

Task Force on Quality Child Care for
Immigrant Communities

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*Barriers to Quality Child
Care & School Readiness*

Access

- The pursuit of child support penalizes the woman for irresponsible father
- Clients respond negatively to voice mail
- Lack of transportation
- Not enough community-based services
- Resistance to government services
- Not enough licensed providers in immigrant neighborhoods
- Illiteracy
- Lack of entitlement
- Need for cultural sensitivity
- Paper work is burdensome, documentation

Affordability

- * Non-traditional jobs do not satisfy subsidies documentation requirements (ie: cleaning houses)
- * Catch 22 of subsidy employment requirement
- * Cost of care vs. income. Families can't afford quality care even with subsidy.

Housing

- * Multiple dwellers
- * Space regulations for regulated child care programs
- * Landlords not allowing licensed family child care in their units.

Public Awareness

- * Informal means of communication within a community are very powerful, but often distort issues and misinform clients
- * Need for community event to galvanize ethnic leaders around children's issues.
- * Ethnic media not involved in public engagement.

Cultural Values

- * Formal systems of child care do not exist in home countries
- * Women stay home & extended family ties severed through immigration
- * Traditional values promote use of informal/unregulated care by neighbors
- * Tertiary Access: creating a program/service may not be enough if cultural values not considered.
- * High expectations of parents, no tools
- * Invasive requirements
- * Survival vs. Involvement

Accountability

- * Customer feedback methods
- * Outcomes based services
 - Is the goal to be as inclusive as possible or as exclusive as possible?
- * Professional evaluation of services

Solutions & Best Practices

Access to Quality Child Care and Parent Involvement

- * Community-based Child care management services to assist families who need support navigating the system and identifying and accessing quality, community-based child care.

Public Engagement Campaign

- * Utilize informal communication in positive way: “Child Care Promoters”
- * Involve ethnic media in transmitting “Help me grow” message.

Standing Child Care in Immigrant Communities Advisory Group

- * The task force should continue to meet and act as advocacy voice and resource for ECS
 - Washington State

Support Child Care Subsidies Program

- * Attend public hearing
- * Extend subsidies to undocumented children
- * Advocate for adequate funding

Personalism

- * Limit use of Voice Mail
- * Use volunteer interns/students
- * Use volunteers, train “front-line” staff in Early childhood resources

Support Authentic Collaboration

- * Do not “reinvent the wheel”, build and strengthen existing services or replicate best-practices in other jurisdictions
- * Encourage authentic collaborations between government, community based organizations, and faith based organizations.

Engage politicians and decision makers and non-traditional allies

- * Bus community members to march/Rally.
- * “March to Annapolis” make strong statement about child care
- * Connect Child Care to Public Education and Crime Prevention

Collect Appropriate Data

- * Release data in usable form
- * Collect ethnicity in child care subsidies data (State data)
- * Track placement of low-income, non-English speaking children (“red zone”) in regulated child care.

Identify key points of entry to disseminate information about Early Childhood Education

- * Public Libraries in areas with high concentration of immigrants
- * Teach adult ESOL within the context of early childhood education and “how to navigate the system” content based curriculum
- * MCPS International student office.

Connect with other groups that are promoting this issue

- 10 ■ Montgomery County Child Care Commission
- 10 ■ Up-County Latino Network
- 10 ■ Long Branch Revitalization Task Force

Support current licensing regulations

- * Increase the number of regulated child care in low-income/immigrant communities
 - Spanish application, training, t/a
- * Maintain current regulations
 - No English Only
 - No Social Security Numbers

Increase representation of
“immigrant stake holders” on
Commissions/Advisory groups.

- * Child Care Commission should have a “seat” for immigrant representation.