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Meeting Summary for Data, Analytics & Insights Workgroup meeting
August 22, 2024

Quick recap

After a brief update from the Transition Director on the (re)launch of the Ad Hoc Workgroups, the DAI Workgroup welcomed new members and continued its work to inform the "strategic building blocks" for the strategy and emerging implementation plan for IDEC's Data, Analytics and Insights function. This meeting's focus was to begin unpacking one of the emerging strategic initiatives for the DAI function at IDEC, namely an integrated data system. Specifically, the group was interested in learning from ChildTrends who have developed a framework for more equitably measuring a child and families experiences in early childhood. Guest Speakers from ChildTrends presented on their 'STEP Forward with Data Framework', a tool designed to help systems leaders use data to promote equity in early childhood systems. Together the workgroup members discussed the opportunity of having a centralized agency in Illinois for better, more streamlined data collection and more actionable insights for early childhood systems. The group agreed to start with the data already available (instead of collecting new data) and then prioritize metrics most critical for the launch of the new agency on July 1, 2026.

Next steps

- [ ] Facilitator to send out 'homework' assignments for workgroup members to prioritize critical metrics from the STEP Forward with Data framework.*Note: this 'homework' will take the place of a meeting in December. The group will convene in January.*
- [ ] Facilitator to work with IDEC to initiate a data discovery process with state agencies to inventory existing early childhood data.
- [ ] Facilitator to share a short survey to IDEC's broad stakeholder for 'last call' feedback on DAI Guiding Principles.
- [ ] Facilitator to continue coordinating with facilitators of other work groups to bridge data needs for multi-language learners and those receiving special education services, specifically to further define 'focal populations' for data disaggregation as listed in the STEP framework.
- [ ] Facilitator to organize the next workgroup meeting in the new year to discuss prioritized metrics. Workgroup members to review Step Forward with Data framework questions and recommended metrics before the next meeting.
- [ ] ChildTrends team to share presentation slides with the DAI workgroup.
- [ ] Facilitator to work with IDEC to continue data sharing request process with current agencies administering early childhood programs.

Summary

DAI Workgroup Housekeeping Updates

Facilitator welcomed everyone to the meeting, confirmed that the meeting was being recorded for those who couldn't attend, and asked those who planned to provide public comments to notify her via chat. She then handed over the meeting to the Transition Director to share some updates on the transition to the new agency.

The Transition Director presented the innovation life cycle, emphasizing the importance of starting with the needs of families and providers. She outlined the process of identifying short-term opportunities and long-term innovations, and the role of the workgroup in this process. She concluded by outlining the norms for all the workgroups, emphasizing the importance of stepping up and stepping back, questioning to seek understanding, prioritizing parent and provider experience, acting with courage and vulnerability, and recognizing the difference between intent and impact.She concluded by encouraging DAI Workgroup members to reach out with questions or suggestions.

Facilitator asked existing Workgroup members to also extend a warm welcome to the new DAI Workgroup members and gave each of them an opportunity to share their "why" for joining the DAI Workgroup. The new members expressed their excitement about contributing to the group and learning from others

ChidTrends' Data Framework for Equity

Facilitator then introduced guest speakers from ChildTrends, who are experts in early childhood data to discuss their new data framework for equity. She explained that the objective of first learning from CHildTrends' framework was to have the workgroup have a starting point to then begin iterating on a set of *prioritized* metrics over the next few months.

The Guest Speakers presented the STEP Forward with Data Framework', a tool designed to help systems leaders use data to promote equity in early childhood systems. The framework was developed over two years with input from a national consortium and additional feedback from early childhood networks, state leaders, and technical assistance providers. It emphasizes an asset-driven approach, avoids deficit-focused lenses, and provides clear, practical steps for users to identify issues and take immediate actions. The framework is organized into six system steps and includes 20 essential questions to help identify inequities in the system. It also provides resources for each question, including recommended metrics and suggested ways to measure them. The implementation guide offers five activities to help leaders understand the system and get started with the framework. The framework is designed to be nationally relevant and adaptable for state and local contexts.

Applying the STEP Framework in Illinois

After the ChildTrends presentation, the Facilitator discussed the opportunity with a new centralized agency in Illinois for more streamlined data collection and actionable insights into the early childhood systems. The Facilitator shared that the STEP framework's twenty use case questions can be broken down further into 80 different types of metrics to track the journey of a child and family. The group discussed the need to prioritize these metrics and focus on the most important ones to help IDEC for its operational 'Day 1' on July 1, 2026. They also discussed the importance of understanding the data already collected by the three agencies in the early childhood space. The group agreed to start by prioritizing among the 20 questions / 80 metrics ("homework") and then to concurrently start with the data they already have, while identifying gaps. They also discussed the need to focus on specific populations, such as multi-language learners and children with special needs. The conversation ended with the understanding that a more thorough data inventory and discovery process will be initiated at IDEC in the New Year and updates will be provided a the next meeting in January 2025.

Meeting Attendees:

Abby Snow
Alicia Lynch-Deatherage
Angela Ballard
Ann Whalen
Carlise King, Child Trends
Cathy Mannen
Christina Krasov
Dale Richards, Child Trends
Erin Acosta
Felicia Gray
Janice Moenster
Janiene Garcia
Jeni Weisiger

Johnna Darragh
Keith Thompson
Lauri Morrison-Frichtl
Marcy Mendenhall
Maya Portillo
Meg Helder
Rep Laura Faver Dias
Rochelle Golliday
Rowan Atwood
Wendy Mamola