

HFPG Capital Region Early Childhood Network Over-Archiving Goal: Develop a regional network to share information, resources and support and to engage in joint action, resulting in a stronger regional voice and stronger early childhood collaboratives. This will lay the foundation for a more cohesive regional early childhood system.

Theory of Change Goals	Evaluation Questions	Results to Date (close of year 1, February 2019)
<p><u>Develop the Network:</u> The Foundation will develop a regional early childhood network to share information, resources and support and to engage in joint actions.</p> <p><u>Strengthen Regional Voice:</u> The Early Childhood Network will have a stronger regional voice (with legislators and with the public) strengthening the capital region’s role across the state for early childhood, and laying the foundation for a more cohesive and efficient regional early childhood system.</p>	<p>Network:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the network strengthen over the duration of the initiative? 2. What aspects or activities of the network help strengthen it? 3. Does the network achieve the network goals for grant period: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Share information, resources and support b. Engage in joint action c. Leadership emerges d. Strengthen regional voice 	<p>Does the Network Strengthen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, it has grown stronger since it began • Deeper connection to each other and to the network as a collective • More comfortable turning to each other for information, resources and support and more apt to do so now than at start <p>What Aspects Strengthen it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving sites ownership; guiding but not directing, flexibility, organic • Making it a safe space – ok to share challenges, questions • Smaller # of participating sites/intimacy • Informal time to allow “chit-chat”, breaking bread together • Providing backbone structure and financial support, regularly scheduled meetings • Share-point as a tool for connecting <p>Does the Network Achieve the Goals for the Grant Period (Short-term):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Yes, sites are sharing information, resources and support</u> – e.g., sharing information on membership recruitment and equity work, exchanging resources including consultant referrals and sample budgets, and supporting each other by thinking of each other when an issue relevant to another comes up, inviting each other to events and meetings, turning to each other for validation or to gain a different perspective, exhibiting trust and candor • <u>Not yet engaging in joint action but all five commented that they see it as value to be added once the timing is right</u>, noting relationship building is the logical first phase to build the foundation. Potential joint action examples include: common messaging, planning a conference or event, joint advocacy, and possibly collective action down the road • <u>Emergent leadership: Many examples of proactive sharing, suggesting topics, etc. which aligns with HFPG expectations of sites taking some ownership but not expecting more direct leadership.</u> Consensus among sites that they like the ownership and role that they play in helping to inform the work of the network. Network structure vis-à-vis HFPG and statewide network is TBD. • <u>Strengthen Regional Voice: Most sites are beginning to talk about the 2Gen work to others as part of a regional effort and indicated that they see the potential to message and advocate jointly on a regional level for 2Gen and the value of doing so;</u> Having the relationships and structure in place will position the network to be able to activate when the right opportunity arises

<p>Strengthen the Collaboratives: Strengthen the operations and sustainability of each of the local early childhood collaboratives to help them to a) improve the school readiness and school success work they do in their communities to help local families and b) contribute to the regional network’s efforts to improve the regional early childhood system.</p>	<p>Collaboratives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does being a part of the regional network benefit the local work of each collaborative? 2. Do the collaboratives learn from the network - about collaborative functioning; about early childhood practices? 3. Do the collaboratives reach, or make progress towards, the anticipated outcomes of their individual grants during the two-year periods? 4. Do the collaboratives strengthen in other ways as a result of being a part of this network? 	<p>Does the regional network effort benefit the <u>local work of each collaborative</u>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, all five sites reported value added to their local work from participation in the regional network including hearing about strategies from other sites and tweaking it to fit within their own, validation that they are “right on the track” or feeling that they are not alone, bouncing ideas off one another, hearing another perspective with which to view the work, and having a sacred space and time to think about the issues, gaining renewed energy and focus <p>Do the <u>collaboratives learn from the network about collaborative functioning</u>? About <u>early childhood practices</u>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three of the five sites (4 of 5 said yes on the Oct. survey) reported learning more about collaborative functioning from the network and applying what they learned to their local collaborative in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Coordinating with other partners to do the work rather than have the collaborative run everything directly, ➢ Building trust and relationships with partners in the community to lay the foundation before doing the work ➢ Creating comfort and space for collaborative members to identify challenge areas and ask for help ➢ Strategies to recruit new members • Just two sites responded that they have increased their knowledge of early childhood practices from the network; they cited increased knowledge about offering developmental screenings and free playgroups (<i>note: 4 responded that they have learned something new about an early childhood practice or service on the October survey</i>) <p>Do the <u>collaboratives reach, or make progress toward the anticipated outcomes of their individual grants</u>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the sites have made some progress on their specific grant outcomes and seem to be on track to complete their outcomes by the end of the grant period. • All five collaboratives are in the early stages of the 2Gen work, lining up stakeholders to join steering committees, researching the state of 2Gen locally, and hiring consultants to plan more strategically once they complete the assessment. • All of the partners were at least minimally familiar with the concept of 2Gen and familiar with the fact that their collaborative was taking on 2Gen as an area of work as part of the HFPG network; all spoke positively about the importance of 2Gen work. <p>Do the <u>collaboratives strengthen in other ways as a result of being a part of the network</u>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, all reported strengthening (some said was in part due to other issues coinciding such as staffing changes). Sites reported strengthening in the following ways: increased focus, renewed energy, deeper planning, restructured workgroups, more strategic outreach, and thinking on a larger scale across strands of their work. Partners echoed this, citing more structure, greater focus and increased relationships as areas of strengthening – although a few partners said their collaborative was already strong and that they had not seen areas that were strengthened since in network. • Areas site leads and partners suggested still in need of strengthening include parent engagement, funding and data use.
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