It’s amazing what they absorb before they’re five.
Today’s Agenda

Session Outline

- Introduction
- Topic Overview
- Colorado
- Illinois
- Questions & Answers / Discussion
Introduction

Presenters

• Beth Kenefick, National Policy Team, Ounce of Prevention
• Lauren Heintz, Clayton Early Learning
• Alli Lowe-Fotos, MSW, LCSW, Illinois Policy Team, Ounce of Prevention
• Jonathan Doster, Illinois Policy Team, Ounce of Prevention
Overview

Why are we talking about ECE suspension and expulsion?

- Time out of early learning classroom is detrimental to outcomes
- Expulsion in preschool predicts expulsion in later grades
- Racial and gender disparities prevalent, with young boys of color being suspended and expelled at disproportionately high rates
- **NO research supports the effectiveness of expulsion**
Overview

Federal Policy Momentum Building

- My Brother’s Keeper Initiative (Dec. 2014)
- HHS/DOE Policy Statement on ECE Suspension and Expulsion (Dec. 2014)
- HHS/DOE Joint Letter on ECE Suspension and Expulsion (Dec. 2014)
- NPRM on revised Head Start Performance Standards (June 2015)
- CCDF IM on Social-Emotional & Behavioral Health (Sept 2015)
- ACF State and Local “Spotlighting Progress” Resource (April 2016)
- State Capacity Building Center Peer Learning Forum (Summer 2016)
- ACF Resources Webpage
### Overview

How are states and local communities starting to tackle this issue?

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<tr>
<th>State/Community</th>
<th>Prevention and Prohibition Policy Levers</th>
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| Arkansas               | - Program policy (pre-k)  
- Revised child care center contracts  
- Enhanced center policy templates                                                |
| Chicago Public Schools | - Revised Student Code of Conduct (pre-k to 2\textsuperscript{nd})                                      |
| Connecticut            | - Enacted state-wide legislation (pre-k to 2\textsuperscript{nd})                                       |
| New Jersey             | - Published guidance reinforcing state regulations (pre-k)  
- Published joint statement on positive behavior guidance (birth to 4 in public programs) |
| New York City          | - Policy prohibiting in pre-k program  
- Reward child care programs for policies in QRIS                                                      |
| Washington             | - Enacted legislation (pre-k)                                                                           |
| Washington, D.C.       |                                                                                                         |
Overview

Common themes in the state presentations

• Built on existing federal and state policies and opportunities
• Engagement of wide group of stakeholders
• Repeated education about existence of problem
• Desire to address across early childhood system
• Need to couple with increased investments in or access to supports
Policy Drivers and Context

• State child care center regulations rewrite and stakeholder letter
• CCDBG Reauthorization and revised Head Start standards
• Children's Mental Health Summit
• Office of Early Childhood policy statement
• Increased public interest and legislator engagement
Policy Goal and Levers

Working group formed to develop shared thinking, guiding principles, and policy and regulatory solutions

Legislative and regulatory reform ideas focused on publicly funded early childhood programs, including:

- Eliminating suspensions and expulsions with specific exemptions
- Developing and employing alternative strategies including professional development and preventative care
- More effective data collection, reporting, and analysis
Stakeholders and Champions

• Initial letter signed by providers and advocates

• Working group that was then brought together was a true public private partnership which included:
  - Colorado Department of Human Services
  - Colorado Department of Education
  - Private and public providers
  - Early childhood advocates and grassroots organizing groups
  - Local foundations

• Task force that will be convening will be convened by legislative champion and will have broader stakeholder representation
Next Steps

• Task force will be convened over the next 6 to 9 months
  ▪ Goal of task force to have shared learning and help inform legislation in 2017

• Implementation of child care center rules, CCDF state plan and Head Start revisions

• Colorado Project LAUNCH using rollover funds to conduct a suspension and expulsion study and data scan
Key Advice and Lessons Learned

• Engage a broad coalition of stakeholders
• Level setting on the issue is key
• Data and how it's interpreted make a difference
• Whole system alignment takes time
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Want to protect our future? Invest in early education.

Illinois

Alli Lowe-Fotos and Jonathan Doster, Illinois Policy Team
Statewide and local initiatives opened door for conversations

- Chicago Public Schools revised “Student Code of Conduct”
- Illinois Public Act 99-0456 (SB 100) – Student Discipline Bill
- Illinois Public Act 098-1102 (SB 2793) – Discipline Reporting
- CCDBG Reauthorization and Illinois CCDF State Plan
- Revised Head Start Performance Standards
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant Survey
Policy Goal and Levers

• Overall goal of cross-system alignment on suspension and expulsion

• 2016 Legislation in particular called for:
  – Suspension and expulsion protection in all publicly funded early childhood settings
  – Increased access to necessary PD, training and technical assistance
  – Strengthened data collection and dissemination
Policy Goal and Levers

Built on Best Practices for Preventing

- Implement a tiered system of supports
- Training, support, and professional development of staff
- Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
- Family Engagement
- Developmental screening
- Establishing guidelines, definitions, and policies
- Documentation
- Community resources/referrals
- Data Collection
Stakeholders and Champions

Effort includes an ever-growing list of stakeholders

- **Core Advocacy Team:** Ounce, Action for Children, & Fight Crime
- Other Chief Advocacy Partners: LPF, ILAEYC, Voices, and Shriver
- Consulted Parties (to date):
  - Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD)
  - Governor’s Office
  - School management groups
  - Education reform groups (Advance Illinois)
  - Illinois State Board of Education
  - Legislators
  - Providers and Programs
Next Steps

• Incorporate initial stakeholder feedback
• CCDF State Plan Implementation and DHS participation in State Capacity Building Peer Learning Forum
• Continued legislator and state agency education
• Pair with increased supports
Key Advice and Lessons Learned

Key Advice

• Build on the (existing policy) momentum in your state, city
• Don’t be afraid to aim high

Lessons Learned

• Great opportunity to educate policymakers
• Good to be ‘leaders’ on the issue
Illinois Resources

- Caregiver Connections: www.caregiverconnections.org
- Illinois Association for Infant Mental Health: www.ilaimh.org
- Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership: www.icmhp.org
- Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies: http://www.ilqualitycounts.org/component/sdasearch/?Itemid=142
- ExceleRate Illinois, Child Screening guide and tools: http://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com/resources/resources-by-standard?id=50
- Illinois STARnet: www.starnet.org
- Early Choices: www.eclre.org
Contact Us!

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Questions & Discussion