

**MCHB/DCAFH**  
**Preplanning for the 2008 Early Childhood Systems**  
**Building Partnership Meeting**  
January 30, 2008

DENA GREEN: I'm Dena Green. One of the project officers for the Early Childhood Partnership program. Welcome to our webcast designed to support our grantees and partners in their efforts to build Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems. Our first webcast in November of 2007 featured two people that provided an excellent early childhood systems overview and an opportunity for us to discuss some of the policy issues associated with this important work that we're doing.

Today my colleague, Joe Zogby and our coordinator Christopher Botsko will be continuing last month's discussion. Last November's discussion. Also provide you with our plan for moving forward with our collaboration efforts particularly as they relate to the joint meeting in March. I'm sure that by now all of you have probably heard something about this joint meeting and you've probably also had lots of questions. The webcast today will hopefully provide answers to your questions and the guidance you will need to be ready for the March meeting.

Now, for some housekeeping you may type in your questions at any time during the webcast. However, we will respond to questions following the presentations. If for some reason we're not able to answer all of your questions during the webcast, we will get back to you at a later date. Also remember that the webcast will be archived and it's usually done about a week or so following the event and it can be accessed at [mchcom.com](http://mchcom.com) which is the same web address you used to register. Our first speaker today will be Joe Zogby.

JOE ZOGBY: Thank you, Dena. This is "Preplanning for the 2008 Early Childhood Partnership Meeting" and the next slide. The meeting background, this is the second partnership meeting. The first took place in January 2007 and it included ECCS coordinators, state head start collaboration directors. Childcare administrators and other partners.

Next slide please. Meeting background. The January 7th meeting grew out of a federal partnership between the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and head start. The federal partners have reached out to other agencies.

Next slide. The children's bureau and the substance abuse and mental health services administration, SAMHSA, have joined the partnership now with the goal of building upon the collaboration work that already -- they are already doing and determining how best to support their state and community partners and systems building.

Next slide. The framework for this year's meeting is like last year. Early childhood systems building. This year's meeting will have a focus on family support and social/emotional development and early childhood mental health.

Next slide. This is a diagram of how we are conceiving of a team. If you look at it, you will see that the team attending the meeting is a subset of the early childhood systems building team within the state. They will be coming as representatives even if they didn't participate in the actual state work groups, team before, they have been selected by the state team within the state to come and represent them at this meeting. They will participate in the meeting and bring home what they worked on in the meeting and will

continue that as team members when they get back to their states. So the goal of this partnership meeting will be to expand and deepen the partnerships that are essential to building a comprehensive team.

Federal partners -- next slide, please. Federal partners see this meeting as an important learning opportunity as a way to help us determine how to move forward. That is why one objective is to obtain input from state and community partners on how federal agencies can remove obstacles to collaboration and foster partnerships that help to build stronger, more comprehensive systems and improve outcomes for children and families.

CHRIS BOTSKO: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Chris Botsko. I am the director of technical assistant project for the initiative as Dena said. I'm with an institute. I realize there are lots of partners and team members present so I've tried to include additional details in what I'm about to talk about to help fill in part of the story but I may not have included for just an ECCS audience. Some of this may be redundant but I wanted to make sure everyone follows what is going on. My focus will be on the pre-meeting work for the early childhood systems building partners meeting and I sent to the ECCS listserv yesterday a number of materials relative to that including information about the state teams and who is on the state teams. Contact information for those groups and also the instructions for the pre-work and hopefully that has always been distributed to other team members by now. If not we'll make sure that it does get distributed so everyone has a copy as soon as possible.

Can we go to the next slide, please? I'm going to talk -- the pre-meeting activities, the federal partners wanted the meeting participants and other relevant early childhood building team members to get together and begin focus on the issues that will be

discussed further at the meeting. The idea is to get as many people together as possible. In person or at least on the phone before the meeting and include other relevant participants in the early childhood systems building team. For the pre-work at the very least you want to bring together people coming to the meeting but there may be other people relevant in your state because they're working on some of these issues and you are welcomed and encouraged to include them. How do you decide who is relevant? The focus on mental health and family support. We very much recognize that who is relevant may vary by state or jurisdiction. There may be people in different agencies or organizations who it would make sense to bring to the pre-meeting activities.

Next slide, please. Want to let you know before we get into what the information is and talk a little more about it, how -- what will be done with the information that gets generated from the pre-meeting work. It is going to be used to inform meeting presentations and breakout groups, give those people who are presenting and the breakout groups, give a sense of what is going on in the state and it is also going to be used for the ongoing federal partnership to give direction in order to inform them of some of the activities going on and provide you with an opportunity to give suggestions to the federal partners about things they should be undertaking at the federal or national level. It is going to serve as the tool for the team to take stock of your system building work and help provide future direction from that work. We're asking you to try this with the pre-work prior to the meeting in order just in terms of that last point about taking stock of system building work, what is clear from our experience in ECCS is that systems work is constantly evolving and if comprehensive plans, which should be playing an important role in this pre-work are going to be living documents, then the partners involved with them need to review them and think about how they need to change to address further challenges and expanding partnerships. The continuing commitment to ECCS is based on the understanding that

you need support in continuing this work over time and that commitment is still very strong.

Next slide. What you're being asked to do. ECCS coordinators are asked to contact the members of your meeting team and organize a meeting or conference call to complete the meeting pre-work. And the information that was sent out yesterday on contact information for the various team members should help you do that. In terms of what should you do once you complete the work, send the completed pre-work to ECCS by February 29th, 2009 and asked to bring both a hard and electronic copy of the pre-work form to the partnership meeting.

Next slide. 2008, I'm sorry. I'm jumping ahead of myself. It should say February 29th, 2008. I haven't gotten used to the new year and decided to skip this one and go to the next one. In terms of who the meeting team members are, since this information was included in the posting to the listserv that went out yesterday but since I'm not sure that everyone has it yet I did want to go over it. The meeting team members include the ECCS grand east, community based child abuse prevention grantees, the stable and safe families grantees. Head start company lab ration. A selection of the state children's mental health directors. Eight states plus one, eight state children's mental health directors plus one medical director of a state mental health agency. SAMHSA systems of care grantees. There is a select number of these states, a number of them have been invited. I can't remember the number -- it's under 10. I think it's been nine. We don't know exactly who is coming in this area yet so if you'll notice on the information I sent out, that is still -- further information on that will follow. Women, children and family treatment program grantees and state substance abuse program representatives from 13 states. And there is part of the information that went out yesterday. There is also information on

where the support is coming from from various people to come to this meeting. And I know that that's been a very common question and please feel free, if you have any other questions about that, to send them to us. And the women, children and family treatment grantees bring a strong community focus and will provide a perspective of what needs to be done to further systems building work to help us do the jobs more effectively and bringing state substance abuse program representatives which will provide some opportunities to discuss how to address the needs of vulnerable families and the role of substance abuse programs in early childhood systems building.

Next slide. In terms of other possible meeting team members it is suggested that if an early childhood mental health team member be added in states without a SAMHSA-supported representative. There are a number of states -- most states don't have a SAMHSA mental health representative at the table. SAMHSA-supported representative. If you're one of those states you're encouraged to consider adding someone working on your early childhood mental health team to come and take part in the discussions and the meeting. In order to keep tabs on the size of the meeting and to make sure we aren't closed down by the fire marshal we're asking states without a SAMHSA representative to limit themselves to six participants. Some states will -- there will be more than that because of the SAMHSA-supported representatives but that limit applies to those of you who don't have SAMHSA-supported representatives.

Next slide. The content of the pre-work. The focus of the meeting is on systems and the focus on the pre-work is on systems, not services. There are lots of great programs out there doing important work. But the focus of this federal partnership is on systems and how to organize and support the overall early childhood system and the focus of ECCS has always been on systems. The other thing is that you should use your early childhood

comprehensive plan as a key resource when undertaking this activity. The plan is one of the things that ECCS resources were providing to produce and is seen as a key resource when undertaking this activity. I'll talk a little more about that in a little while. I wanted to talk first about the systems focus side of things.

Next slide, please. And as everyone here knows, we can spend a whole day talking about systems and talking about a systems focus can take a long time so I'm going to limit the extent of the discussion on that. I want to refer you to the first in these series of webcasts in which Kay Johnson first presented. If you haven't seen it there is an archive version of it on the mchcom.com website. There are also a number of resources on the recently revamped ECCS website. One example of this, one very useful resource for those of you looking at financing is the spending smarter funding guide and checklist developed by Jay and Kay. There are also a number of other resources that you might find that you might -- and team members might find useful as they do this work. The big system question we're trying to address is what needs to be done to move from a fragmented system to a comprehensive system. And I'm going to talk a little about some people's thoughts on that.

Next slide, please. Some of the folks who have been working on this are part of the early childhood systems working group. There are a number of very prominent national organizations that have been working extensively on systems work and came together because they thought it was very important to look at this together as a group and to try and send a common message about how you accomplish systems work. Thinking about their experience, working in this area, thinking about the literature in this area and what this is a list of those national organizations.

They came up with a common framework for understanding and talking about systems building and that's on the next slide, which is called core elements of an early childhood development system. This should look familiar from last year. It actually take the liberty of making a few changes to it based on a suggestion from the Colorado early childhood systems initiative I added a box for parent leadership development. I think Colorado made the case and the case that has been really furthered by the folks who are part of the strengthening families initiative that parent leadership development is critical. The middle box used to say in the original version says family-supported but I changed it to family-strengthened. This is another thing that comes from the strengthening families initiative which I know many of you are familiar with and by the time the meeting is over I think all of you will be familiar with. But it's a way of talking about how what we're doing with families that I think makes a lot of sense in the ECCS context.

I'll go over some of these boxes. But the basic point of this graph is that if these are the activities, the core elements that need to be accomplished in order to build an early childhood comprehensive system. I'll start with parent leadership development because it is a new thing. What it is providing parents opportunities to enhance their leadership skills. Either through participating in systems building activities, through participating in program leadership and program development, through training opportunities, through opportunities to become early childhood workers if they so desire. Whatever -- there are a variety of ways to address this need. One of the things I would like to acknowledge on the national level we're really not there yet. There won't be much parent representation at the meeting and it is something that we have to think more about at the national level as we -- as these partnerships develop. Financing was mentioned. It is a crucial piece. It is important on multiple levels. Important for the federal government to find ways to provide flexibility for states to figure out how to use the flexibility that currently exists. Oftentimes

it's not being used to the full extent that it could be. And for communities to use that effectively. Having done lots of site visits I can say some of the folks who are most advanced at being flexible when it comes to funding and blending and braiding funding are local level programs who have to do it as a matter of survival and they have a lot that they can tell about -- tell us about how to do it and how to make it so that it can be done more easily, more effectively, more efficiently.

Communications. How do we talk about systems building and help families use the system? There is a variety of things that fit under communications. The folks in Washington state have really spent a lot of time thinking about how we use this systems framework so we're all talking this language and then because doing that helps make the case for systems in a way that if everybody is talking a different language and everybody is trying to sell this in a different way, it doesn't do that. But it is also about communication in terms of helping families understand the system and use things like -- if you're going to do childcare rating systems, one of the crucial things is making sure that families know how to get that information and know how to use that information, for example.

Monitoring. Tracking program performance is very important and it says in there to track program performance and results based on standards but another issue there is also related to overall systems performance. Figuring out how to track that so that you can make the case that systems building is an important activity that deserves the investment of resources. Moving up clockwise provider practitioner support. If we develop standards we need to provide the support that providers and practitioners need to meet those standards. We need to be working very hard to get buy-in from providers and practitioners. In some cases they may resist changes that are beneficial for the overall system because they seem threatened and one way to make them allies instead of have

them oppose you is to make sure that part of the issue -- part of the way you do that is to provide them with support. The question of governance, which is critical to all this, what is the governance structure of an early childhood system. Lots of states are working on developing systems governance at the community level. Michigan, Oklahoma, Arizona to name a few are working very hard on that to figuring out what do you need at the community level to help distribute resources to help make the case for system and redesign systems. At the state level various decisions are constantly being made about what services fits best in the same agency and reorganization is a frequent occurrence. And that is part of systems building is figuring out what's important there, what is not important, what's counterproductive.

Going to the next one, standards. What does it mean for someone to be confident in early childhood mental health is one of the questions that folks need -- are dealing with and addressing as they do systems building. What are the standards for various professionals of cross sectors, because early childhood mental health isn't just something done by mental health specializing it needs to be something done by all people who work with young children in terms of social and emotional development and a number of states, Michigan most prominently are grappling with the issue are what are the issues of various individuals on cross sectors and how to create a system that addresses those standards. Then there are also other kinds of standards, early learning standards that are very critical and finally research and development. In doing this work, there is a need for time to reflect, review the data across systems and decide how to move forward and research and development is a big part of that. And moving forward to figuring out how to move forward is -- need to be based on data, information and research that is done both research coming from individual states and research coming from the national level.

Next slide. The other thing I mentioned in addition to the systems focus is the comprehensive systems plan and I know we have lots of guests so I wanted to talk a little about them particularly for that group. What are comprehensive systems plans and why are they important? Plans are a roadmap for moving toward a comprehensive system. It is important to note that the goal of these plans was not just to develop a plan for using ECCS funding which we all know is very -- if you were going to rely on that to create a comprehensive system alone it couldn't be done. The idea was to use the ECCS resources to help come up with a plan that moved across sectors, that crossed sectors, that looked at current resources and that rethought how these resources were being deployed and used and with the group working together coming up with a better way to move forward on building a better system for children and families. And that is what the plans are seen as. It's what the plans have always been seen as and I think it's important to recognize that as we move forward in partnerships.

Next slide. Once again mainly for the benefit of the partners I've listed the five key components or you might want to call them sectors that are included in state early childhood plans. Because they cover what I think are pretty much the full range of early childhood services across multiple sectors. There is an option to include others that people think of. Access to healthcare and medical homes is one, social/emotional development slash mental health is two of the early care and education services is three. Parenting education is four and family support is five. Comprehensive plans are supposed to look at all these sectors and look at how these sectors interact and cross each other because they very much do. These are not the just one single agency and it's important to think how they work together when you're doing systems work.

Next slide, please. Both the pre-work and meeting take a systems perspective which crosses sectors. With a particular focus on systems building activities related to family support and social and emotional development/early childhood mental health. Joe talked a little about last January's meeting which was very similar in the fact that it took a systems perspective but that one had a bit more of a focus on early care and education while this one, the focus, because of the partners were coming together to sponsor it because of the fact that it was seen as important is the focus on family support and social and emotional development and early childhood mental health. And there is a realization I think among all of us there is some tension between the idea of looking at systems and focusing on sectors and like this but systems building is a big task and sometimes it needs to be addressed in pieces. On some level it might be great if we could bring all the partners together at a national meeting. It would be an enormous meeting that would probably fill a huge stadium so it becomes a challenge so we work on things in pieces sometimes. While recognizing that this is really about systems.

Next slide. Going to talk and give a brief summary of the pre-work instructions. If you don't have a copy of these, you should certainly get in touch with me. It's possible that some of our team members haven't gotten their copies yet but we'll make sure that that happens as soon as we can. I'm going to just go through a brief summary of the pre-work instructions which are available in more detail in the document. The first thing is to identify at least two of the core elements of systems building that you want to focus on and discuss. I guess part of the -- the pre-work instructions I've already discussed bringing people together in a meeting or phone call. But then it's a matter of identifying two of the core elements of system building you want to focus on and discuss of the clearly we can't expect you to tackle all the core elements in pre-work. You can determine which ones you're heavily active in or ones giving you trouble. You may want to decide based on

ones you would like to provide input to the federal partners. The ultimate goal of this is to provide some food for thought for your work at the community/state level and the work taking place at the federal or national level. So once you identify those two, discuss current system building activities under the element and as I note the plan should be a big help here. The plans already do talk about activities in this area. There may be activities, there may be new partners at the table who will mention some activities that ECCS coordinators and other ECCS partners might not have been aware of and the team members together can discuss current system building activities. And then once those activities are discussed, discuss what needs to be done at the community, state and federal level for progress to be made or for continuing progress to be made.

Next slide, please. Ultimately this is all about making various systems work better together. One of the people who has been most influential in how a number of ECCS guarantees and those of us involved in ECCS think about systems is Charlie Brunner. He often talks about a system of systems. Most typically I've heard the discussion about this talked about how to make systems like the child welfare system and the health system work together at the state and community level. Those are critical and challenging issues. We can also think about systems from a different perspective. That is there are systems as various levels. You might want to say systems of systems of various level. The federal national system of systems. I put federal national because I think it includes not just government but foundations, researchers and advocates involved at the federal and national level. And there are also the state and the community system of systems so the various programs and agencies and actors at the state and community level. Within each box you have all those systems we talked about earlier. The child welfare system. The early care in education system. What this meeting is intended to move closer to the goal of having systems that learn from each other and work together for the good of children

and families. And that is the ultimate goal of the meeting and that's the ultimate goal of the federal partnership that is helping to sponsor the meeting. And I am done if we want to move towards questions.

>> Okay. Well, we have a few questions here and let's see, where should I start? I have a question for the team members invited, we're talking about the March meeting, who will be supported with additional funds to cover the cost to attend and who will need to cover their own costs to attend? I'll direct that question to Joe.

>> The way I answer that is that we know that a childcare representatives and the head start representatives will be supported through ECCS. The mechanism will be an administrative supplement for those additional funds that will be needed. The children's bureau and the substance abuse and mental health services administration will be supporting their own grantees coming in. That's basically my answer.

>> Okay.

>> I would just follow up on that and just to clarify for the sake of our federal partners. Some of the support -- some of the children's bureau grantees are coming as part of a required meeting and are funding that out of their own grant funds that the community based child abuse prevention grantees. And the SAMHSA folks, as Joe said, there are various sources of support coming to them through SAMHSA. You should have all received who are the state team members attending the early partnership meeting and how is their participation being supported? I don't know if you can actually see this, but document, I think it was called state team or something like that that I sent out yesterday on the ECCS listserv.

>> This is a question for Joe again, too. The caller or the person asks what do we mean when we refer to medical home? They don't-this person doesn't understand what a medical home is.

>> Well, the basic definition of a medical home is a consistent source of primary care over time in which a relationship is built between the patient and their -- the client, the child, the family and the provider of the services. As we're dealing with here within ECCS, we're also looking for screening for social/emotional/developmental deficiencies within the medical home for the purposes of referral for follow-up. And linkage with the services that would be needed for anything that required attention.

>> Thank you, Joe.

>> I would just add that the idea of a medical home is very much a community-linked healthcare practice that has ties to community organizations. But also if you're really interested in finding out a lot more about it, the AAP website which is [WWW.AAP.org](http://WWW.AAP.org) has lots and lots of details on it about it.

>> I've been asked by the speaker to go back to our slide on the content of the pre-work so that's why it's up on the screen now. For everyone to look at it one more time to make sure that you are clear on what the instructions are for -- it doesn't have anything about content here but it does say that the focus is on systems and not services, and that you should use your ECCS plan as a resource when undertaking this activity. For folks to remember that. The second thing, I have one other question here for Jill. This is a person

that is new as an ECCS coordinator and they want to know if the program has been -- have we gotten key federal input from that organization.

>> Not on the national level. I think some of the individual state grantees have been working with their EPSDT programs with their Medicaid programs at home. But we have not worked directly with the Medicaid agency here on the federal level.

>> I would add that Kay Johnson has done a lot of work with EPSDT and figuring out how to use it effectively within a systems framework and if you are interested in finding out more about that I'm sure Kay would be happy to talk about it.

>> Another question. We have not received the pre-work packet yet. How do we access one?

>> If you are an ECCS coordinator and you haven't received it, that's problematic and you should send me an email at -- it's on the first slide, I believe, which is Christopher.Botsko @ ALTARUM.org. And so if you're an ECCS coordinator you should have received it by virtue of participating on the listserv and you should all be participating there because essential program information is shared there. If you're another state team member, I believe we sent the information to the state team partners but they may not have sent it out yet via their various distributions list but we'll check with them and make sure it happens as soon as possible.

>> Okay, thank you. I think that's the last question that I have here. I would say that if you have additional questions, you can either contact Christopher Botsko or Joe Zogby or myself, at HRSA.gov. Please fill out your evaluations. This should be automatically

displayed at the end of the webcast and we'll look forward to seeing you in March. Thank you.