

# COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL ON CHILDHOOD SUCCESS

[WWW.LTGOV.VIRGINIA.GOV/INI\\_CHILDHOODSUCCESS.HTM](http://WWW.LTGOV.VIRGINIA.GOV/INI_CHILDHOODSUCCESS.HTM)

**Monday October 6, 2014**

# Agenda



- I. Introductions and swearing in of members
- II. Overview of purpose and Executive Order
- III. Presentation on federal preschool expansion grant
- IV. Presentation on early childhood work by the Commission on Youth
- V. Small group discussion on early childhood priorities
- VI. Discussion on workgroup structure
- VII. Meeting schedule and other logistics

# Overview of Purpose and Responsibilities of the CCCS

## Goals:

- Promote workforce development
- Encourage health and well-being of children
- Combat poverty in our Commonwealth

“The Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success shall regularly report to the Governor and the Children’s Cabinet. It will conduct a comprehensive, statewide assessment of current programs, services, and local, state, and federal public resources that serve Virginia’s children ages 0-8. In coordination with the Children’s Cabinet and relevant state agencies, it will serve as a central coordinating entity to identify opportunities and develop recommendations for improvement including, but not limited to: 1) funding for preschool; 2) kindergarten readiness; 3) strategies to close the achievement gap in early elementary years; 4) the quality and accountability of child care programs and providers; and 5) coordination of services for at-risk families.”

# Federal Preschool Expansion Grant

*Presentation by Kathy Glazer, President, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation*

- Under new Federal Preschool Development Grant, VA is eligible (along with 34 other states) for up to \$17.5 million per year for up to 4 years to build, develop, and expand high quality preschool and serve additional high needs students
- These will be high quality programs targeted at high needs divisions, which were defined as “Top 5” in any of the following categories: Percentage of students eligible for free/reduced lunch; Number of Title 1 Schools; Number of unused Virginia Preschool Initiative Slots; Percentage of students not meeting PALS-K benchmark . Among 17 eligible districts, 11 are participating in this grant. This will translate into roughly 1200 new students accessing high quality preschool programs
- Classrooms participating will administer “VPI+” program with ambitious goals for children's educational and developmental outcomes . Classrooms will participate in QRIS to monitor quality, CASTL teams will provide coaching to teachers, and all will receive extensive professional development services
- Comprehensive, wrap around services will be coordinated with participating families

# Commission on Youth Early Childhood Initiative

*Presentation by Delegate Chris Peace, Chair, Commission on Youth*

- The Commission is comprised of nine members of the General Assembly (6 Delegates and 3 Senators) and three citizens appointed by the Governor. It was enacted by the General Assembly in 1989 to study issues, track federal legislation, and make recommendations on state policies affecting children and families.
- In June 2014 the Commission hosted a workgroup on Quality in Early Childhood Education to gather information on what components are present in high quality early childhood education programs and make recommendations for improvement. Participants included members of the legislative and executive branches, along with a variety of service providers, interested members of the business community, and others.
- Draft recommendations were presented last month to the full Commission, which is currently accepting public comment on those. The Commission will vote on the final recommendations next month. The recommendations include: better coordination among stakeholders and providers; improving access and quality of VPI; working with DOE to improve teacher interactions and quality in the classroom, etc.

# Small Group Discussion on Priorities and Workgroups

*With a few other Council members sitting near you, brainstorm both the priority issues you think this Council should focus on, and how those issues might be organized into workgroups.*

*Record your ideas on the butcher paper provided, and select a spokesperson to present your ideas to the full group.*

# Discussion on Workgroups

- Workgroups will meet in between full Council meetings to develop recommendations for the consideration by the full Council in Spring 2015
- Workgroups will include interested Council members, their staff, and outside stakeholders with additional expertise
- Each workgroup should consider relevant recommendations related to data collection; professional development and workforce development; state policy changes (legislative and regulatory); and financing of programs and services

# Discussion on Workgroups Cont'd

## PROPOSED GROUPS

**Preschool and School Success:** Better train and resource parents and educators to ensure every child is ready for kindergarten; improve how we define and measure quality- particularly as it relates to preschool curriculum; align with kindergarten assessments; improve the Virginia Preschool Initiative; close the achievement gap in early elementary years

**Health and Well-Being:** Improve health, mental health and home visiting services for children, particularly for those with special needs; improve coordination of services for at risk families

**Child Care Quality and Affordability:** Better define and measure quality; promote QRIS; address changes in regulations and professional development

# Proposed Meeting Schedule

October: Organizational Meeting, Determine Workgroup Structure

*Workgroups to begin meeting, discussing and drafting recommendations*

Winter Council Meeting: Receive Preliminary Workgroup Recommendations

*Workgroups to continue their work, refine recommendations*

Early Spring: Regional town halls for local input on recommendations

*Workgroups to finalize recommendations to be presented to the full Council*

Spring Council Meeting: Vote on final recommendations

**June 2015: Provide final report to Governor McAuliffe**

# Additional Info

- [www.ltgov.virginia.gov/ini\\_childhoodsuccess.htm](http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/ini_childhoodsuccess.htm)
- Public comment:  
[childhoodsuccess@ltgov.virginia.gov](mailto:childhoodsuccess@ltgov.virginia.gov)
- To be added to the Listserv and receive email updates:
  - contact Holly Coy ([holly.coy@ltgov.virginia.gov](mailto:holly.coy@ltgov.virginia.gov))
  - or
  - Add your email address to the sign in sheet at the door