School Readiness Committee Governance Workgroup
December 8th, 2017 Meeting Notes

- Introductions:
    - Gail Johnson – chair
    - Karen Ponder – outside expert
    - Helene Stebbins – outside expert
    - Scott Kizner
    - Jim Taylor
    - Mark Emblidge
    - Rob Kupricka
    - Dawn Hendricks
    - Mark Allan
    - Barb Newlin
    - Aleta Lawson
    - Sen. Adam Ebbin
    - Anne-Marie Twohie
    - Bill Murray

- (Karin P. presentation) What is governance? [goes over definitions] How to assign accountability is big question. Who is accountable for quality control? Va working on for years.
    - (Rob K) when other states talk about focus of governance. Understand why kids and families focus but what about providers?
        - KP: Yes. Good point. Lots of work in this area. At the heart of how we expend out resources and what standards are. All part of this convo.
    - Coordination slide
    - Alignment slide: transitions important to start early.
    - Accountability: family voice is key to everything. Hearing voice of people trying to affect.
    - (Anne-Marie T.) Would appreciate examples of reciprocal loop.
    - KP: St. louis Mo. Very hard and must be intentional
    - Governance summary: add publicly and privately
    - Governance is not government not the same. Government is important actor but there are many others. Be sure to be include all who need to be included beyond gov.; not an advisory body.
- (Helene S.) Asks group to reflect on governance schematics
    - Dawn H. – only state that serves 2-year-olds in public schools through special education. Early Childhood Special Ed crosses all the pieces of the system, otherwise it's segregating out those children; ECSE is regulated both through state and federal laws. Especially matters around licensure. (Explains Part C)
        - 2-year-olds are taught by early childhood SpED-endorsed teachers
        - Barb & Aleta – highly differential requirements by setting

- o Mark A. – U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services & U.S. Dept. of Education have a relationship, too. Explains VA Dept. of Ed. structures/offices that relate to early ed; few personnel overseeing many different programs both early ed and K-12
  - ▪ Scott K. – don't see the chaos in Harrisonburg; single point-of-entry for families, be careful about over-regulation
  - ▪ Helene: What can we learn from that example? (Scott) Leadership at local level
    - • Anne-Marie: Looking at local best practices is a great idea
- o Barb N. – wouldn't characterize state as chaotic, just complicated. The numerous different programs and funding streams is a big burden for families who have to apply to all of them separately. Ties to governance – last year, GA passed a bill that allows all the departments within HHR can be considered a single agency for data-sharing purposes, which is great but doesn't help with connections to other secretariats. Used to have an Head Start Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), Virginia's old one has gone away. Federal regs require it. Something that needs to be addressed.
- o Gail – in a perfect world, there would be an umbrella governance body
  - ▪ Mark A – there is a cross-agency VPI+ implementation committee, but often only get program-level people on those types of committees, not people with real decision-making power
  - ▪ Rob K. – is this something Governor has authority over, or is General Assembly needed?
    - • Bill M. – Governor can change reporting relationships & reorganize agencies, but then have to submit reorg plan to GA. Most Gov's ask permission from GA first.
  - ▪ Aleta L. – Head Start goes directly to programs; Collaboration Office only one under DSS. Broken line between VDSS Collaboration Office and programs. Licensure standards depend on where the program is situated.
    - • (Adam E.) Could there be a universal application for early childhood programs, including Head Start? (It's certainly feasible, it would be a state decision). But would have to use Head Start application – can't change that one, it's federal. Examples of states that have done that, yes.
  - ▪ Amy H. – gives ground-level perspective from Roanoke; VA known for innovation at local level
- o (Bill M.) Business perspective / public administration view
  - ▪ Points:
    - • Figure out what you want
    - • Don't make it more complex
      - o Early childhood getting rep of not using all the money its getting
    - • Need to be really careful about combining the assessment-heavy K-12 system with 3s and 4s
    - • We talk too much about 4s and not enough about 2s and 3s

- Advantage: It's a bipartisan area; business leaders talk about this issue a lot
- Provides background/history on EC evolution in Virginia
    - (Sen. Ebbin) Can Governor do the pieces we've talked about – ECAC, universal application, data sharing across secretariats?
        - Bill – ECAC, yes, definitely. Data sharing – maybe, may be federal complications; universal application – probably, but may need to think about implementation (e.g. common app for college)
- (Helene) "Magic wands":
    - Barb – create ECAC; if there's any way to influence federal regs (siloes, etc)
    - Aleta – agrees on ECAC
    - Dawn – professional development around ECSE; relationships in localities; helpful to have one person in the school division responsible for all EC programs
    - Amy: Collaboration, even beyond what's required
    - Bill M: Ex. Of FAMIS, running two federal health programs like they're one, could we do the same maneuver with early ed programs? (Group likes the idea – empower local communities); raise up parent voice
    - Rob K – make changes to governance that incentivize local governments to implement policies, since they hold a lot of the authority; also
    - Karin Bowles – "One Science" model; break down silos of "child care" vs. "preschool"
    - Agency that is identifying, promoting quality for all will appeal across the board
    - Bill E. – the danger of relationship-based successes is that if people transition, that can cause things to revert, so needs to be codified too
- Next steps: Next meeting, will start talking about models, present examples from other states