

Success by 6: Strategic Planning

Mission: To impact the success of children birth to age six through policy formation, environmental changes, and direct services.

Vision: Success by 6 envisions a community where all children and families are happy, healthy, and well-adjusted.

Objective: All children enter school ready to succeed.

Priority 1: Healthy Beginnings

To ensure all children receive early and regular developmental screenings and immunizations, and are linked to accessible, coordinated, integrated, and responsive basic needs, physical, dental, and mental health services, including services for children with developmental delays

Strategies

Increase mental health services in early-learning settings.

- Improve and expand access to prevention, early intervention services, and other mental health resources for children birth to 5 years to promote healthy physical and mental development.
- Theraplay – continue to expand professional knowledge and competencies to support the care and learning of infants/toddlers and sensory integration issues; improve attachment and address early attachment issues, support healthy child/caregiver attachment, and Certified Theraplay at doctor's offices.
- Provide training to childcare providers on how to identify a need for developmental screenings [Tactic/Practice]

Increase the number of children who are screened for developmental delays and refer children with delays to specialized services.

- Project SUN – improved continuum of care
 - a. Establish stronger partnerships with OBs, pediatricians, WIC, early intervention programs, public health departments for immunizations and check-ins [Tactic/Action Step]
 - b. Encourage primary care doctors to steward touch points such as waiting rooms to disseminate information and give anticipatory guidance about development [Tactic/Practice]
 - c. Offer screenings and vaccinations through health fairs outside of school and work hours [Tactic/Practice]

- d. Other health needs: prescription glasses, telehealth opportunities, mobile vaccination clinics

Bridge the gap in services between 0-3 to 4-5

- a. Better align state funding to needs

Key Partners/Points of Contact: School districts, libraries, community navigators, health department, EI Services, LIC, WIC, HV programs, Pre IC screenings

Priority 2: Supported Families

To ensure families have access to and use the resources that provide them with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and social supports to positively nurture the health, safety, and development of their children inside and outside of the home.

Strategies

Connect families to basic needs.

Better connect families with current support services and resources (previously Goal 1: Marketing/Outreach)

- Create an online Resource Directory and Event Page for families --> Bright by Text, 211 and Kan-I-Help are all existing resource hubs
- Collaborate with Project SUN to maintain a single accurate record of resources for birth to 5 [Tactic/Action Step] --> Bright by Text, 211 and Kan-I-Help are all existing resource hubs
- Improve in-take and referral through a centralized process for all families [Tactic/Action Step]
 - Develop intake process for 3-5 year olds which would include contact information and service areas for all serving school districts in the county
- Reduce transportation barriers [Tactic/Practice]
- Ensure equitable distribution of resources [Practice]
 - Identify gaps in resource allocations using EDI asset maps [Tactic/Action Step]
- Improve post-natal care and referral network (Baby Talk), provide printed pamphlets at hospitals and conduct discharge calls from hospital/ob follow ups
- Car seat grants/events; more car seat certified staff

Increase participation in family support services.

- Create awareness campaigns of the importance of Birth to 5 holistic support services and education (home visiting, early childhood, mental health, sensory integration, attachment, family and community engagement) [Tactic previously listed under Goal 2 Marketing/Outreach]
- Create and implement family focus groups lead by family liaisons [Tactic/Action Step]
- Invite the Parent leaders from various school districts to the table to lead this initiative [Tactic/Practice]
- Encourage and invite more parents to the Success by 6 meetings to encourage and promote parents to act on behalf of all children being served in the community [Tactic/Practice]
- Target specific cultural groups with relevant information [Tactic/Practice]
- Reduce cost barriers to participation (examples: transportation, meals, gift cards, offer childcare at events)
- Make events more accessible, meet parents/caregivers where they already are (example school sports programs/half-time shows; Saturday and weekend services)

Ensure families and young children have books in their homes.

- Imagination Library [Proposed project]
- Mobile Book Fairs [Proposed project]
- Storytime w/community volunteers [Planned Women United project]
- Connect with public libraries and school districts [Tactic/Action Step]

Increase the number of family support specialists in school districts

- Greater presence of SB6 representatives in school districts

Improve collaboration across partners who support parents/caregiver needs

- How do we support caregivers that are not parents?

Key Partners/Points of Contact: Facebook groups, police, park districts, the mall parent-teacher conferences, Salvation Army “Way to Grow’ + Family Coaching, health department, doctor offices, fire department, schools

Priority 3: Early Childhood Workforce Development

To ensure early learning environments meet the needs of children and families and demonstrate positive developmental outcomes for all children through competent, responsive, and caring relationships

Strategies

Support the recruitment, development, and retention of highly qualified early educators.

- Engage and support the early care and education workforce
- Organize local groups who can help to support organizations to retain healthy employees (faith-based groups, PTA, businesses/Chamber of Commerce, etc.) [Tactic/Action Step]
- Provide trainings on SELF, mental health, warning signs, abuse, malnutrition
- Provide regular training and professional development courses for providers [Tactic/Practice]

Increase enrollment in high-quality early learning environments.

Improve the quality of early learning environments.

- Support EC programs in meeting quality standards
 - Reach out to CCR&R to find out how many licensed, high quality early childcare providers we have [Tactic/Action Step]
 - Define high quality providers based on ExceleRate Illinois standards [practice]
 - Support the alignment and transition of early childhood programs into Kindergarten (increase SEL) [Tactic/Action Step]
 - Develop a tool to successfully share community engagement practices among and within agencies and schools to better support families in the community [Tactic/Action Step previously listed under Goal4 Parent/Family Engagement]
 - Increase educational competencies to support the care and learning of infants/toddlers and prenatal and post-partum services for moms
 - More therapy and SEL coaches