

2Gen Advisory Board Notes

May 18, 2021

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom

Attendees

- Chris Tappan, Abt Associates
- Anh Ton, Harvard GPL
- Beth Bye, OEC
- Betty Sugerman Weintraub, CHEFA
- Caroline Austin, 2Gen Parent Leader
- Colin Erhardt, Harvard GPL
- Liz Fraser, CAHS
- Justin Farmer, Hamden City Council
- Janine McMahon, 2Gen Parent Leader
- John Frassinelli, SDE
- Judy McBride, Hartford Foundation
- Katerina Vlahos, United Way
- Katie Breslin, OPM
- Kristina Testa Buzzee, SW Community Colleges
- Lars Benson, Harvard GPL
- Lisa Tepper Bates, United Way
- Maggie Adair, OEC
- Manisha Srivastava, OPM
- Melvette Hill, PLTI
- Michael Werner, CWCSEO
- Ram Aberasturia, OHE
- Rob Earley, Comcast
- Sarah Griffen, 2Gen Consultant
- Shanay, 2Gen Parent Leader
- Stephan Palmer, 2Gen Parent Leader
- Viji Sivasankar, 2Gen Parent Leader
- Fred Morton, DMHAS
- Peter Hopko, OPM
- Rosa Rada, 2Ge

Meeting Notes

- **Introductions and Updates**
- Beth Bye:
 - UHV update not in legislative ARPA proposal, but Governor and OEC still excited
 - Otherwise lots of movement on child care proposals in ARP
- Betty Sugerman Weintraub and Shanay Fulton:
 - Shanay is new co-chair of 2Gen Workforce Work Group
 - Met earlier this month, May 10, for an ARPA workforce briefing from Kelli Vallieres
 - TANF bill, House Bill 6635, moving through the legislature is a success story for this group given our efforts with the TANF white paper
 - The 2Gen Workforce Work Group may begin working on issues of transportation and housing for families
- Manisha Srivastava:
 - Study pilot of Atlanta Fed dashboard – great results so far, importance of training/job for self-sufficiency
 - Simulations ready next week
- Melvette Hill:

- 2Gen Parent Academy in June, registration by tomorrow
- Dates are Monday June 14, Saturday June 19, Monday June 21
- Parents placed on GWC subcommittees
- **New Hampshire's Whole Family Approach to Mental Health, Chris Tappan, Abt Associates:**
 - Borrowed model from CT DCF, Vanessa Dorantes
 - Sarah Griffen as thought partner who gets to know your state
 - ARPA funding proposal from CT is promising – integration
 - Clarity of roles, integration
 - Absolutely necessary to use co-design, parents designing from inception (not something to react to); social emotional learning; economic mobility pathways for 2Gen and whole family
 - Multi-year opioid pandemic, affected across all demographics but more locally, in underserved areas
 - NH behind on looking at data on equity
 - Survey in June 2020 showed massive increases in mental health issues, suicidal ideation, seriously considering suicide, substance use since COVID
 - Workplace issues strongly impacted mental health prior to COVID (largely stress)
 - Chronic exposure to stress – emotional exhaustion
 - Caregiving for children, adults, or others problems can quickly grow stress factors
 - Employers spend \$15,000 per year, per employees who have identified as having a mental health issue
 - NH “North Star” and vision for any new initiatives:
 - Whole-person, whole-family perspective
 - Empowered voices, not just token
 - Entirety of social determinants of health
 - Vision had to line up for any new initiatives – avoid initiative fatigue
 - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) became the secret sauce – spread through libraries, schools, etc.
 - Solid governance structure: parents at center with experience with welfare system, then cross-sector similar to CT 2Gen Advisory Board, Harvard GPL fellows worked alongside
 - 10-year mental health plan: 1115 Medicaid network, MCOs to combine and integrate efforts, interoperability, closed-loop referrals
 - First time children included
 - Continuum of prevention through intervention
 - Integration across key determinants of health
 - Whole Family Approach to Jobs: Parents working, children thriving
 - Exploring barriers for economic opportunity and well-being
 - Mental health, substance use treatment
 - Cliff effect, healthcare, housing, childcare, and transportation
 - Multiple cliff effects – created a cliff effect working group modeled after CT legislation and efforts

- Recovery Friendly Workplace
 - Being in recovery is a strength, support with intention for success
- Child Welfare Transformation – reform is not good enough!
- Proactive not just reactive
- School Safety Preparedness & ChooSELove
- Linking proactive mental health and wellness across systems
- NH Council for Thriving Children
 - Creating conditions for all children to thrive: 10 state agencies (including cultural, arts, resources, agriculture, corrections and HHS, philanthropy, grandparents, higher ed)
 - Governance to guide cross-systems/sectors accountability
 - Leaned into recovery, recovery friendly workplaces
 - One-stop shops for substance use and mental health
- Questions:
- Who was part of the group thinking through all these solutions?
 - Needed executive sponsorship – doesn't implement, touch point into local community, mid-level membership, then executive sponsorship, parent/lived experience
 - Missing elements would be called out
- How was funding drawn and woven?
 - Primarily Medicaid, but philanthropy came in to supplement – asked for us to be more strategic
 - Every dollar that became a state dollar in legislation
 - Legislators who took time to learn – let Chris map out things
 - Legislators would ask questions, and Chris would sit for hours, helped them become champions so they could explain
 - 400 reps in NH – Chris needed 50-75 legislators to advance work
 - Didn't support extra spending unless they understood first (e.g. TANF)
 - Better Together program – child welfare system model
- 85% experience workplace stress – what does that encompass?
 - All things, including min wage jobs
- Small business employees, where do they turn?
 - Dynamics different across businesses
- **Parent Leader Response Panel, Moderated by Melvette Hill:**
- How did you recruit parents, what was the strategy? Process? Diversity?
 - Our strategy was whoever asked to join. It is a question we don't ask enough. NH was 10% nonwhite and then 20% nonwhite – we need to think about it more
- Glad that you learned from CT. How do you have metrics for what you are doing as effective? Have you seen results in numbers?
 - First pulse check – people telling us they felt engaged, understood, part of solution. Now the constant. Whenever we could do a survey we did
 - “Warm line”
 - PDG grant

- How do you engage fathers?
 - We were involving fathers in Better Together
 - Came up through child welfare agency; upstream
- How did you address transportation issues?
 - Integrative delivery networks, local office
 - Largest auto dealers in state – just launched purchase of new cars, waiving credit scores and setting up payment plan (local financial institution partner)

- **Brainstorm/Action Steps Session, Sarah Griffen:**

Melvette:

- CT needs to have aligned, same page on SEL across schools: Choose Love, SEL at Yale
- SEL also for adults
- I love this quote from one of the slides Chris presented, “We need to move away from the stigma of welfare - it’s really about strengthening all families.” Wondering if we should also test the landscape to see what stigmas families have around mental health and mental health supports, including SEL curricula

Kristina:

- Inventory who is doing what? What can we leverage?

Lisa:

- Curriculum United Way worked with DMHAS 3rd grade plan for mental health, and how adults can partner with them (only implemented in a few schools – whereas other states have statewide) <https://www.gizmo4mentalhealth.org/mental-health-pledge/>
- Urgent care centers through ARPA as proposed by Governor are critical, lack of resources so far

John:

- Already did SEL landscape analysis
- SEL assessment
- Publication we will send (RULER, etc)
- Working with SAMSHA on federal grant

Chris:

- Example of child/adult mental health: SEL in prisons with dads, family resource center within the prison

Caroline:

- Barriers for people of color to access mental health because of cultural barriers and stigma,

Judy:

- This discussion showed us critical value of parents
- Lisa mentioned the crisis response team (police have mental health experts side-by-side for early intervention), role of nonprofits

- **Closing**

- Send out Chris Tappan’s resources and contact information, SDE SEL one-pager, United Way/DHMAS Gizmo webpage

That is exactly what I have mentioned. Potential for car ownership or rental service assistance.

From Betty Sugerman Weintraub to Everyone: 11:46 AM

i agree with Shanay on the transportation and looking to address the car needs of so many folks

From Caroline A. to Everyone: 11:46 AM

We actually have something a little similar called working wheels through Nutmeg Bank. It using used cars and not new cars which would be amazing!

From Melvette Hill to Everyone: 11:46 AM

Stephan, we have to move on to the next part on our agenda, if you have an additional question or comment, please put it in the chat. Thanks so much :)

From Shanay Fulton-AJC to Everyone: 11:46 AM

As A Family Resource Specialist for 2 yrs we used the R.U.L.E.R. system. Lots of MSEL work.

Middletown does it!

From Janine McMahon to Everyone: 11:46 AM

We can leverage working wheels by Nutmeg Credit Union

From Janine McMahon to Everyone: 11:46 AM

Oh caroline said it :)

From Betty Sugerman Weintraub to Everyone: 11:47 AM

financing rate needs to be affordable. I have heard about banks/credit unions doing this work but with very high interest rates

From Caroline A. to Everyone: 11:48 AM

The initial rate is 12% but drops significantly after the first year. No credit check and a \$10,000 cap

From Melvette Hill to Everyone: 11:48 AM

Wondering if the SEL Collaborative can be part of this work to ensure we have a statewide cohesive SEL approach for all families, children, students, adults/workers/

From Shanay Fulton-AJC to Everyone: 11:49 AM

Enterprise helped me tremendously! I was Stressed about not being able to get my current job bc I had no car. I walked to work, bused to, got rides to work in the school district.

From Lisa Tepper Bates to Everyone: 11:49 AM

<https://www.gizmo4mentalhealth.org/mental-health-pledge/>

From Shanay Fulton-AJC to Everyone: 11:50 AM

Lack of transportation makes you feel that you cannot further your career if yo have no access to transpo. And you cannot afford a vehicle. Your credit is poor. So I agree with Caroline and Betty on financing and no credit checks.