood goals and to analyze impact of policy decisions.

Key Children's Cabinet Initiatives in 2022 & Looking forward to 2023

Children's Cabinet Meeting
January 17, 2023

Key Initiatives in 2022

- **Investments in Stabilizing, Supporting and Expanding Child Care**
 - **Stabilization Grants:** Invested over \$100 million of Federal funds in direct grants to stabilize and support child care programs which were hit hard by the pandemic and inflation. Currently more licensed child care slots than pre-pandemic.
 - **Salary Supplements:** OCFS implemented the state-funded salary supplement program of \$200 per month to recruit and retain early childhood educators working in child care programs in October.
 - **Expansion Grants:** Awarded 23 grants to family and center-based child care facilities to create an anticipated 488 new slots to date. Currently reviewing larger facility start up and expansion grants.

Expanding Public Pre-K to 4-year-olds

\$10 million in MJRP Public Pre-K Expansion Grants:

- With the support from Pre-K Expansion grants in SY 2022-23:
 - 4 SAUs started new programs. 3 of these were full day/full week.
 - 6 SAUs expanded classrooms and/or programs to full day/full week.
- 4 SAUs started new programs and 7 SAUs expanded classrooms using other funding sources.
- In December 2022, 16 SAUs were conditionally awarded grants for SY 2023-24. Currently, a 3rd round of RFAs is underway. As contracts are finalized, we will have a better sense of the number of new classrooms and students.
- Enrollment numbers in public pre-K have rebounded and increased since dropping over the last 2 school years due to the pandemic. Public Pre-K enrollment numbers for Fall 2022 are at an all time high with 6238 students--more than 50% of all 4-year-olds.





Help Me Grow Maine

Help Me Grow Maine Launched on November 10, 2022

Help Me Grow (HMG) Maine connects families to information and services. In partnership with 211 Maine, both caregivers and providers can contact HMG for support. HMG will listen, share developmental information, community resources, and provide follow-up to caregivers and referral sources.

Core Components:

- Centralized Access Point
- Child Health Provider Outreach
- Community & Family Outreach
- Data Collection & Analysis





Help Me Grow Maine

- Central Access Point accepting referrals statewide
- Online referral portal has been added to website for ease of referrals
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)[®] online portal has received 45 screenings from Early Care and Education (ECE) providers and two from the general public
- Over 1,000 child health, ECE, and community providers reached since July 2022 through presentations, webinars, and conferences



Looking forward to 2023



Preschool Development Grant!



- **Maine awarded Preschool Development Grant**
 - Office of Child and Family Services serves as lead agency on the grant. Work will be implemented as a strong partnership between DHHS and DOE. Team from DHHS, DOE and GOPIF pulled together the application. \$8 million per year for three years. Total of \$24 million.
 - Support the state to continue to build needed infrastructure and capacity to create a more coordinated, efficient, and high-quality mixed delivery system for children ages birth to five and their families.
 - A few key initiatives include:
 - Enhancing the Help Me Grow System to increase access to critical resources for underserved children, including New Mainer families with young children
 - Expanding public pre-K through pilot projects to test new designs that will increase access to public Pre-K through partnership models
 - Supports to improve and align quality in Maine's child care assistance programs
 - Develop and field test a kindergarten inventory to support kindergarten teachers to understand the needs of incoming kindergarten students and measure kindergarten readiness
 - Pilot First 10 Schools and Communities in 6 School Administrative Units
 - Funding to support the infrastructure and capacity for an Early Childhood Integrated Data System

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant

Maine's **Early Childhood Comprehensive System** Health Integration Prenatal-to-three (P-3) program will increase referrals to, and utilization of, P-3 programs and services by making Maine's complex health and early childhood development systems **easier for families to more effectively access and navigate**.

As an initial step in grant process, developed a Systems Assessment and Gap Analysis to inform the expected Strategic Plan for this initiative. Plan will build off existing plans, in particular the Children's Cabinet Plan.

Top three contributions/changes the ECCS Strategic Plan will bring to an existing state plan:

1. **Equity:** Address inequities in Maine P-3 system and improving access to and coordination of P-3 services and programs for underserved populations.
2. **Parent Engagement:** Enhance family leadership and parental engagement.
3. **Perinatal Systems of Care:** Build on and strengthen linkages between the state's early childhood system and the health sector, particularly in the areas of perinatal systems of care and early intervention services for children 0-3.

Strengthening Perinatal Systems of Care Work: Over \$10 million in Federal Funds will support initiatives over the next 5 years

- COVID Disparities Grant -Basic Life Support in Obstetrics Program (BLSO) and Perinatal Needs Assessment (MCDC)
- State Maternal Innovation Grant (MCDC)
- PQC4ME Capacity Building Grant (PQC4ME, MMA CQI)
- Maternal Mortality Review Committee Expansions (PQC4ME, MCDC)
- Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program (RMOMS) (MaineHealth)
- Strategic Planning Work includes:
 - Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) (MCDC)
 - Perinatal Roadmap (PQC4ME, MCDC MCH team)
 - Perinatal Needs Assessment (MCDC)

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 - Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) (MCDC)
 - Perinatal Roadmap (PQC4ME, MCDC MCH team)
 - Perinatal Needs Assessment (MCDC)

Updating the Children's Cabinet Plan For Young Children

Incorporate Perinatal Systems of Care Work into the Plan:

- Continue strengthening the Perinatal System of Care infrastructure (preconception to 1 year post-partum) including family leadership, parental engagement, and diverse representation.
- Maintain access to high quality perinatal care in Maine by expanding post-partum coverage to 12 months for pregnant people, building linkages between early intervention and medical systems to better serve diverse and underserved populations, and improving the connection to perinatal consultation by expanding the obstetric telehealth network to all birthing hospitals.
- Support perinatal health by assessing the current capacity of the perinatal workforce in Maine, improving perinatal training and education opportunities for students and current providers, and exploring the use of community healthcare workers to support maternal and child health.
- Ensure access to high-quality perinatal care, including behavioral health, for all pregnant women, pregnant people, and infants in Maine at the appropriate Level of Care (LOC) by improving data collection and case reviews to inform quality improvement and policy and encouraging all birth hospitals to participate in the Perinatal Quality Collaborative for Maine and implement perinatal patient safety bundles.

Updating the Children's Cabinet Plan For Young Children

- Updated plan also consolidates and updates some of the existing strategies.
- Adds new state funded initiatives:
 - Salary supplement program for early childhood educators in licensed child care programs. Governor's budget includes funding needed to fully fund program on an annual basis. OCFS is working to move that to a tiered system in July 2023. Supplements will be higher for those with more education and/or experience.
 - Early Childhood Consultation Program, Maine's Early Childhood Mental Health Program, will move statewide in early 2023 with support of new state and existing federal funding. Had been a longer term goal for the cabinet.
- Update with new PDG initiatives

Coordinating Across State Agencies and Programs

- Early Intervention Workgroup
 - Supporting systems alignment work and supporting families with young children to access
 - Will help to align ECCS and PDG efforts
- First 10 Schools and Communities Workgroup
 - Supporting coordination between First 10, First4ME and Community Schools
 - First4ME is a **two-generation, community-based approach** for a coordinated birth to kindergarten-entry program that integrates comprehensive resources and services into child care settings. Focus on early care & education, family supports and transitions into Kindergarten. Five pilots will be funded in Maine starting in 2023.
 - First 10 schools and communities pilots will seek to coordinate services and programs between local early childhood education system and local early elementary schools. Link families to local resources and services.
- Transitions into Kindergarten Workgroup
 - Coordination between OCFS, Early Learning Team at DOE and CDS to ensure smooth transitions for Moving forward will focus on the development of the Kindergarten Inventory.

Expanding Parent Engagement and Leadership

The Cabinet will strive to engage the voice of parents in a culturally and linguistically accessible way as we further develop and implement our strategies.

- **Parent Ambassador Program Expansion:** Nationally recognized parent leadership program operated by KVCAP/Educare Maine. Through ECCS and PDG Renewal Grant, staff will identify ways to incorporate the feedback of PA participants.
- **Expand Parent Leadership to New Mainers:** Support Portland Empowered to develop new parent leadership training for New Mainer parents with young children.
- **Collaborating Partners Advisory Group:** This advisory group includes both parents and organizations representing parents to ensure that parent voice is incorporated.
- **Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Focus groups:** Asking questions about accessibility of services. Will continue to get feedback on implementation of Help Me Grow and efforts to coordinate programs to improve access.
- **Updated Needs Assessment for the PDG Renewal Grant:** Regional meetings and focus groups will ensure that the PDG Needs Assessment reflects the changing needs of children and families.

Questions?

Key Initiatives for Youth

- **Expanding Career Exploration and Apprenticeship Programming to Youth:**
 - Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) is providing the Maine Career Exploration Program in 90 high schools.
 - DOE has provided grants to 23 high schools and 3 community-based organizations to expand Extended Learning Opportunities for juniors and seniors.
 - The Children's Cabinet awarded grants to 5 community-based organizations to support disadvantaged young people aged 16 to 24 to participate in job readiness training, explore careers and participate in a meaningful paid work experience.
 - Over 2,000 students are expected to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programming provided through grants by Maine DOL over the next two years.

Key Initiatives for Youth

- **Expanding Social Emotional Learning, Health and Prevention Services in Schools**
 - **School Based Health Centers:** With federal ESSER funds, 4 high schools received grants to start new School-Based Health Centers and 6 other Schools Administrative Units received grant funding to strengthen and expand programming, such as expanding dental services.
 - **Social Emotional Learning:**
 - To date, there have been 14,606 SEL4ME users from 77 schools with 114,512 log ins.
 - Launched new Mental Health Modules in 2022
 - Efforts to support educators to incorporate SEL into everyday curriculums and extracurricular activities has expanded. Expanded capacity at DOE has allowed for the establishment of a new community of practice forum for educators to learn/share best SEL implementation practices. Working collaboratively with state departments and community partners, DOE staff have already initiated a series of professional trainings and presented on SEL in over 25 educational conferences and summits
 - **Community Schools**
 - Expanded to four schools and interest in expanding to new schools in future years. Coordinate with other initiatives to share best practices, lessons learned and opportunities to leverage resources.

Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Services

- **OCFS led efforts to expand evidence-based services through no-cost trainings and partnering with MaineCare to add evidence-based models as MaineCare reimbursed benefits**

No Cost Trainings to Certify Eligible Clinicians in Evidence-Based Models

- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Triple P - Positive Parenting Program (including all four versions of Triple P)
- Research Units in Behavioral Intervention (RUBI)
- MATCH-ADTC (Modular Approach to Therapy for Children with Anxiety and Depression, Trauma, or Conduct Problems)
- A-CRA (Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach)

Evidence-Based Models Added to the MaineCare Benefits Manual

- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- Multisystemic Therapy for Problem Sexual Behavior (MST-PSB)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)
- Incredible Years Parenting Program (IY)
- Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Services

- **Crisis Services:**

- Maine received a Mobile Crisis Planning Grant which ran from September 30, 2021 through September 29, 2022. The grant provided support to organize efforts to develop a comprehensive community-based mobile crisis intervention service for Mainers experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis. The policy recommendations that resulted from this work will bring Maine's crisis system in line with federal best practices and allow Maine to receive a higher Medicaid match for its crisis services.

- **Systems of Care Grant:**

- Currently in the third year of a four year federal grant supporting the state to improve behavioral health services available to youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED) in their homes and communities.

- **Expanding the focus and resources on youth SUD needs:**

- Bolstering the skills of health care providers to appropriately identify and treat SUD within adolescent populations
- With Maine AAP, offering ongoing education to primary care providers across the State through Treatment Recovery Education Advocacy for Teens with Substance Use Disorder in Maine (TreatME)
- Partnering with MaineCDC on the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral for Treatment (SBIRT) project; and
- Leading several internal and external workgroups to build relationships to further strengthen the effort to support youth with SUD in access to treatment and expanding the availability of evidence-based treatment modalities.

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Looking ahead to 2023

Funding Initiatives in the Governor's Biennial Budget – FY 2024 & 2025

Single Point of Access

- Exploration of a Single Point of Access was a part of the 2019 strategies.
- Funding would allow for the implementation of the Child and Adolescent Level of Care/Service Intensity Utilization System (CALOCOUS-CASII) suite for all behavioral health services which will aid in the identification, screening, and connecting of children with the appropriate level of service intensity to meet their needs.

Improve Support for Providers and Families

- Funding would make permanent the temporary positions established under the System of Care Grant, allowing for the continuation of this important work beyond the end of the Grant including youth and family engagement and support, quality assurance work with providers, and data collection and analysis.
- Makes a limited period Resource Coordinator permanent focused on developing resources in their communities.
- Continuing Limited Period funding for our Youth SUD Specialist focused on expanding resources and training for youth with SUD needs.

Target Service Expansion to Identified Needs

- Funding would establish Multi-dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) for youth to address mental health and substance use concerns
- Funding would establish a new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver program to provide community-based comprehensive services and habilitative supports to adolescents with intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder throughout their lifespan.
- Funding would establish an ongoing public education campaign about mental health, the need for mental healthcare, and the availability of care. The campaign includes written materials, media presentations, and a toll-free telephone number for information, referral, and access to community-based and residential-based services, resources for care, and grievance and appeals procedures.

Training

- Funding continues supporting BHP certification at no cost to providers and develops a marketing campaign to build awareness of the BHP role and career opportunities.
- Funding would continue efforts to provide training and support for clinicians to become certified in evidence-based treatment models, as well as new work to streamline the process for individuals to engage in behavioral health careers

Foster Care

- Funding would establish a pilot program for Therapeutic Foster Care utilizing an evidence-based model to address the needs of system involved youth before the need for residential treatment or incarceration arises
- Funding would be used to establish Therapeutic Foster Care and Multi-dimensional Therapeutic Foster Care in Section 97 (Children's Residential Care Facilities)

Efforts to Coordinate Primary and Secondary SUD Prevention Programming and Mental Health Services

- In partnership with Gordon Smith, staff across state agencies are meeting to identify opportunities to collaborate and coordinate primary and secondary SUD prevention programming and mental health services.
- Ensure alignment of SUD and Mental Health Screenings.
- Coordination of services and programming in schools, community-based organizations, and health care providers.
- Identify opportunities to leverage programming for children and youth and build upon best practices and effective programming.
- Identify gaps in programming and services to reach more children and youth with prevention programming.

Questions?

PDG (B-5) Renewal Grant Overview

The Office of Child and Family Services, in partnership with the Early Learning Team and Child Development Services at the Department of Education, was awarded a three-year Preschool Development Grant (B-5) Renewal Grant application from the Administration of Children and Families at the US Department of Health and Human Services. The grant application proposes to build needed infrastructure and capacity to create a more coordinated, efficient, and high-quality mixed delivery system for children ages birth to five and their families, targeting key needs surfaced in the initial PDG needs assessment. This plan builds upon the successful cross agency work to ensure that all children enter Kindergarten prepared to succeed.

Strengthening Parent Leadership & Engagement

The PDG (B-5) grant will:

- Develop and implement a new parent leadership program for New Mainer families with young children, in partnership with Portland Empowered and Educare Maine. This effort will build upon existing efforts through the Parent Ambassador Program to engage and expand a network of parent leaders to better inform the development of policies and programs for young children and their families.
- Develop and implement a public education campaign to support parents to understand developmental milestones and how they can best support their children's healthy development.

Improving Access to Early Childhood Programs and Services

The PDG (B-5) grant will:

- Enhance the Help Me Grow System to increase access to critical resources for underserved children, including dual or multilingual learners by:
 - Hiring a dedicated family navigator to work with New Mainer families
 - Building on the work and expertise of the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) COVID 19 Community Care Team to provide mentoring and training to early intervention teams on how to address the needs of diverse communities and help connect them to the work of Ethnic Community Based Organizations (ECBOs) in Maine.
 - Directly supporting the work of ECBOs who will partner with HMG to increase access to early intervention, health care and other services.
- Expand public Pre-k for 4-year-olds by:
 - Bringing together stakeholders within Maine's early childhood education mixed delivery system to study the current funding model for public Pre-K, explore opportunities for partnerships across the available systems (including funding considerations and mechanisms), consider the ramifications of various partnership and funding designs, and recommend pilot projects to test new designs that will increase access to public Pre-K through partnership models.
 - Piloting these partnership models with grant funding in the second and third years of the PDG renewal grant.

- Implement Pilot First 10 Schools and Communities in 6 School Administrative Units to:
 - Increase collaboration and coordination between local early childhood education systems and public elementary schools to improve teaching and learning as well as transitions across these systems for children and families.
 - Improve coordination and connection to resources and supports for families with young children to support whole child development.
 - Engage families in culturally responsive ways.

Recruiting and Retaining a Diverse Workforce

The PDG (B-5) grant will:

- Strengthen Maine’s Early Childhood Education Career and Technical Education Programming by
 - Increasing the number of CTE students graduating with Child Development Associate (CDA) Credentials.
 - Expanding the ECE curriculum to include special education and/or business management content.
- Build capacity to develop replicable models for articulation agreements across ECE credential and degree programs from CTEs and Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development network to community colleges and universities by:
 - Hiring a new Maine Roads to Quality staff person focused on developing and expanding these models and agreements
 - Hosting a statewide Higher Education summit to bring ECE professionals, faculty and administrators together to develop solutions and pathways to encourage more individuals to enter the ECE field and attain credentials and degrees.
- Provide scholarships to help pay for child care for children of early childhood educators entering the field for the first time and starting positions with licensed child care providers. Individuals eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program will receive assistance with applying for the program.
- Hire a Workforce Navigator at the Office of Child and Family Services who will help early childhood educators understand how to access the soon-to-be implemented tiered salary supplement program, opportunities for greater training, education and credential attainment, and child care scholarships or child care subsidy program.

Increasing the Quality of Early Childhood Education Programming

The PDG (B-5) grant will:

- Support the strengthening of inclusionary practices in child care and public Pre-K classrooms by providing tools and training to cohorts of public Pre-K teachers and early childhood teachers in licensed child care programs.
- Encourage joint learning and interaction between early childhood and elementary school teachers through the development of shared professional learning opportunities.

- Support for professional learning series for elementary school administrators to provide greater understanding of the early childhood education system and the needs and development of young children.
- Continue building out interdisciplinary and developmentally appropriate instructional programming across the Pre-K to Grade 2 span.
- Support the development and implementation of a kindergarten inventory to support kindergarten teachers to understand the needs of incoming students and measure kindergarten readiness.
- Partner with community-based organization to provide a series of trainings for early childhood and elementary school teachers related to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), trauma informed practices, and resilience.
- Provide grants to support child care programs to improve quality and move up on the Quality Rating Improvement System.
- Ensure that reimbursement to licensed child care programs providing care and education to children participating in Maine's TANF/ASPIRE program are aligned with the Maine's Child Care Subsidy quality bumps.

Data Monitoring and Evaluation

The PDG (B-5) grant will:

- Build the capacity and needed infrastructure to implement an Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems to provide state leaders across agencies with information to make informed decisions about programs and policies that promote access, quality, and a strong workforce to support all Maine children ages 0-5.
- Fund the evaluation of Maine's new tiered salary supplement program.
- Fund the evaluation of the First 10 pilots in coordination with the evaluation of the First4ME project.