



# **Fox Valley United Way Summit Café Discussion Summary February 26, 2019**



**Fox Valley United Way**

**Question 1: What in your community is helping to address our targeted issue to ensure that all children are strong, prepared and ready for kindergarten? What in your county is helping?**

- “book times” to register parents to get child library cards
- “play nice” community. In it together
- 1,000 books before kindergarten
- 211
- Access to quality public television (educational)
- AOK
- Aurora strives to make sure all info is in English and Spanish
- Basic needs- food, financial, case management, strengths based, and break cycle of generationally poverty
- Before and after school programs
- Best start program
- Breastfeeding coalition/ pediatrician
- Build trust to connect with Pre school
- Building parent relationships
- Case management
- CCAP requirements excel rate Illinois
- CCAP requires mandatory training
- Changing children’s world foundation
- Child care resources & referrals
- City’s efforts to collaborate with all partners
- Community action – helps families, socioeconomically, LIHEAP- weatherization
- Compass
- County wide collaborations (AOK (All Our Kids Network), breastfeeding)
- Curriculum & programs
- DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services) – school readiness for all children in care, help intact families with resources for early childhood
- Developmental screenings in community
- Direct education
- Distribute information in clinics
- Early childhood collaborative
- Early childhood mit grant in planning phase
- Early Head Start & Head Start
- ECE (Early Childhood Education)
- EI is strong in our counties
- Elgin pipeline- collaboration
- Elgin Pipeline Group- uninterrupted services for all children 0-5
- EPEL (Elgin Partnership for Early Learning)

- Expanded services (pets)
- Expanding preschool programs
- Familiarity with each other & programs
- Family Focus/ Home Visitations
- Family systems” Drive to success “get kids to doctor appointments
- Food assistance “Food for Thought”
- Food services – give out information when people come in
- Fox Valley hub processes and educate all agencies
- Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) – 5 locations offering preschool programs, training, education of staff
- Free boot camp for Pre School(Spring &Summer) - Addison
- Funding for programs, pantries, shelters, keeping children safe
- FVPD- middle class 5 locations opening at Vaughn in fall
- Girl Scouts- Strength and confidence in girls, skills aligned with school readiness, anti-bullying, partner with Head Start
- Health behaviors
- How effective is this? 0 google search, how do parents find out about these resources
- How to help SPARK? Various communities want to get involved in proactive in schools
- Illinois Children’s Healthcare- Grant Foundation (County level)
- Integration- referrals to continue working with children as they age out
- Interfaith food pantry
- Joint trainings
- Kendall county food pantry expanded services
- Kendall county health department
- Language and barriers
- Lazarus House
- Libraries- easy access, story times birth – 5, available for all community members. Free share information
- Library programs
- Mental health – taking more referrals for 4&5 year olds, wellness program
- Mental health consultants are available to support children and staff
- MIECHV (Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation)- coordinated intake/ referrals
- Mom groups
- More partnerships
- Museums
- New Aurora Early Childhood Center- services of need
- New born hearing and vision screening
- Nutrition at parks
- Nutrition Education
- Opportunity for growth (Plano & St. Charles)
- Pantry makeovers

- Parent engagement
- Parenting groups
- Parenting programs to support 2 generational positive family relationship & social emotional learning
- Parents share information
- Park district Pre school
- Parks and Park District programs
- Partnership with hospital
- PFA (Preschool For All)
- PFAE (Preschool For All Expansion)
- Prenatal care that is easy to access
- Prevention services
- Promote healthy oral habits
- Pyramid model- social/ emotional
- Referral source
- Salvation Army- meeting basic needs, long term case management – children in home
- Send out CRT meeting information
- Sharing of resources at different NFPs
- Single point of entry
- SPARK collaboration (involve entire community)
- SPARK:
  - Identified the Problem: Where does the parent find services? There should be a starting point of contact.
  - Provided a Solution: Bring together community agencies and the public
- Staff gives referrals- incentives- gift card for most referrals
- Storytime- Laundry mat
- Substance use treatment for families
- Success stories
- Teaching parents to advocate
- This community has well developed collaborations
- To prevent aging out
- Transition projects to help kids move from one program to another
- Tri City family services
- U of I recipes
- University of Illinois extension- healthy choice eating- nutrition education, work with pantries, pantry “makeovers”, community workers to teach nutrition
- VNA Healthcare waiting room resources
- Volunteers/community involvement
- WIC (Women, Infant, Children) benefits- VNA Healthcare, Aunt Martha’s, affordable healthcare, interagency meetings, council Aurora/ Kendall

- Work early with families, making sure each child is screened (ASQ: Ages and Stages Questionnaire) to check for development and connect them with resources/ explaining about early intervention
- Wrap around services
- Young parent engagement within day care providers so they can be advocates (at risk, low poverty)
- Youth services fair partner with city
- YWCA early intervention, shelter, processing trauma in young children and parental health

## 2. What challenges/barriers/gaps do you see that are impeding children in your community from being strong, prepared and ready for kindergarten?

- \$\$ Money – family and investment in families
- Access – rural/smaller communities or perceived wealthier communities
- Access – time and availability
- Affordable housing (not enough)
- Amount of paperwork to fill out for Child Care Assistance Program(CCAP) and other services
- Application process takes too long
- Breakdown of family
- Can be unaware of what each other is doing
- Car seat education – resources
- CCAP is not sufficient
- Changing interpersonal norms – technology
- Communication
- Community understanding of the value of early childhood education
- Connecting to childcare
- Cooperative/flexible scheduling of services with school district
- Criteria differences
- Cultural habits – cultural perspective on children or cultural values and beliefs
- Culturally competent workforce
- Deficit in recognizing developmental milestones – do not get Early Intervention or other developmental services
- Denial of needs
- Documentation (legal status) fears – fear of deportation
- Early truancy – starting off on wrong foot
- Educators/school collaborations
- Early Head Start/Head Start available slots
- Employer expectations of employees to always be accessible and responsible – expect 24/7
- Families drop out of programs
- Families in lower economical class
- Families, hard to reach, isolated or no access to phone, internet, get creative on how to reach these families
- Fear of “labels”
- Fear of “system” and labels
- Fear of finding out bad news, such as on a screening
- Fear of police presence
- Fees and lack of knowledge for scholarships or for filling out forms
- Financial, high deductibles for programs
- Funding issues which result in limited staff and capacity
- Funding limitations – parameters set by funders/state
- Funding silos – no budget
- Gaps in transition from Home Visitation to Preschool For All during the summer
- Gender biases

- General fear
- Hard to navigate systems
- Home visitation to Head Start transition is hard
- Identifying children/families that need support
- Intimidation/reaching out to authority figures – perception of what it means to “talk to the principal”
- Isolation of childcare, lack of social, emotional skills
- Lack of consistent medical providers
- Lack of developmental screening and milestones etc, therefore not getting “services” or Early Intervention early.
- Lack of education – parents struggle to assist children but also lack of education about rights, legalities
- Lack of funding for preschool programs
- Lack of knowledge about services
- Lack of knowledge from parents on importance of Early Childhood Education
- Lack of literacy
- Lack of outreach
- Lack of parental advocacy or involvement/engagement
- Lack of parental awareness of defensiveness
- Lack of parenting programs
- Lack of public engagement
- Lack of screen time guidelines versus reading and literacy activities – not balanced
- Lack of support for financial independence
- Lack of technology systems to share early math and literacy and social-emotional activities that 0-5 parents can engage in
- Lack of trust in state funded programs (do not want to supply documents needed for eligibility)
- Lack of universal entry point for early intervention
- Lack of volunteers
- Lack of Z gen programs for families on parent/child development to achieve health equity
- Language barriers, not just Spanish but in other languages - lack of free resources
- Language used to bring people to programs
- Lost in access, cost, transportation, language
- Mental health with the parent/guardian
- More collaborations from agency stakeholders – such as... where is Head Start and Public Library at some of these meetings/trainings/workshops/presentations/summits
- More requirements for families to come up with, such as income
- Most developmental screening are by appointment and you need to know when and where it will be held
- Need more interactive activities in various settings
- No one serving MOST at risk – non working families, isolated, rarely out of home
- Organization trust
- Parent education, classes (access, stigma)
- Parent trust
- Parent’s work schedule (can’t get children to services, such as therapies, etc)

- Parents too busy for attention 0-5 year olds needs
- Partnerships between home and school sometimes not supported enough
- Policy changes
- Political climate – parents are scared to ask for help/assistance– immigrants are unsure
- Poor rapport
- Poverty – children being raised by siblings
- Programs working in silos
- Public charge!!
- Public/parent awareness of readiness skills
- Qualifications too strict: example income, families just above the income guidelines
- Quality childcare – cost prohibitive
- Raise awareness of services/communication
- Refugee community
- Resources in native language
- Safe communities
- Silos vs System – isolation of organizations etc.
- Social groups
- Space limitations
- Spots/Slots available for any program and for Preschool For All/Home Visitation
- Stable housing and contact info
- Stigma on getting help – preserving dignity
- Taboo SA (substance abuse) and MH (mental health)
- Technology – babysitter technology or no technology
- Technology – parents spending time on phone instead of engaging with kids
- Too many wait list – not enough services (home visits, Preschool for All)
- Transportation – families may not have car/car seats but also cabs/Ubbers do not have car seats
- Transportation in general, transportation for Preschool for All and transportation availability and comfort utilization
- Trauma
- Unrecognized ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) interface with parenting effectiveness



### 3. Based on the gaps that you have discussed, what do you see as priorities in your communities/ county that need to be addressed?

- Access to quality early education
- Affordable Housing
- All about the kids
- Awareness on what it takes to be ready for kindergarten
- Being productive
- Better and more effective communication
- Building trust with families and agencies
- Can we get more community involvement?
- Celebrate existing strengths of parents as mechanisms to gain trust
- Census 2020
- Collaboration
- Collaboration through agencies
- Coming to families vs. having them go to another office
- Community education (presentation/ resources fair)
- Coordination of information/ resource sharing
- Coordination of intake and follow up
- Culture sensitivity & empathy workshops
- Databases of services
- Early Childhood (EC) is a long term workforce issue
- Education for families on quality childcare
- Employment resources
- Engage EC programs for screening and referral (focus on 0-3 years)
- Engage law enforcement to collaborate with families
- Establish one stop shop- start virtual
- Expansion of home visitation services –education of home care, education at home (books)
- Expansion of Home Visitation & other EC services
- Experience
- Experts at pediatricians office- steps for screening (required for early physical, doctor referral, and evaluation)
- Food pantry- as soon as you check in and have a child under 5, someone comes over to talk to you
- Funding
- Funding- sustainability, stability
- Funding/ fundraisers-government? Private gala funding?
- Gaining trust of families
- GAP of care for children 3-5 year olds- not eligible- barriers from transportation
- Going to families' "safe zone", not making families go to an office to learn about resources
- Higher salary for early childhood teachers

- Hospital engagement-early intervention delivery rooms- welcome home to new baby- OB doctors- discharge packs-WIC
- Informal drop in “places” in the neighborhood
- Language for program staff classes and workshops
- Legislative awareness of EC importance
- Livable wages
- Local advocates?- engage the political leaders of the community- physicians, attorneys, privately affected groups
- Making connections- instead of all data. Build interpersonal relationship
- Middle class families can’t find a lot of quality affordable kids
- Mobile team of screening
- More affordable preschool programs
- More affordable programs to support families
- More affordable services for families to access
- More collaboration with religious organizations to bring community awareness
- More formal screening entry points
- More government representation at summits
- More head start programs
- More money
- More social media presence
- More space
- Need behavioral health services for families 0-5 years
- Need good role models for children to look up to
- Not having enough support for families with children with special needs
- Ongoing training for professionals’ development
- Parent campaign – teach kindergarten readiness skills
- Parent education
- Professional development
- Promoting person-centered approach
- Religious leaders
- Representative/ inters- outreach programs s-someone to talk to the parents, creates a trusting environment- resource center, waiting room
- Resource fair at schools
- Seeking role models and mentors to reflect the diversity of the children they serve
- Single point of contact
- Spread word
- Tap into St. Charles and Geneva
- The personal connections are missing
- Training for staff working with families
- Trauma informal care approaches
- Trusting systems

- Volunteers
- Who else should be at the table? Faith leaders, legislators, EL educators, those who lived experience, physicians (medical professionals), attorneys, retired educators/professionals
- Women's business council