

Connecticut Appropriations Committee RBA Template Part II, Program/Agency/System Accountability

Program/Agency/System:

Early Childhood Investment System/Early Childhood Cabinet

Quality of Life Result:

All children healthy and ready for school success at entry to K

Program/Agency/System Purpose:

Expand the use of collaborative management, data-based planning and accountability, public reporting and public engagement to achieve the Cabinet's quality of life result.

2007 System Performance Measures: UPDATE Feb 06 to Feb 08

Measure	Status
1. RBA agency and program expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Year 1: 3 agencies, one program each (preschool-related) o Year 2: 9 agencies, 24 programs across agencies (B-5) o Year 3: 9 agencies, 25 programs across agencies (B-5). Also, we have added population, system and initial program measures for Goal II. In addition, we developed two new Cabinet systems frameworks - - B-3 and K-3 – which employed an RBA framework)
2. Communities with formal B-5 plans or public reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No Year 1 measure o Year 2: Formal Plans – 3 communities; Public Reports – 5 communities; Plans/reports in progress – 6 communities o Year 3: Formal Plans – 3 communities; 18 month-grants/TA for 27 community strategic planning
3. Cross-agency MOUs related to data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No Year 1 measure o No Year 2 measure. Proxy: Identification of 6 agencies involved in data discussions re data extraction and analysis o Year 3: MOU established between the Cabinet and the CT Charts-A-Course to administer the Early Childhood Data Registry. Additional cross-agency MOUs will flow from that. In addition, the OWC/DSS/DMHAS work with Public Consulting Group (Boston) documents cross-agency agreements and significant data challenges.
4. Percent of young children with unique health and education identifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No Year 1 measure o No Year 2 measure o Year 3: 100% of Entering Kindergartners have unique education identifier (???); SDE to provide data on percent of preschoolers in SRP with unique identifiers assigned as of December 30, 2007

<p>5. Number/percent of MOUs for cross-agency case management, service coordination, and quality improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No Year 1 measure o No Year 2 measure o DCF is currently developing an agreement to assure young children on its caseload access to Head Start programs. In addition, there is a coordination agreement between the Birth to Three Program and SDE related to preschool special education. o The Cabinet is about to adopt operating by-laws which will immeasurably assist our ability to complete this analysis in SFY 08-09 and to recommend changes. o The Cabinet's proposed B – 3 Systems Framework (First Words, First Steps) includes recommendations related to these kinds of service agreements and improvements. o As part of the QRIS planning process, a Quality Improvement Resource Notebook is being assembled to capture agreements across agencies related to preschool quality initiatives. The QRIS planning effort launches with a public forum on February 7th. A completed plan is expected to be adopted by the Cabinet in October 2008 and submitted to the CGA in December 2008.
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2007 Turn the Curve Strategies over the next two years: Update for Feb 07 to Feb 08

Strategy	RBA 07 Text	2008 Status (year one of two)
<p>1. MOU Research</p>	<p>Cabinet to undertake a survey of state agencies serving vulnerable young children & their families to identify: (a) existing case mgt MOUs, (b) other areas for formal cross-agency program & practice agreements</p>	<p>2008 Status: This work will begin in the 4th quarter of SFY 08 with a report included as part of the Cabinet's Accountability Plan, due to the CT General Assembly in December 2008.</p>
<p>2. Systems Accountability Improvements</p>	<p>Implement vastly improved data processes and methods to allow for regular, public accountability and results documentation; Include a systemic "forms review" in this process.</p>	<p>2008 Status: By March 2008, the Cabinet's Standing Committee on Accountability will launch a Data Matters Working Group with technical assistance from the Public Consulting Group of Boston. The Cabinet's December 2008 Accountability Plan will include recommendations and action steps.</p>
<p>3. Cohort ownership</p>	<p>Cabinet will identify and track the development of at least one specific cohort of children served across Cabinet agencies, to identify methods of</p>	<p>2008 Status: A Goal One working group is currently exploring two strategies to accomplish this: (a) tracking all low-birth weights babies in CT (approximately 3,000 per year) and (b) tracking all vulnerable babies born in one or two communities.</p>

	improving service and outcomes	<p>The Council has let a contract to NIEER to design the legislatively-mandated PreK-3rd grade longitudinal study. The design proposal is expected by March 2008.</p> <p>A draft proposal to establish the early childhood research network, through the Council, is nearing completion. An interagency agreement is expected by the end of SFY 08. An update on this work will be included within the Cabinet's December 2008 Accountability Plan.</p>
4. RBA Resource Analysis and Recommendations	Cabinet will review all state and federal fiscal resources included in last two years of RBA (population and program) and identify funds that can be relocated or reallocated for maximum efficiency and effectiveness	2008 Status. Work will begin with the fiscal scan for I/T once final priorities have been set. Council will be asked to assist with this.
5. Goal II RBA Implementation	Utilize RBA for Goal 2 (K-3). Identify additional state agency programs serving children B-9 and add to Year 3 RBA	2008 Status. The Cabinet will adopt a K-3 Systems Framework in February 2008. This work utilizes an RBA framework for population, system and program measures. The Cabinet's 2008 RBA package does include K-3 programs for the first time
6. Data Infrastructure Partnership, B-21	With Youth Vision Team and Youth Futures Committee, host cross-agency data forum in summer 2007 to educate exec & leg branch on data interoperability projects, explore cross agency data development, and solicit agency support	<p>2008 Status. The Cabinet participated with the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in a youth-focused Data Interoperability Initiative, staffing by Public Consulting Group of Boston, MA.</p> <p>The final report of that work was presented on January 17, 2008 and will be posted to the Cabinet website.</p> <p>A meeting of Commissioners has been scheduled for late January to discuss next steps.</p> <p>By mid-February 2008, the Cabinet will have completed a scope of work with Public Consulting Group (under a DAS blanket contract) to guide its cross-agency data development and interoperability work.</p> <p>Recommendations for improved data sharing agreements will be included in the December 2008 Accountability Plan.</p>
7. Plan for and manage expansion funding	Cabinet will, with assistance from the Research and Policy Council, implement expansion funds in biennial budget	<p>2008 Status: The Investment Plan recommended additional funds of \$6.9 million in SFY 08 and \$9.0 in SFY 09 for system quality and accountability investments.</p> <p>The 2007 CT General Assembly included \$3.0 million for SFY 08 and \$2.5 million for SFY 09. In addition to these funds,</p>

		<p>SFY 08 Cabinet funding for systems building at the state and local level included \$1.4 million in new and carry-forward funds.</p> <p>The Cabinet allocated the SFY 08 systems quality, management and accountability funds in July 07. Staff were hired in August and in December. Status of budget awards (completed over 4 months by Cabinet staff) follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o PreK Facilities Plan and TA: \$275,000 (MOU done) o ECE Workforce Plan: \$50,000 (MOU done) o RBA TA and Accountability Plan: \$100,000 (contract awarded) o Research Network: \$300,000 (in process) o Local Planning Grants \$525,000 (contracts awarded) o Data Interoperability Work: \$200,000 (in process) o ECE Data Registry: \$100,000 (MOU done) o Quality Rating & Improvement Plan: \$175,000 (in process) o ECERS and Quality Improvement Funds to local Preschool Programs: \$900,000 (MOU done) o Community Preschool Quality: \$400,000 (not done) o Council staffing (complete in Jan 08) o Strategic communications (done) <p>Much of this work has been awarded through first-time multi-year contracts and MOUs. Because of lengthy state approval and contracting processes, a number of these will not begin until January 2008.</p> <p>The Cabinet will request the opportunity to carry forward unexpended funds into SFY 09.</p>
<p>8. Biannual Cabinet/Council Reports</p>	<p>Report twice annually on progress to (a) develop Assessment and Accountability Plan and (b) Quality Rating System</p>	<p>2008 Status: In January 2008, the Council engaged the CT Economic Resource Center to prepare a series of three progress reports, the first of which will be disseminated in February 2008.</p> <p>In addition, the Cabinet/Council website will be redesigned and re-launched in March 2008, and a formal Strategic Communications Plan completed by June 2008.</p>
<p>9. Expanded Cabinet membership</p>	<p>Cabinet membership should be expanded to include 5 agencies and 2 parent groups</p>	<p>2008 Status: Co-Chair of the Cabinet testified at a Select Committee on Children in the spring of 2007 indicating the benefits of adding key agencies and parental representation. This was included in a bill. The bill did not pass out of the Education Committee.</p>