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, 2Gen

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 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’ 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 MSELi 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.