

Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration
GSQ Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes - 9/14/23
9:00-10:30

In Attendance: Andrea Foster, Sarah Henry, Heidi Hammell, Megan Phillips, Cammie Switzer, Joan Izen, Hillary Pincoske, Suelaine Poling, Lisa Ranfos, Marianne Barter, Dee Dee Thurber, Jackie Firmin, Annie Censullo, Chris Casserly, Christina D'Allesandro, Liz Scruton, Jamie Nadeau, Heidi Karajcic

Introductions of Megan and Cammie from BHII - fiscal agent & external evaluator for GSQ via GSQ Capacity Building Contract

GSQ Updates

- 117 programs awarded GSQ
- \$217,200 quarterly incentives
- Reports are coming in as to how centers are spending that money
- 98 kits of materials and toys to centers through Kodo Kids

FROM CHAT:

- How many GSQ sites are Head Starts?
- can you share the GSQ numbers electronically?

Advisory Committee Landing page

- still in draft stage - not yet live
 - Child Care Aware holding access to New Hampshire Connections website but it's moving to Children's Trust for a revision
- GSQ Advisory Page will hold agendas and notes and the Charter for the committee
- Currently only the Bureau contact listed
 - What are the feelings about the committee members names and contact information being available on the page
 - Some members concerned about mixed messaging depending on who they contact

BHII:

- GSQ system process evaluation: structured focus groups with providers
 - Successes - failures - challenges - what can we learn from this information
 - Child Care Aware is offering to help connect BHII to programs
- Validation Study plan: does GSQ do the things we think it is doing? - does it improve child outcomes? – this will be designed but cannot be assessed until GSQ has been out for about 5 years

FROM CHAT:

- please let me know how we can reach individuals through the regional system. NHCT can help connect any of this work BHII looking at you here too! As we convene the ECE Regional Leads to help connect all the work. This communication should be unlimited really in terms of recruiting voices

- the Alliance also has a great relationship with the coalitions and regions

Endorsements:

- Currently 1 endorsement through GSQ
 - Family Endorsement - 4 programs have this endorsement
 - Can get endorsement without being awarded a GSQ Step
 - There is no incentive tied to the endorsement at this time
- The GSQ Capacity Contract requires that 4 more endorsements get built out. 6 options were written into the contract (Developmental Screening, Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care - Go NAPSACC, Formative Assessment, Curriculum, Business Practices, & Environmental Health)
 - Committee will vote on 4 at October meeting.
 - This does not mean that GSQ can't focus on other endorsements beyond the ones listed, but the listed ones need to be built out first.

FROM CHAT:

Endorsement Conversation

Developmental Screening and Curriculum

should this question go to the B-8 for feedback as well

- as a parent you would want a healthy environment for your child
 - would an environmental health badge tell a parent that? Or something that talks about lead screening time outside or nature based curriculum? Environmental health just says "safe" to me
- parents will need evidence
- I believe these endorsements can be built out in a way that has the focus on what would benefit the families and children - to go deeper - not surface level
- would any of these endorsements allow for other sectors/state depts to help with funding incentives (lead safe, green badges, etc)?
- these feel a little random. Why NAPSAC and not CACFP? I'd also like to see something about family friendly/safe space for nontraditional families/ equity, etc.
- some of these things are covered in NAEYC accreditation
- would like to see them more built out to help determine which 4

What about looking from a parent standpoint: will any of these endorsements actually have meaning for the parents?

- A source of pride of the programs to be able to advertise this to families and community to help strengthen their programs

How do we appreciate the uniqueness of all the programs? What is the evidence we are looking for? What evidence will we require and how will that help our families and as a practice.

- It's an engagement and a belief in the system. Not one and done. It is an ongoing practice to put quality first
- These endorsements are how a program can communicate their strengths and unique qualities

Initial thoughts - making sure that OST would be able to obtain these endorsements. Building out a second pathway for OST - Maybe an SEL pathway

Communication to parents from the programs as they achieve endorsements.

- The Bureau is engaged in contracted work toward a Robust marketing a messaging plan - how all things GSQ are marketed to families
- \$100,000 for incentivising programs and building out the endorsements
 - Will this mean giving programs a token something to give their families?
 - A GSQ Endorsement cling for their window as marketing tool
 - Monetary incentives

What are you hearing in the field and what are your experiences:

- mini conferences

- Taking training to different parts of the state
- Director gets to choose which mini conference they have brought to them
 - giving them a chance to hear what are directors are looking for in PD
- They've done 11 trainings since June
- The most popular training chosen was adult SEL

- They are still seeing directors overwhelmed with short staffing and having to consider closing classrooms
- Whatever we put out has to be simplistic since programs are already feeling stressed
- Back to basics to help support them.
- They can't really worry about GSQ Quality when they are worried about whether they have a teacher for a classroom.
- help the field in the way they need help

- As there is more national news about the relevance of QIS - what can we learn from states that have already been doing this work? Everyone wants good quality - but the steps to enter GSQ may not be inclusive or relevant to all programs

- See providers that are happy about incentives for work they are already doing.
- They like being recognized for their hard work.
- But also seeing centers who feel like their families don't care anything about the GSQ. They just want their children taken care of.
- Hoping that the marketing work will help families to recognize the importance of the quality of GSQ

- Working with programs that are Pyramid Model.
- Feedback is overwhelmingly positive.
- Collecting testimonials from programs.
- Programs saying they came into this work feeling like they were already a quality program but working through PM has heightened their awareness about what quality means and committing to this work and seeing the impact of staff retention dn the reduction of suspension and expulsion.

- Parent rep perspective: People are struggling to get back to work because they can't find openings in centers. Do I put my child in a care facility that maybe doesn't fulfill my standards of quality simply because it has an opening?
- How do we help those programs come aboard?
- How do we meet them where they are at to get into this system in a way that makes sense to them?
- What kind of support can we give them?
 - Sending people in to actually help them.
 - Help with paperwork, marketing, understanding the process
- Centers appreciate CCAoNH physically going to their programs to do the training.
 - While they are there they are able to answer questions and provide support in many ways
- How do we get people engaged?
 - They need to feel that the work they have already done is being recognized.