Board Action Summary

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>**: QRIS and Child Care Regulation**

Summary of Recommended Board Action

ACTION: No Action Needed
Review the information on work to align and connect across the continuum of care and discuss current efforts for QRIS revisions.

ISSUE:

<u>QRIS Revision</u>
The goal of the QRIS Revision is to capitalize on current Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge funding to revise the current QRIS to be a more effective and culturally responsive sustainable system with full implementation scheduled for Spring, 2017.

<u>Support & Monitoring Programs</u>
How do we create a system of support that meets providers/programs where they are and support their continuous improvement? In May of 2015 the Early Learning Division began a process to look at our systems of licensing, professional development and program improvement. This overview provides the work of the Support and Monitoring Breakthrough Team's concept to address the end of Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant and the Reauthorization of Child Care Development Block Grant. The team's objective was to create a system of monitoring programs that supports ongoing continuous improvement.

CONTACT: David Mandell, Director of Policy and Research; Dawn Woods, Child Care Director

SUPPORT & MONITORING PROGRAMS

OBJECTIVE: SUPPORTED AND MONITORED PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUALLY IMPROVING

In May of 2015 the Early Learning Division began a process to look at our systems of licensing, professional development and program improvement. This overview provides the work of the Support and Monitoring Breakthrough Team's concept to address the end of Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant and the Reauthorization of Child Care Development Block Grant. The team's objective was to create a system of monitoring programs that supports ongoing continuous improvement. This Straw Person Proposal was developed under three guiding principles.

1. Support and monitoring systems must work in tandem with each other.
2. New policies and practices must be evaluated by the impact the changes will have on children and families, staff, and providers across the continuum of care.
3. Resources must be targeted to programs serving children furthest from opportunity and those that present a risk to children.
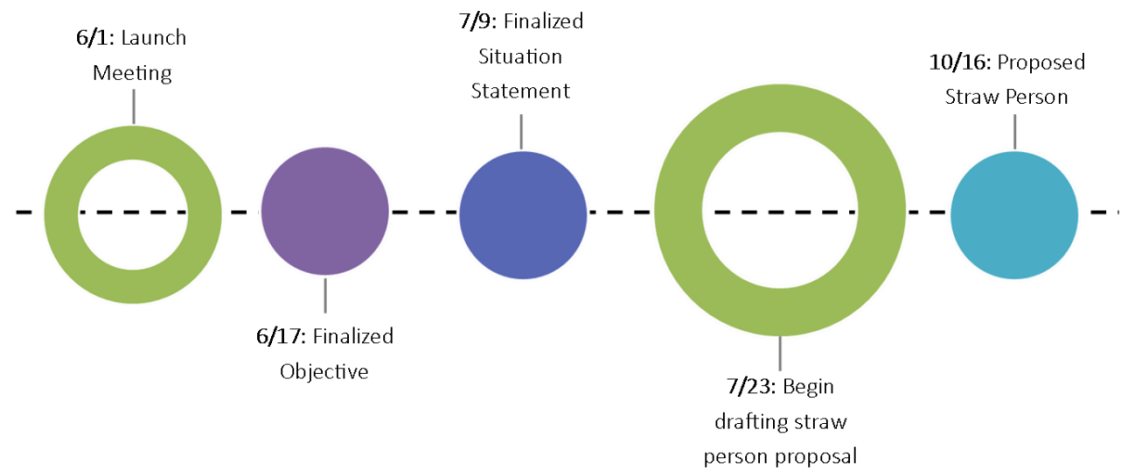
The current system of supporting and monitoring programs has been divided between health and safety regulations and standards of quality. The following visuals represent a high-level view at our existing structure and the future state as envisioned by this Breakthrough Team.
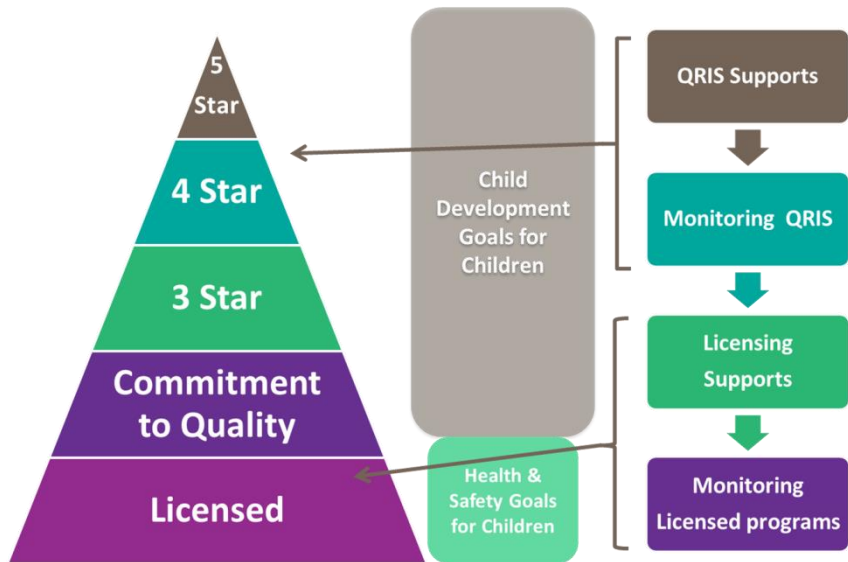
BREAKTHROUGH TEAM MEMBERS

Peter Blume; Project Manager
Dana Bleakney; QRIS
Bertha Camacho; CCR&R
Pam Deardorff; OCCD
Karen Henkemeyer; CCR&R
Rita Loop; ELD
David Mandell; ELD Sponsor
Kathryn Miller; ELD

Carol Petersen
Lisa Pinheiro
Rhonda Prodzinski
Meredith Russell
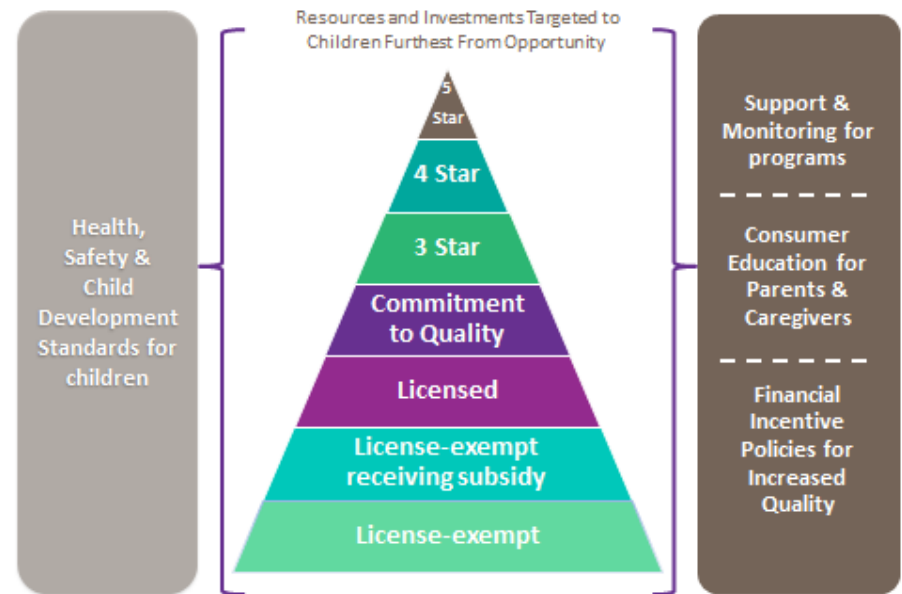Tami Scott
Sonja Svenson
Cheryl Terrusa
Dawn Woods

BREAKTHROUGH TEAM TIMELINE

6/1: Launch Meeting

6/17: Finalized Objective

7/9: Finalized Situation Statement

7/23: Begin drafting straw person proposal

10/16: Proposed Straw Person

CURRENT TA AND MONITORING

Pyramid (top to bottom):
- 5 Star
- 4 Star
- 3 Star
- Commitment to Quality
- Licensed

Child Development Goals for Children

Health & Safety Goals for Children

QRIS Supports
↓
Monitoring QRIS
↓
Licensing Supports
↓
Monitoring Licensed programs

FUTURE TA AND MONITORING

Resources and Investments Targeted to Children Furthest From Opportunity

Health, Safety & Child Development Standards for children

Pyramid (top to bottom):
- 5 Star
- 4 Star
- 3 Star
- Commitment to Quality
- Licensed
- License-exempt receiving subsidy
- License-exempt

Support & Monitoring for programs

– – –

Consumer Education for Parents & Caregivers

– – –

Financial Incentive Policies for Increased Quality

Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Revision

Oregon's Revised QRIS will:

- Ensure inclusion of diversity of cultures, communities of color, ethnicities, languages and abilities using the Oregon Equity Lens
- Be comprehensive but not cumbersome for providers
- Be sustainable and prioritize resources to increase access to quality care for children, families and communities furthest from opportunity
- Increase professionalism of the Early Learning field by encouraging continuous quality improvement across all levels of the system (system, workforce, program)
- Be efficient, effective and build upon existing systems
- Build upon the rich knowledge and expertise of Oregon's families and communities to support families as they choose child care
- Provide objective and understandable standards in accessible formats
- Be understood and valued by all stakeholders

Vision:
All of Oregon's children will have access to quality care and education that promotes each child's development, school readiness, and continued success in academics and life.

Mission:
Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System supports and incentivizes continuous quality improvements for care and education programs and their workforce. The QRIS partners with families and communities to highlight the importance of early learning experiences and to connect families and quality learning programs. Investments and resources are prioritized to increase access to quality care for children, families, and communities furthest from opportunity.

The revision process will:

Be transparent and inclusive
The inclusive process means that all perspectives will be sought after and included: parents, providers, and system partners, with intentional inclusion of individuals from diverse communities including communities of color, communities with high rates of poverty, individuals who speak diverse languages, rural communities, multiple cultural and ethnic backgrounds, persons with disabilities.

The revision process will ensure transparency by communicating time lines, points of input, decisions and implementations plan in a timely manner.

Partners will come to the table with the intention of creating a system that is best for everyone and be willing to work for true collaboration.

Recognize and value all stakeholders
The review process will keep children and families at the forefront of decisions. Providers, programs, the workforce, and partners will be valued stakeholders.

Be data driven and vision focused
The revision process will use multiple data sources including evaluation data, input from the early learning field, authentic community engagement, national TA and best practice to create a principle based, mission driven revised system. Decisions will be made to ensure child furthest from opportunity are priority for investments, resources, and access.

Explicitly focus on equity and reflecting diversity of cultures, communities of color, ethnicities, languages and abilities
The revision process will challenge institutionalized bias and ensure that the QRIS partners reflect and include children and families from diverse backgrounds. The revision process will also drive the professional development system to build out deeper supports for providers from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that training necessary for quality improvement and to advance levels on QRIS is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese, and other languages as resources allow.

The following tension points are acknowledged:

- Focus on early learning *and* inclusion of school age programs.
- Importance of high quality early childhood experiences *and* the subjective nature of "quality."
- Inclusion of all children *and* priority of children furthest from opportunity.
- Scope of involvement of licensed programs *and* increasing focus on full continuum of care.
- Goal of school readiness *and* importance of whole child.
- Desire to provide information to/educate families *and* partner with them as experts and decision makers.
- Higher rewards *and* higher stakes.
- Needs of rural communities *and* larger populations of children in the I-5 Corridor

QRIS Revision Timeline Summary

Purpose statement:

Capitalize on current Race To the Top Early Learning Challenge funding to revise the current QRIS to be a more effective, sustainable system with full implementation scheduled for Spring, 2017. This document was created to be a working draft of the timeline for revisions. As adjustments are made or dates become more specific, details will be added. Other early learning system changes are added in italics to give more context to the QRIS revisions.

Estimated timeline for revisions:

Fall 2015
- QRIS Revision timeline created
- *HB2015 Employment Related Day Care ERDC changes go into effect*
- *Head start expansion of Preschool Promise*

December 2015
- Themes for solution focused community engagement identified
- QRIS Revision timeline distributed

January 2016
- Dates for community engagement opportunities set; will use equity lens and guiding principles to ensure wide engagement
- Quality Advisory Board created
- Quality Improvement Specialist input survey distributed

February-March 2016
- Solution focused community engagement sessions across the state
- Initial validation study findings shared

April-June 2016
- Revision work groups meet to draft revisions to:

Process	Supports
Incentives	Rating and Monitoring
Consumer Education	Standards

- Branding work completed
- *Tiered reimbursement rollout*

June-September 2016
- Revisions are shared with the field for input

September-December 2016
- Final validation study findings shared
- Final revisions are created
- Implementation and transition plan created
- Early Learning Information System (ELIS) goes live
- *Preschool Promise rolls out in community placements*
- *Monitoring of licensed exempt programs begins*

January-June 2017
- Implementation phase in begins
- Ongoing feedback loops implemented

QRIS ★
Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EARLY LEARNING DIVISION