

# Smart Thinking Report Out Tool



## Strategic Priority

Analyze and use data to understand issues, determine actions, make decisions, and strengthen shared accountability to improve school readiness

**“Data is care! It’s the way of improving care of our children.”**

## Actions

**List the action being worked on:**

- Use multiple data sources beyond KRA to understand children’s kindergarten experiences?
- Develop a more comprehensive data archive that incorporates all public and private services available for children and families and keeps track of young children’s and families’ experiences.
- Advocate for the unique identifier for 0-5.

**What work has been done:**

- Work on child care parent permission language for data sharing
- Develop a pilot study on incorporating child care (e.g., South Baltimore, Cherry Hill)
- Explore efficient ways of incorporating child care

**What else is needed to move this action further or complete it:**

- Discussion with MSDE
- How can we improve parent-reported prior care information?
- See meeting notes below for action steps

**Any new actions as a result of working on this action:**

- Collaboration with Open Heart: It might be helpful to “campaign” so that parents know the specifics of their prior care choice during kindergarten enrollment
- Discussion with MSDE: EC version MLDS

**Any items ECAC needs to vote on?**

**If so we need background info included**

N/A

### Performance Measures (Targets)

With the work being done on this action does it move us closer to our performance measures?

Are the additional performance measures / targets that we need?

N/A

### Smart Thinking Meeting – 3/1/2023

**“Data is care! It’s the way of improving care of our children.”**

Participants: Lieny Jeon, Briana Bostic, Cynthia Skinner, Faith Miller, Hilary Roberts-King, Garima Bhatt Handley, Gena O’Keefe, Josh Michael, Margo Candelaria, Xiangyu Zhao (Olivia), Yiling Zhu, Yolanda Jenkins

- Welcome & Introduction
- Review of the ECAC retreat action items (see the notes below)
- Review of parent consent language:
  - From Chantal: “I was working on gathering sample language regarding data sharing for private childcare facilities. I’ve been down a rabbit hole and I think we need to decide what we want to do with the data to determine which type of language we need. Using de-identified data to track demographics, community needs, etc. would definitely be easier to include in a blanket statement. As far as using PII for research purposes, the language I found or was given seemed to be based on the research subject of IRB overview. We may run into issues with using data that tracks children across various educational institutions and levels, particularly for parents who intend to transition from private childcare to private schools.”
    - It may be useful to figure out how to keep the information de-identified, which might be a challenge otherwise; it could be helpful to identify children by their prior care setting
- Plan for a pilot study

- o We could potentially focus on one specific geographic region (Cherry); is it feasible? What does the support for the data look like?
  - If providers use ELA it could be a tool to gather and understand the data
    - o Action 1: Providers don't have the legal language for enrollment; parents should know that data could be shared. Chantal provides an example of the language for providers to use for enrollment.
      - <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/03/despite-efforts-census-undercount-of-young-children-persist.html>  
Here is the language from USDA for the food program when asking for demographic information "Self-identifying demographic information is being requested here solely for the purpose of determining the State's compliance with Federal civil rights laws, and your response may be protected by the Privacy Act. By providing this information, you will assist us in assuring that this Program is administered in a nondiscriminatory manner."
      - There is prior care info in the kindergarten enrollment process, but there are discrepancies between Baltimore City and parent-reported data
        - It might be helpful to "campaign" so that parents know the specifics of their prior care choice during kindergarten enrollment
          - o The purpose of identifying information is to understand children's school readiness before they enter city schools.
          - o The Family Resource Specialists from BCCRC will be hosting an information session on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm-1:30pm on the Maryland Child Care Scholarship. The flyer is attached and shared in the email (Gena & Lieny)
          - o Hilary: This press conference was held at our DBCC Homewood ELC center <https://www.wypr.org/wypr-news/2022-09-28/child-care-centers-say-late-state-payments-hurt-business-hold-back-children>
          - o **SMT Group Action Item:** This is the Open Heart group, charged with family engagement, presenting the idea to collaborate with Open Heart to ensure that parents can get the information
- For licensed providers, if there was a drop-down menu for the name of the provider, then there wouldn't be an error
- What's the specific ask for city schools to change?
- Casey has a contract to do a plain language review, without city schools having to pay so that the enrollment form is simplified and less overwhelming for parents

- o Action 2: KRA reliability. It's only available in English. There are differences in where it is happening and who is administering the data.
  - BEREC is working on the annual KRA report for this year.
- Student identifier
  - o Getting support from the State level first->state legislation conversation; at least Early Childhood Scholarship Program "voucher number for each child"; MLDS person is at UMD (Margot and Lieny)
  - o If other states are doing the identifier, how do they frame it for families? Kentucky
  - o Birth identifiers for infants and toddlers, Health Department and Vital Statistics use SSN
  - o Families will have a voucher number for each child
    - <https://www.wypr.org/wypr-news/2022-09-28/child-care-centers-say-late-state-payments-hurt-business-hold-back-children>
- Universal Registration System
  - o Link to the current enrollment form (p.9):  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GMlIDbUyMdH543IHop8JvTUAsmq7CeAD/view>
- Next steps
  - o Margot and Lieny will follow up with Crystal about the Universal Enrollment.
  - o Margot and Lieny will talk to the MLDS person at UMD (identifier).
  - o In the next ECAC meeting, SMT group action item: collaborating with Open Heart to ensure that parents can get the information
  - o Lieny sent out the WHEN2MEET to find another time for the group meeting:
    - Please indicate your general availability during the first week of each month here by 3/15:  
<https://www.when2meet.com/?19017973-Zoj5k>
    - We are meeting bi-monthly so the next meeting will be in May.