Building Pathways and Partnerships to Support Children’s Development

Discussant Comments
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SRCD and Child Trends
Guiding Principles

- Child Focused
- Family Friendly
- Fair to Providers

How are each of the principles illustrated by the three programs?
Child Focused

- Community Connections (Illinois)
  - Children participated in pre-k who would not be able to otherwise
  - Teachers brought materials and activities to home-based providers
  - Infants and toddlers had time with better ratios

- STARS for KIDS NOW (KY)
  - Recommended consideration of new standards with child focus that would address
    - curriculum
    - child assessment
    - screening and referral
    - provisions for children with special needs

- School Readiness Connections (MN)
  - Training on Work Sampling System
    - how to implement
    - how to use information to guide instruction
Family Friendly

- Community Connections (Illinois)
  - Respected nonstandard work schedules of families; choice of home-based care
  - Viewed care as collaboration of parents, home-based providers and preschool teachers, with activities including all

- STARS for KIDS NOW (KY)
  - Considered both the percentage of parents who recognized STARS for KIDS NOW (17%) and percentage of parents who indicated that they would use a STARS rating to select a provider (2/3).
  - Used this information to recommend targeting outreach to parents in the process of making ECE decisions

- School Readiness Connections (MN)
  - Once eligible, families maintained eligibility for one year
  - Provided for continuity of care as parents moved in and out of employment
Fair to Providers

- **Community Connections (Illinois)**
  - Home-based providers did not lose subsidy payments when children participated in preschool
  - Had input to connect children’s activities with those in preschool

- **STARS for KIDS NOW (KY)**
  - Identified that providers participating in QRIS may be reaching higher quality indicators than block system can recognize. Considered ways to take this into account in ratings

- **School Readiness Connections (MN)**
  - Included providers across types of care
  - Quality improvement supports were provided
  - All providers attained levels 3 and 4 in QRIS
Questions

• Are all three principles present in the programs in your state and/or that you are researching? In what ways?
• Are the three principles present to the same extent? Would you say one more salient or emphasized than others? One is less salient or missing?
• Are you thinking about new approaches that would introduce or strengthen one of the principles?