

2Gen Advisory Board Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 8 2020

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

- Representative Robyn Porter
- Senator Tony Hwang
- Representative Pat Wilson Pheanious
- Representative Susan Johnson
- Beth Bye, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood
- Scott Gaul, Chief Data Officer, Office of Policy and Management
- Allison Logan, Executive Director of Bridgeport Prospers, a Cradle to Career, Collective Impact movement housed in the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County
- Amy Peltier, Initiative Director of East Hartford's Working Cities Initiative East Hartford CONNects
- Betty Sugerma Weintraub, Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority (CHEFA)
- Caroline Austin, 2Gen Parent Leader Hartford
- Denise Drummond, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, (CWCSEO)
- Janine McMahon, 2Gen Parent Leader from Hartford
- Judy McBride, Director, Strategic Partnership Investments, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Justin Farmer, Hamden City Council
- Katie Breslin, Office of Policy and Management
- Kristina Testa-Buzzee, Regional Workforce Development Officer, CT Community Colleges
- Lisa Tepper Bates, President & CEO of United Way of CT
- Liz Fraser, Connecticut Association for Human Services
- Manisha Srivastava, Office of Policy and Management
- Melvette Hill, State Director, Parent Leadership Training Institute and 2Gen National Consultant
- Mike Bartley, Department of Labor
- Ram Aberasturia, Office of Higher Education
- Randy Picard, 2Gen Parent Leader from Terryville
- Sarah Griffen, 2Gen Consultant
- Steve Saloom, Fairfield County's Community Foundation
- Tony Judkins, Program Manager at DSS responsible for the CT Fatherhood Initiative
- Wanda Simmons, 2Gen Parent Leader from Bridgeport
- Werner Oyanadel, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, (CWCSEO)

Meeting Notes:

- Updates from Representative Robyn Porter, Commissioner Beth Bye, and other members
- Coronavirus Relief Fund from Congress discussed in context of Department of Labor, Workforce Development Boards, and Office of Early Childhood efforts to provide child care for those in

training; need for policy change in Connecticut to allow child care for those in training; possible pilot with outside funding

- Updates from Melvette Hill and Janine McMahon on 2Gen Parent efforts: four-part training completed, more trainings in the works; parents have voiced issues central for them, including housing, ability to build savings, child care, etc
- Updates for Betty Sugerman Weintraub, 2Gen Workforce Co-Chair:
 - August 20th meeting with the GWC Chair, Vice Chair and other leaders; along with WAG, WCC, and CWC -with input from 2Gen parent leader
 - Potential 2Gen response to the GWC Plan which was released in late October and/or meeting with Mark Argosh, as new Chair of the GWC either with the three other groups or 2Gen separately
 - Provided the 2Gen Workforce Work Group TANF Reform White Paper to both GWC and their consultants, Social Finance, over the summer. Now that there is a new administration coming to Washington, TANF reform will be front and center, push forward with state level reform for 2021
 - Due to integration of 2Gen language into the State WIOA Plan, there now have been two Family Centered Coaching initiatives undertaken or in the planning stages at the Hartford and New Haven AJC's
 - Opportunities for 2Gen Workforce Sub-Group: work along with potential collaboration between community partners, the WDB and AJC systems, to establish connections to local childcare centers for children of parents in training programs
 - To work with WDB and AJC system to reimagine the AJC experience for a successful, customer-centric approach focused on training and pathways to demand driven careers with livable wages
- Updates from Amy Peltier and Manisha Srivastava, 2Gen Benefits Cliffs Co-Chairs:
 - Now formally partnering and co-branding with the Governor's Workforce Council on the 2Gen benefits cliffs work
 - CT CLIFF Dashboard Study Sites – In preparation for the individual calculator, informally testing out the use of the dashboard with 15 case managers in 6 different CT sites (early childhood education center, high school, community college, Hartford job center, New Haven job center, and TANF JFES program). Starting February/March
 - Atlanta Fed Policy Simulation – the Fed will simulate ~5 policies (not yet decided), but will likely be drawn from the comprehensive menu of options the group created last year
 - CT Benefits Cliffs Policy Pilot – potentially identify outside funding (state/national) to smooth the cliff effect for families in a specific career path, evaluating the outcomes to directly inform policy. Starting Spring/Summer
- CT State Data Plan Feedback Session, Scott Gaul, Chief Data Officer:
- Questions for breakout groups:
 - How can the state's open data portal best serve families? What are families' needs and uses for accessing data and state information online?
 - In improving the user experience for the state's open data portal, how can families co-create and inform that design?
 - How can families of color and other minorities be involved in data collection, dissemination and use by state agencies to ensure representation and equity?

- How, specifically, can the proposed data sharing infrastructure better streamline services for families and facilitate state agencies in operating through a whole family approach?
- Feedback:
 - 2Gen can help design Resident Advisory Board
 - Data stories embedded on page – like Humans of New York
 - How do you go about updating outdated data? What's the system?
 - Reach out to communities regarding open data portal and how it can be useful to families
 - When agencies post data on open data portal, they need to explain what it is and what it's for (government transparency); Why was this data collected? What does it mean? What funding streams is it connected to?; Look at Governor's Press Releases during pandemic for a template of this
 - Racial equity: where disparities are indicated, show what can be done, what is happening now to remedy, how public and stakeholders can get involved
 - Trainings offered on data
 - Show 2Gen impact in data
 - Standardizing data collection and tracking
 - Include phrasing specifically about using data to improve service delivery for contracted providers (re: procurement)
 - Share upfront why understanding data is important, examples of how data can help families in their daily lives, and in advocating on issues that matter to them. (I liked the idea offered in the plenary discussion of a parent greeting visitors to the site, having them share in their voice why learning how to use data is important, and how it has helped them.
 - Explain what data are – that basically its information; recommend demystifying the term, and sharing the different forms data can take.
 - Keep language simple, include a glossary of data/research terms.
 - Give practical advice on how to use data (e.g., when one or two on-point data points can go a long way; considering when you need to use data and examples of when it's important to complement data by hearing from people, for example when talking about experiences or perceptions around adequacy and use of services.)
 - Include a resource page of additional articles or videos that simplify analyzing and using data.
 - Consider how we could draw in middle and high-school students to the portal
 - Demonstrate of how to navigate the site
 - Consider ways to make the site interactive – this could be useful in helping users practice talking about data.
 - Consider including a mechanism that visitors can use to reach staff if they have questions.
 - How do create access for the parents to use the data?
 - Parents need navigators/case managers to utilize the data and to get to the connection points to better their financial security situation.
 - 2Gen Parent Advisory Group and CT Working Cities Challenge residents can give voice to how the data can best be utilized for job seekers.

- State agencies do not talk to one another, then the parent has to go to multiple agencies to access services, if the systems were tied together to allow for one portal to parents to access multiple benefits, that would be extremely beneficial.
- Potentially 2-1-1 can be the access point where eligibility documentation can happen to relieve the burden on the parent.