

Early Learning Council

Measuring Success Committee Report: December 2018

Committee Charge:

Advise the Early Learning Council on the issues, challenges, successes and priorities related to measuring the success of the early learning system and ensuring equitable outcomes for all children, including but not limited to the Early Learning Hubs

Committee Membership:

Kristi Collins, Colleen Reuland, Bobbie Weber, Holly Mar Conte, Debbie Jones, Dorothy Spence, Emily Berry, Beth Green, Sara Kleinschmidt, Shannon Lipscomb, Bill Baney, Bess Day.

Report:

The Measuring Success Committee of the Early Learning Council met on Wednesday, December 5, from 1 – 3pm at the Early Learning Division. Following an update on the progress on the Strategic Plan, the Committee reviewed the list of principles it previously developed for intermediary measures.

Intermediary measures should:

- 1) Be organized around objectives
- 2) Contribute to long-term outcomes
- 3) Be sector or program specific, as long as they tie into the same construct/objective
- 4) Have buy-in from sector owners
- 5) Expect to see change in 2-3 years
- 6) Be able to analyze by demographic groups for focus on equity

With respect to principle #6, the Committee discussed the need/goal to consistently collect race/ethnicity data across all programs sectors. Currently, the methods of data collection and the resulting racial/ethnic categories are not consistent, often making comparisons across programs and sectors difficult and resulting in inconsistent data.

The group then reviewed a document developed by staff that attempted to match previously discussed intermediary measures with the Goal 1 and Goal 2 objectives from the Strategic Plan. The measures had not been developed in relation to the plan, and this was the Committee's first attempt to see if the measures could be used in concert with the plan's objectives.

Regarding Objective 1, "families are supported and engaged as their child's first teacher," an issue was raised as to whether data collected and reported by external partners (e.g., universities) was acceptable, especially if funding is not stable over time. The issue was raised because a suggested measure for this objective was the Parenting Skills Ladder data (used within parenting education) collected by OPEC. The Committee decided to consider the issues of stable funding, stable data collection, and organizational capacity of the external partners on a measure by measure basis. Given the lack of other measures for



this objective, the option of moving the “reading to children” measure from the long-term to the intermediary measures was raised. Another option was to use home visiting data such as the percentage of participants screened who were actually engaged and/or retained for a certain period of time. This measure is currently in use by some (all?) home visiting programs.

Regarding Objective 2, “families have access to high-quality affordable early care and education,” several previously discussed measures seemed appropriate: % of children with access to a child care slot (for infant-toddlers and preschoolers), # of SPARK rated programs, # of children in SPARK-rated programs, and the continuity of care in ERDC. It was noted that the ERDC measure is an example of external researchers developing the data, with the funding being grant based and not permanent.

Regarding Objective 3, “a high-quality, well compensated, culturally responsive and diverse early care and education workforce is in place,” no measures previously discussed by the Committee related to the workforce. Bobbie Weber suggested the following measures that are regularly determined: turnover rate, % of workforce with BA, MA, or certain number of training hours, and workforce diversity.

Regarding Objective 4, “early childhood physical and social-emotional health promotion and prevention is increased,” a number of previously vetted measures appeared to fit well: well-child visits during first 15 months, developmental screenings by 36 months, dental exams, exclusive breastfeeding during the first 6 months, and the immunization rate (combo 2). It was noted that a “developmental screening and follow-up” measure would not be ready for a year or two. It was also noted that for well-child visits, data exists for the 0-15 month range as well as for 3 – 6 year-olds.

Regarding Objective 5, “Young children with social-emotional, developmental, and health care needs are identified early and supported,” one measure previously suggested but not vetted was the percentage of infants and toddlers in EI who showed gains. Staff will contact EI/ECSE to discuss the best measures for inclusion in the dashboard for both EI and ECSE.

Regarding Objective 6, “Children and families experience supportive transitions and continuity of services across early care and education and K-12,” no previously discussed measures seemed appropriate for this objective. The Committee discussed the possibility of using KPI data. Holly Mar will contact Beth Green to discuss any viable options.

Regarding Objective 7, “Parents and caregivers have equitable access to supports for their physical and social-emotional health,” seven previously discussed measures seem applicable: adequate prenatal care, rate of preterm births, well-women visits, tobacco and/or alcohol use during pregnancy or during first two years, maternal social support, parenting stress, and family’s sense of hope. All seven were retained at this point in the process, though some may be removed to make this set of measures more manageable.

Regarding Objective 8, “All families with infants have opportunities for connection,” the Committee could not come up with any appropriate measures.



Regarding Objective 9, “Families with young children who are experiencing adversity have access to coordinated and comprehensive services,” five previously discussed measures were listed under this objective: children’s exposure to adverse events (family disruption), child poverty rate, family’s living in supportive neighborhood, % of families earning a living wage, and number of residences for child. It was noted that the data sources for some of these measures needs to be determined.

The Committee noted that as the Strategic Plan’s strategies are developed with sector partners, the measures should be reviewed with partners to determine if the selected measures are the most appropriate, and to confirm which sector is the appropriate lead for each measure.

Finally, it was emphasized that the future dashboard will be too onerous for one person or one agency to maintain. As an additional principle for the intermediary measures, it was suggested that each measure have an existing data source with data currently being collected, as well as a sector data lead who can take ownership over the collection and reporting to a dashboard manager.

Upcoming Key Decisions:

- Finalize long-term and intermediate outcomes measures

Staffed by:

David Mandell, Tom George, Sue Parrish

