

Data and Governance Workgroup Survey – Key Points

**What do you think is working in Virginia’s current early childhood governance system?**

- Based on responses, there appears to be a lack of clarity about our current early childhood governance structure or what systems are already in place.
- General agreement that there are agencies in place providing good care and high-quality services to young children, but there is overlapping.
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**What, if anything, should we consider changing?**

- Overwhelming agreement among surveyed that we need structure and clarity to reduce overlapping goals, miscommunication, and disorganization.
- We need a governance system that can withstand changes in administrations, including legislators, Commissioners, and Governors.
- “There is a need for leadership that can bridge public and private sectors, while also being an official part of state government” and “it would be ideal to have a non-profit organization empowered with an official leadership role.”

**What do you think our priorities should be in regards to the use of data in early childhood services?**

- Primary question to answer: for what purposes are we collecting data?
- We need a mechanism to not only collect data, but to efficiently share that data across agencies/stakeholders.
- Stronger and more streamlined procedures for utilizing and analyzing data for decision-making.
- It would also be helpful to get a broad understanding of the various agencies providing services for early childhood interests, as well as a description of types of services offered and their impact.

**What questions do you think we should answer about early childhood governance?**

- What aspects of existing governance structures are strongest and most efficient and where are the gaps? How do we fill those gaps?
- How do we create a strong system of governance that can be maintained across administrations?
- Who will have input or be included (who are our stakeholders)? What are the levels of commitment for participating agencies?
- What additional services are needed that are not yet being met by agencies?

**What questions do you think we should answer about early childhood data?**

- What are the sources of data on early childhood issues and how might those individual pieces of data be linked (or not linked)?
- How will we share our data systems, both internally and externally?
- How will data be used? What is the quality and availability of this data?

- How will we continue to gather and utilize data?
- Who will maintain and approve research that creates these data points?

**What should be our goals in regards to early childhood governance and this work group?**

- “Efficiency, excellence, and equity:” Reduce fragmentation, variations in quality and access, and inequality in programs and services.
- Identify participating agencies and secure agency commitment
- Identify key work that has been done in Virginia and determine how to best utilize the building blocks we have.
- Identify areas of overlap and determine how to better streamline those areas and improve access for all families.
- Review Virginia’s early childhood goals: what is the vision for Virginia’s early childhood program? What is the most pressing need?
- Review alternative models of governance and determine how, if at all, these models may improve Virginia’s current system.