

# PRENATAL TO THREE

## PRITZKER CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE RECENT ACTIVITIES

JULY 2021



### EQUITY

#### Equity Guiding Principles

- The PN-3 Equity Work Group has finalized the Equity Guiding Principles and Toolkit for use across PN-3 efforts as we continually look to advance equity across the system. The document will be publicly released in mid July for broad dissemination.
- The PN-3 Equity Work Group met with the ECECD Equity Council Consultants in order to align and coordinate efforts across NM. The Consultants provided a presentation to the group, highlighting strategies to ensure authentic community engagement and representation from communities most directly impacted.

#### Family Leadership Council

- A statewide recruitment effort resulted in nearly 100 applicants for the statewide council. After reviewing the applications, a team of seven reviewers from the PN-3 Initiative finalized a group of 18 family leaders, selected for a broad diversity (across geography, race, multi-generational families, culture and language, lived experience, foster care, special needs, and other infant and toddler specific needs and experiences). The cohort launched in June 2021 and will continue through 2022.
- The Family Leadership Council will be meeting over the next eight months to co-develop a vision for family leadership and advocacy in the early childhood system. They will also hone their skills and learn how to use their own story for inspiring and amplifying family leadership in NM.

#### Racial Identity Development Curriculum with First Born & Birth Equity Collaborative

- The PN-3 Initiative supported the development of a Racial Identity Development Curriculum, drafted by First Born and edited and reviewed by the NM Birth Equity Collaborative. This curriculum addresses anti-racist parenting, racial identity development in babies and toddlers, and developmentally appropriate ways to talk about race.



### MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

#### CARA Plans of Care

- Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and the Department of Health (DOH) are hiring a social worker (external to DOH and CYFD) to support follow up services (to better understand if families have accepted their Plans of Care, how it's going for them, and whether they need additional resources for support).
- In 2021, there have been 383 calls to parents who have a Plan of Care initiated. Of 62 parents who completed a survey, 70% received a call from a care coordinator, and of that group, nearly 54% accepted care. The PN-3 Initiative is looking to see whether Plans of Care can be improved through the use of community-based outreach specialists (currently being utilized in Rio Arriba County).

#### 12 months postpartum Medicaid Coverage

- New Mexico is looking at the health coverage implications of the federal stimulus package, and how this can incentivize expansion of postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months. The PN-3 Initiative is seeking updates about the proposals in Human Services Department (HSD) to advance either a 6 month or 12 month coverage extension.

## **ROAMS Partnership in Northeast NM**

- The PN-3 Coalition is working with the ROAMS Health Resources and Services Administration Grant to co-fund key activities in Colfax, Union, Taos, Mora and Harding counties, see below on outreach and marketing for home visiting.
- The ROAMS network of counties will be working to scale up family navigation in Northern New Mexico and supporting connection to home visiting and other needed supports for postnatal care. They have been approved to be a Pathways Program, which utilizes Medicaid reimbursement for goals achieved.



## **HOME VISITING**

### **Home Visiting Medicaid Expansion**

- The PN-3 Initiative continues to work with consultant David Kulick, and Mayra Gutierrez and her staff at ECECD to develop plans for the state's expansion of Medicaid reimbursement. This has included three work groups focused on Centennial 2.0 Home Visiting expansion, alignment with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, and provider efficiencies.
- In reviews with ECECD, partners have identified an initial set of recommendations for expanding Medicaid reimbursement across more programs statewide. The PN-3 Initiative continues to support this effort and will facilitate or amplify the need for assistance and coaching for programs as they move toward Medicaid billing.

### **Marketing for Home Visiting**

- The PN-3 Initiative is partnering with the ROAMS project to develop a positive messaging campaign designed to increase home visiting services for families. Messaging developed in summer/fall 2021 will be used in campaigns on social media, radio, web, etc. The media assets will highlight the benefits of home visiting and direct families to a central information hub or resource.
- PN-3 Initiative is also working with ECECD to highlight Home Visiting program information on the ECECD website, in order to make it simple and accessible for families to connect with programs.

### **Rio Arriba Home Visiting Provider Coordination**

- Rio Arriba is a proof of concept county where the PN-3 Initiative is partnering with community organizations to use existing resources better through increased alignment. Programs are cross-referring, and are finalizing a common referral form to maximize all available slots for families.
- The LANL Foundation has hired a quarter-time navigator for the next three years for Rio Arriba County, to facilitate better connections to existing resources.
- Rio Arriba Home Visiting Providers are piloting an incentive program to increase recruitment, retention, and ongoing participation of families at key intervals in their child's development. Results from this pilot will be shared with ECECD and other partners.

### **Family Connects**

- Family Connects received recurring funding through the ECECD budget. Members of the PN-3 Coalition are supporting the planning and launch of Family Connects, meeting bi-weekly with key staff from DOH and ECECD. Family Connects will begin with an initial partnership with UNM Hospital, serving the Bernalillo County region.

### **Home Visiting Cost Study**

- Cost study will be undertaken from summer - winter 2021, exploring "what it costs to provide quality home visiting." With a shift in ECECD contracting, providers will have two quarters of payments to review and share insight and feedback about what drives quality.



## CHILD CARE

### Child Care Cost Study

- Through a joint effort with ECECD to engage in a new statewide cost study, New Mexico is now approved to use the alternative cost estimation model to set new child care subsidy rates paid to providers.
- The new rates will increase subsidy payments to providers in all settings. Increases will allow child care businesses to better support the true costs of providing high-quality education and care to New Mexico's children. New subsidies will help child care providers improve quality and enhance choices for parents and families seeking a full range of high-quality child care services.

### Home Based Care Support Networks

- Growing Up NM (as part of a separate grant with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation) and the PN-3 Initiative are working to develop, activate, and strengthen support networks for licensed and unlicensed HBCC providers, including undocumented providers, and identify policy improvements which will remove barriers and strengthen HBCC.
- Initial outreach was done through CACFP providers to survey and provide incentives (\$20/survey). Nearly 500 surveys have been completed to date. We are coordinating survey and focus group efforts with the Cradle to Career Policy Institute who are also conducting field surveys and interviews about child care providers.
- Partnership for Community Action (PCA), WESST and the PN-3 Initiative are partnering to launch a home-based child care business development cohort in English and Spanish that will work with up to 24 providers who want to start home-based child care businesses. Participants will get a stipend, as well as a start up bonus upon completion of the program. We are also piloting a micro-grant program to provide key equipment needs to home-based care providers.



## WORKFORCE

### Infant / Toddler Pathways Incentive Pilot with Central New Mexico Community College

- The PN-3 Coalition developed a pilot project to incentivize (\$1000 per student) and create a cohort in infant/toddler certificate courses in 2021.
- Partnership with CNM to support and energize infant/toddler teachers in larger mentor network. Amplifying CNM's messaging of Infant / Toddler professionals as 'Brain Builders.' CNM's 'Crianza' curriculum, which is focused on home-based child care businesses - PN-3 Coalition to recruit participants and form cohorts in 2021.
- The CNM Infant Family Studies incentive program cohort for Spring 2021 had 13 enrollees, who have all completed the first course in the Certificate Program, Relation and Reflective Practice/ Practicum.
- Of these, 12 enrollees indicated that the incentive was important in their decision to sign up for the course.
- CNM indicated that they had to increase the number of seats (from 28 to 36) in their Spring course to accommodate new student interest.
- We are working with CNM to consider a second cohort starting in the Fall semester.

### **Infant Mental Health (IMH) Endorsement**

- In partnership with New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health (NMAIMH), the PN-3 Initiative has provided scholarships for up to 150 Early Childhood Education and Care professionals to become endorsed in IMH. Collaboration with the Early Childhood Higher Education Task Force and other organizations to embed, or crosswalk, infant mental health competencies into existing early childhood coursework and training.
- A total of 48 professionals who were awarded scholarships have begun the IMH Endorsement process, with an additional 56 scholarships that were awarded, and will soon be registering.

