

## 2Gen Advisory Board Meeting

July 27, 2021

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom

### Attendees:

Senator Marilyn Moore  
Representative Jeff Currey  
Representative Susan Johnson  
Commissioner Beth Bye, OEC  
Rosa Rada, CT 2Gen Coordinator  
Maggie Adair, OEC  
Mike Bartley, DOL  
Laura Stefon, SDE  
Shanay Fulton, 2Gen Parent Leader, New Haven AJC  
Betty Sugerman Weintraub, Grant Program Manager at CHEFA  
Katie Breslin, OPM  
Melvette Hill, CT 2Gen & PLTI  
Stephan Palmer, 2Gen Parent Leader, Youth on Fire Inc.  
Veronica Rosario, 2Gen Parent Leader  
Manisha Srivastava, OPM  
Caroline Austin, 2Gen Parent Consultant  
Colin Erhardt, Harvard GPL  
Judy McBride, Hartford Foundation  
Sarah Griffen, 2Gen Consultant  
Amy Peltier, East Hartford CONNects  
Janine McMahon, 2Gen Parent Leader  
Justin Farmer, Hamden City Council  
Liz Fraser, CAHS  
Scott Gaul, OPM  
Anh Ton, Harvard GPL

- **Introductions**, Senator Marilyn Moore and Representative Jeff Currey, Co-Chairs, 2Gen Advisory Board
- **Timeline of Milestones in Connecticut 2Gen**
  - Rosa Rada shares 7-year history of the Connecticut 2Gen Initiative via slide set
- **Discussion: How has a 2Gen lens changed your approach to your work?**
  - Beth Bye: Unusual body; legislatively created to maintain independence from the administration – actually impacts the administration; has OPM and GWC thinking

- about 2Gen goals; leadership of legislature thinking about 2Gen goals; e.g. ARPA funds – universal home visiting as 2Gen approach
- Jeff Currey: At state level and local level our system is already set up to be siloed; in legislative committee work, not enough cross-over conversation; but now folks have started asking how this impacts that – more of a holistic approach – 2Gen definitely played a part
  - Manisha Srivastava: Not only breaking down of siloes – but also changing way we analyze policy (I used to work in OPM budget division, where we simply priced out policies). With the benefits cliffs work in particular, we have been able to understand impact on families
  - Jeff Currey: Apolitical body; when work has to be done, it is done on a bi-partisan basis; 2Gen work can continue regardless of outside circumstances
  - Rosa Rada: Yes, one of most critical things about 2Gen is the way it transcends politics – continues to be bipartisan in a state that is mostly blue
  - Mike Bartley: Jobs First Employment Program (JFES) fundamentally transformed through 2Gen approach because of 2Gen meetings. Innovations in family-centered coaching, financial literacy, home visiting, refugee program, Care 4 Kids, racial equity trainings and many more; new partnerships with DSS, OEC, UConn, etc.; removing bureaucratic barriers for families and improving staff pay and experience
  - Jeff Currey: I worked for Mike Bartley’s predecessor – what he just described is a 180 from what it used to be – truly hear how transformative it is – partnership is fabulous!
  - Maggie Adair: Significant that OPM wrote 2Gen plan and will continue to implement
  - Betty Weintraub: Refreshing “can do” attitude of 2Gen; we saw tangible changes after our meetings between DOL and DSS, Early Childhood Funders Collaborative compensating parents, seeing our TFA recommendations become policy change
  - Amy Peltier: Boston Fed evaluation of the 5 CT Working Cities teams demonstrated that they have integrated 2Gen into the their work; our ability to compensate parents and community leaders in East Hartford is based on the 2Gen model, which has provided a strong foundation of proof that the model works and compensation/recognition is necessary; practice to policy and ability of local community organizations like East Hartford CONNects to sit on 2Gen committees
  - Veronica Rosario: As a parent, given opportunity to grow; now part of research team at UConn (analyzing CLIFF dashboard data) toolbox growing in ways could not imagine, receiving mentorship; 2Gen always listening to voice; gave platform to express ideas and concerns; huge impact on how things are done; 2Gen is the glue that holds us together

- Shanay Fulton: Collective impact at its best; I grew in a depth of understanding of the 2Gen approach that I did not have. I only saw the benefits cliffs issue and did not recognize all the issues/sectors that overlapped until I became involved in the work
- Janine McMahon: National opportunities and influence such as Aspen Institute Post-Secondary Success for Parents Initiative; regional opportunities and influence
- Susan Johnson: 2Gen influenced the TFA changes; now more momentum
- Melvette Hill: Persistence of “broken record” that is parent voice and pushing for things such as inclusion of fathers – 2Gen gives space and values that; see the fruit
- **Critical Work Ahead**
  - Benefits Cliffs Practice and Policy
    - Practice: Finish study and evaluation; embed CT CLIFF tool in the state (e.g. MyCT, public workforce system, nonprofit organizations, high schools, higher education)
    - Policy: Continue exploring other options (e.g. graduated phase out, percentage income) with the Atlanta Fed; work with OPM and Social Finance for cost analysis
  - Statutory Requirements ([PA 19-78](#); 17b-112l of the general statutes and [Gov Bill 3291](#))
    - State Workforce Strategy:
      - *Requires the chief workforce officer to submit to the governor recommendations by January 1, 2022 for updates to the state workforce strategy relating to certain individuals’ needs and Two Generational Advisory Board recommendations*
    - 2Gen Interagency Plan:
      - *The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in collaboration with the Two-Generational Advisory Board established pursuant to section 17b-112l of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall develop an interagency plan to coordinate and align delivery of services to assist families to overcome barriers to economic success*
    - 2Gen Advisory Board governing statute:
      - *Advises the state, legislature, and OPM secretary on how to foster family economic self-sufficiency in low-income households through a comprehensive two-generational service delivery approach for early child care, education, and workforce readiness*
    - 2Gen Report to CGA:
      - *December 31, 2021, and annually thereafter, the Two-Generational Advisory Board, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, shall file a report*
  - MyCT Development and Coordination
  - ARPA 2Gen Lens: 2Gen board needs to weigh in on ARPA plans and eventual implementation, otherwise the 2Gen focus will be lost in ARPA-funded initiatives

- 2Gen Workforce: Parents identified transportation options beyond UPass expansion as priority
- 2Gen Parent Engagement: An established framework and infrastructure that many lean upon
  - Onboarding and training for OEC Parent Cabinet
  - P20WIN Resident Advisory
  - GWC's 8 subcommittees already have 2Gen parents embedded, more to come; particularly on the new community/equity committee that will advise on spending of the \$10 million to workforce
  - MyCT
  - Any other new state programs and efforts that need parents and those with lived experience
- Breadth of Ongoing Engagement
  - 2Gen Advisory Board and each work group have 70-100 people; 25-30 attend each meeting; several meetings a month
  - 2Gen meetings create the space for leaders to interact, brainstorm together, discuss and reach agreement, and hopefully align on legislative priorities, all of which helps push policy forward
  - High-level state agency staff with program expertise and willingness to be change agents within their agencies have invested in 2Gen; trust built over time
- New England Region 1 work: Upcoming learning communities (likely racial equity, parent engagement, and 2Gen and ARPA); channel to federal partners
- **Brainstorm on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Initiatives** Sarah Griffen, 2Gen Consultant
  - Discussion Questions:
    - How can we help ensure alignment of programs across different parts of ARPA and the budget?
    - What do we hope will become standard practice?
    - What do we want to learn from ARPA and some of the new programs (e.g. Baby Bonds)?
    - How might we evaluate how families benefit from ARPA over time?
- Rosa Rada: We should walk through budget items – prioritize, get parent and others input
- Sen. Moore: Keep long-term outlook past 2025; we do not want to put parents in a place where they cannot succeed. Can we sustain these efforts?
- Liz Fraser: These changes are great but are only short-term
- Rep. Johnson: I agree with Liz that this is only short-term. We should use data to support permanent changes
- Shanay Fulton: Most of my parents do not have Care 4 Kids. We are obtaining information to see how to support holistically. Factoring ALL of the benefits, not just

Husky and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Factoring Section 8, Rental Assistance Program (RAP), helps as well

- Liz Fraser: ARPA money needs equitable formula for how it's used and spent; can't neglect inequities and pouring money into things that don't work; Baby Bonds for wealth gap is key. We also need to ensure focus on children
- Melvette Hill: Housing crisis – rental crisis. Also homeownership and the counseling to get there
- Amy Peltier: Yes Melvette! We have heard time again from our parents that housing is top priority. We have not begun to see the results of the moratorium ending. Families will need this support and it will not be cheap!
- Caroline Austin: Agree with Melvette and Amy
- Mike Bartley: Regarding ARPA, I would have liked to have seen a vehicle ownership program like the ones that are happening in the other New England states as described by Sarah at our 2Gen Workforce committee meeting last week
- Betty Sugerman Weintraub: We are looking at the transportation options for the upcoming year in the 2Gen Workforce Work Group
- **Closing**, Rosa Rada, CT 2Gen Coordinator
  - Note next steps, how work will go on moving forward:
    - Rosa Rada's last day is July 30
    - In the immediate interim, Katie Breslin of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will be the primary point of contact. Melvette Hill of the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) and Sarah Griffen, national 2Gen consultant, will support the transition. Meetings and projects will go on without interruption
    - New 2Gen Coordinator will be appointed; timeline TBD