

Building Bridges Action Plan



State: Louisiana

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Goals: *(What outcomes do we want to see?)*

1. The project seeks to establish leadership and to develop more awareness of the importance of early brain and child development (EBCD) at the state level in order to develop and implement sustainable connections between health care professionals and the state's early childhood systems.

Project Objectives: *(What could my state team do to work toward these outcomes? Example: Provide 3 EBCD presentations using the Speaker's Toolkit by December 2013.)*

1. Provide EBCD presentation and a facilitated guided dialogue with key stakeholders and decision-makers that generates ideas for concrete actions that each would expect to carry forward in their respective domains.
 - a. BrightStart Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) (Dr. Lucas, February 26)
 - b. Residency program(s) (Amy and Ashley)
 - c. Maternal Child Health (MCH) partners (Amy)
 - d. Key Early Childhood Education stakeholders (Amy)
 - e. Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) Program (Ashley)
 - f. Louisiana American Academy of Pediatrics (LAAAP) annual meeting (Ashley)
2. Incorporate EBCD knowledge and principles into the Louisiana BrightStart ECAC workgroups.
 - Strive to incorporate EBCD topics into the required learning for early childhood providers
 - Incorporate EBCD into family engagement strategies

3. Develop a Louisiana EBCD fact sheet summarizing Louisiana- specific data to help make EBCD concrete in the risks and health outcomes in Louisiana.

Project Activities:

Objective 1.

- Activity 1.1** Develop goals and objectives for each audience to guide the tailoring of materials for the respective audiences. Develop accompanying format for discussions so that they prompt consideration of actions that audiences could take. (Ashley and Amy - February)
- Activity 1.2** Develop a presentation and toolkit for workgroups to use to check their plans against—provide to ECAC Executive Committee (EC) members to use in approving plans February 26.
- Activity 1.3** Sponsor and provide presentation to CCHC Program at March 2013 CCHC annual training conference.
- Activity 1.4** Incentivize CCHC's to use the EBCD toolkit to educate child care providers.
- Activity 1.5** Provide presentation to Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) in March 2013
- Activity 1.6** Provide presentation to MCH partners by August 2013.
- Activity 1.7** Provide presentation to LAAAP members.

Objective 2.

- Activity 2.1** Provide basic materials for ECAC members as they receive their new charges for workplans due for approval February 26.
- Activity 2.2** Provide presentation to ECAC membership by April 2013 ECAC meeting.
- Activity 2.3** By August, conduct strategic planning with ECAC EC partners to develop a unifying “one science” message regarding EBCD. Explore creation of cross-cutting agency vocabulary and priorities.

Objective 3

- Activity 3.1** MCH MIECHV epidemiologist to develop fact sheet.

Initiatives/Programs:

What initiatives/programs would be our best partners? Why these initiatives/programs? What steps would my state team need to take to establish/strengthen these partnerships?

BUILD Initiative, if applicable: _____

Role: _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: _____

Child Care and Development Fund Program: _____

Role: _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: _____

Child Care Resource and Referral: *Various agencies around the state* _____

Role: May play a role in connecting CCHC's with opportunities to speak to child care providers about EBCD _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: Most of the CCRRA's are led by members or participants in the ECAC and are easily accessible. _____

Early Childhood Advisory Council: "BrightStart" *Ashley and Amy are members* _____

Role: Will be influential in re-structuring early learning guidelines, child care regulations, professional development, parenting initiatives, etc over the next few years as the early childhood system is reformed. _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: EBCD presentation and materials will be provided to ensure that evidence-based, up-to-date principles of EBCD are incorporated into the work of the council. _____

Early Childhood Comprehensive System: _____

Role: _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: _____

Head Start: _____

Role: _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: _____

Home Visitation - MIECHV: *The Nurse Family Partnership is the primary program in Louisiana.* _____

Role: *Translates the importance of EBCD into understandable language and support for at-risk mothers and infants* _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: *Provide presentation and supporting materials for educating parents* _____

National Association for the Education of Young Children Affiliate _____

Role: _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: _____

Quality Rating and Improvement System: *Quality Start Louisiana* _____

Role: *Incentivizes centers to provide appropriate environments, child:staff ratios, staff training, etc through the use of school readiness tax credits and a tangible way for parents to assess centers.* _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: *Leaders are members of the ECAC. The system is likely to change with our governor's reform goals. We will strive to promote retention/incorporation of EBCD principles into the process.* _____

Race to the Top: _____

Role: _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: _____

State Education Agency: Department of Education (DOE) _____

Role: *The DOE has recently assumed the role of managing and regulating early education instead of the Department of Children*

and Family Services _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: *We will strive to connect information from the DOE to CCHC's and child care providers who are hungry for information about future changes to the system.* _____

State Public Health Department: *Leslie and Amy are employed by the LA Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health*

Role: *The Office of Public Health houses the Bureau of Family Health (BFH); The BFH is an integral partner with all of the above agencies* _____

How to establish/strengthen partnership: _____

Timeline:

What tasks are feasible to complete . . .

Right now *Solidify our specific goals and action plan.* _____

Within the month *Schedule speaking engagements and secure speakers appropriate to the audiences. Review the speaker's toolkit and adapt it for our purposes in Louisiana.* _____

Within six months *Present information at the CCHC Conference, to the ECAC, and to the home visiting program. Assess the effectiveness of the presentation to the CCHC's and identify at least 4 CCHC's who will agree to present these materials to child care providers in different regions of the state.* _____

One year from now *Presentations to the LAAAP membership, the faculty/housestaff of at least one pediatrics residency program and other MCH partners. Summarize and report upon the Building Bridges' initiative's potential influence on the reforms to Louisiana's early education system.* _____

Evaluation

Evaluation should be determined during the planning phase of any project and should be re-evaluated regularly just like the rest of the action plan. Consider how you want to measure needs, assets, and success. Consider multiple viewpoints.

Key activities to evaluate *The targeted needs are a knowledge deficit and failure of common language about EBCD and also potentially sub-optimal inclusion of EBCD principles into imminent reform measures. Our project’s strength is the already existing network of partnerships with stakeholders. Presentations to various groups of health providers and policy makers will be evaluated, when possible, by pre/post tests or surveys. An increase in knowledge and/or a change in opinion will be demonstrated. The reach of the presentations will be tracked as well as the inclusion of key EBCD principles into the revised early education system’s structure and standards.*

