



Child Development Services

- Legislative Update
- Positive Developments
- Continuing Challenges
- Opportunities for Collaboration
- Q & A

CDS-Related Legislation

LD 1635: Resolve, To Improve Access to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services for Children from Birth to 8 Years of Age

Passed

LD 512: Resolve, To Authorize the Legislature To Contract for an Independent Review To Evaluate and Plan for the Implementation of Maine's Early Childhood Special Education Services

Passed

LD 632: An Act To Promote Free, Appropriate Public Education

Did Not Pass

LD 1715: An Act to Reorganize the Provision of Services for Children with Disabilities from Birth to 5 Years of Age

Carried Over

Anticipated CDS-Related Legislation

Aside from LD 1715 being carried over, none (thankfully).

Regional Stakeholder Groups

- ▶ Convening of 7 Regional Stakeholder Groups to discuss district readiness, current and needed capacity, and to gain additional detail about identified concerns:
 - ▶ Child Find, Transition, and Children Served
 - ▶ Program Models, Facilities, and LRE
 - ▶ Personnel
 - ▶ Funding

Positive Developments at CDS

- ▶ New Collective Bargaining Agreement finalized and implemented on July 1, 2019
 - ▶ Increased compensation competitive with public schools
 - ▶ Move to State of Maine health insurance
 - ▶ 150% increase in continuing education funds per employee

Realized and Anticipated Impact of New CBA

- ▶ Hiring of 29 new staff in the first quarter of FY20
- ▶ Compensation and benefits offer a choice rather than a necessity to leave CDS employment or decline a CDS position
- ▶ Increased retention will allow the skill sets of staff to be continually refined over time rather than the perpetual training of new staff
- ▶ Increased accountability of staff

Increase in State Appropriation

- ▶ Initially, an \$18.5 million increase was included in the biennial State budget
- ▶ Reduced to approximately \$15 million
- ▶ Represents a 20% increase in funding - the first increase since the CDS budget was cut significantly almost 10 years ago

Realized and Anticipated Impact of the Increase in State Appropriation

- ▶ Allowed CDS to honor the ratified CBA
- ▶ 30 additional budgeted positions and increases in hours to part-time positions in FY20, with additional positions included in the supplemental State budget request
- ▶ Enabled CDS to cover the cost of increased MaineCare rates
- ▶ Empowers CDS to move to a proactive, rather than reactive stance

CDS Fiscal Belt-Tightening

- ▶ Revision of reimbursement structure and rates resulted in equity across providers and savings to some budget lines (i.e. a decrease of >\$900k, from FY18, in commercial transportation costs)
- ▶ An increase of more than 25%, over FY18, in 3rd party revenue

Anticipated impact: Reduced reliance on MDOE and Legislature for additional funding

Increased Collaboration/Contracting with SAUs

- ▶ Currently, 38 SAUs contract with CDS to provide services to identified children, ages 3 to 5
 - ▶ Compared to 30 in FY19 and 13 in FY16
 - ▶ Services range from access to adult support to related services to evaluations to operating classrooms
 - ▶ Support may be to identified children currently in the SAU's 4-year-old program or may include services to children outside of the SAU's catchment area

Pilot Projects

- ▶ A regional service center providing itinerant speech services, operating a special education classroom, and potentially providing transportation
- ▶ A 3-way collaboration between the SAU, Head Start, and CDS
- ▶ An SAU operating a self-contained program for preschool-age children with challenging behaviors
- ▶ Co-housing of a CDS Case Manager to facilitate coordination of services for referred/identified children in the SAU's 4-year-old program

Continued Challenges

- ▶ Statewide shortage of qualified personnel
- ▶ Statewide shortage of settings - both general and special education
- ▶ Increase in minimum teacher salary to \$40k after the CBA was finalized
- ▶ Anticipated unmet needs in the latter half of the school year
- ▶ Excessive size of some regional CDS catchment areas

Continued Challenges

- ▶ Regionally-specific dysfunction in CDS sites' relationship with SAUs and other community stakeholders
- ▶ Chapter 676 (FAPE for 5-Year-Olds)
- ▶ Referrals of children enrolled in public pre-k programs within the first week of school
- ▶ Children enrolled in public pre-k programs being 'invited not to return' or being referred to CDS and prevented from returning until an IEP is in place

Opportunities for Collaboration

- ▶ SAUs providing services to identified children currently enrolled in public 4-year-old programs
- ▶ SAUs providing services in co-housed Head Start programs
- ▶ SAUs providing evaluations on behalf of CDS (psychological, educational, speech, motor)
- ▶ SAUs providing itinerant services on behalf of CDS
- ▶ SAUs providing transportation services on behalf of CDS
- ▶ SAUs establishing special education classrooms for identified children in district's catchment area

CDS is open to any creative proposals for collaboration!

Questions?

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