



## AASB Conference Early Childhood Strategic Plan Luncheon

November 8, 2019 – 12:15 to 1:25 p.m.

Anchorage Hilton Hotel – King Salmon/Iliamna Room – Anchorage, AK

### Meeting Summary

#### PARTICIPANTS

Charlene Arneson (Chugach School District), Camille Booth (Hydaburg City School District), Betsy Brenneman (AASB), Tim Doran (Fairbanks North Star Borough School District), Lori Grassgreen (AASB), Kimberly Hankins (Lower Kuskokwim School District), Mike Hanley (Chugach School District/Aleutian Region School District), Brian Holst (Juneau Board of Education), Starr Marsett (Anchorage School Board), Deena Mitchell (Anchorage School District), Bartol A. Mwarey (Hydaburg City School District), John O'Brien (Kenai Peninsula Borough School District), Ferdinand Sharp (Board Member Southwest Region School District), Dr. Lisa Skiles Parady (Alaska Council of School Administrators), Cathy Snider (Yupit School District), Penny Vadla (Board President Kenai Peninsula Borough School District), Lorri Van Diest (State Board of Education), Mary Wegner (Sitka School District), Bridget Weiss (Juneau School District)

Facilitation team: Denali Daniels, Britta Hamre, Erin Willahan

#### INTRODUCTIONS

Stakeholders from school boards across the state met for a working lunch during the annual AASB conference to discuss opportunities and visions for the early childhood strategic plan. Participants gave feedback on the draft one-page summary of the McDowell Group's needs assessment and AASB's Early Childhood Education (ECE) services spreadsheet.

#### NEEDS ASSESSMENT AT A GLANCE

The needs assessment one-page summary was provided to each participant upon arriving. Participants were asked to write down and share what stood out to them first with their tables, and then with the wider group. Concepts shared with the wider group were documented at the front of the room. AASB then provided a more in-depth introduction to the strategic planning process, one-pager, and ECE services spreadsheet.

<p><b>What stood out from the needs assessment one-pager and the key opportunities?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal Pre-K -&gt; reading at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade</li> <li>• Inter-relatedness</li> <li>• Where is the point of entry?</li> <li>• Quality- underestimated and undervalued</li> <li>• Great need for programs</li> <li>• Access in Rural AK</li> <li>• Childcare jobs are low-paying</li> </ul>
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# EARLY CHILDHOOD ALASKA

## STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITY: WHAT PRIORITIES DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN A STRATEGIC PLAN?

Participants wrote down, shared, and discussed as a group their priorities for a strategic plan for early childhood in Alaska. The group identified the following criteria:

<p><i>incentivize/pay for training/education for early educators</i></p> <p><i>language, culture, self-esteem</i></p> <p><i>quality strategic play-based strategies</i></p> <p><i>creating access for rural</i></p> <p><i>developmentally appropriate perspective</i></p> <p><i>early literacy PSA campaign (role of parents)</i></p> <p><i>kindergarten readiness</i></p> <p><i>quality: high use of language</i></p> <p><i>well-connected to K-12</i></p> <p><i>locally defined programs (strengths/culture)</i></p> <p><i>entrepreneurship development</i></p> <p><i>use partnerships to meet goals (gov, school district and private, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>universal pre-k! statewide</i></p>	<p><i>partnerships with schools, tribes</i></p> <p><i>qualified staff</i></p> <p><i>show economic value to human capital</i></p> <p><i>professional development</i></p> <p><i>accountability to standards</i></p> <p><i>connect with moms pre-birth</i></p> <p><i>"life skills" for HS/Jr. High students- future parents!</i></p> <p><i>standards</i></p> <p><i>plan to grow our own teachers and pay value</i></p> <p><i>equal access (availability)</i></p> <p><i>stable funding</i></p> <p><i>mental/behavioral Health in Communities (families)</i></p> <p><i>focus on quality preschool programs - professional development</i></p>
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# EARLY CHILDHOOD ALASKA

## **NORTH STAR 10-YEAR VISION: WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

Participants were asked to write down their ideas for a North Star 10-year vision for Early Childhood in Alaska on a chart at the front of the room. Participants contributed the following:

*Not simply an extension of school*

*Early Ed = K-12 = Postsecondary (Equally Important)*

*Quality*

*Access for all communities and families*

*Culturally infused*

*Affordable, quality pre-K childcare for all*

*Reduced ACES*

*Every child supported in developmentally appropriate way and childcare providers supported with prof. development and living wages*

*Close "word" gap*

*Ubiquitous*

*Developing a community of stakeholders: look to community members, partners, parents, students...others to help develop plan (give insight)*

*Increased private/community ECE options*

## **NEXT STEPS**

This work will be incorporated into the strategic planning framework currently in development. Stakeholder engagement is beginning with coordination of potential meetings in Bethel, Kodiak, Nome and Kotzebue. AASB members shared their email addresses when they registered for the luncheon and were encouraged to watch for email communications about future planning activities.