COST OF QUALITY EARLY LEARNING THINK TANK

May 16-17, 2018

Embassy Suites Rosemont O'Hare Hotel 5500 North River Road

Rosemont, IL

Goals of the Meeting:
- ➢ Take stock of what we know about collecting and using cost data to inform policy.
- ➢ Increase shared understanding and principles of addressing costs in evidence-based policy.
- ➢ Identify the capacities, research and tools needed in the next 1-3 years to increase adequate and stable funding for high quality early care and education.

DAY 1| May 16, 2018

2:00   **Introductions and Review of the Agenda**
             GG Weisenfeld and Tracy Jost

2:30   **Purpose and Context of the Meeting**
             Lori Connors-Tadros and Theresa Hawley

3:00   **Anchoring our Discussion in Reality: Kentucky and Chicago**

             Kentucky: Cory Curl, Carlena Sheeran, Margaret Hulbert
             Chicago: Samantha Aigner-Treworgy and Kate Ritter
             Moderator: Theresa Hawley

             Group Discussion:
             - ✓ *How do the purpose, goals and intended uses of cost data drive the process?*
             - ✓ *What are the most effective approaches to gathering accurate data and developing buy-in?*
             - ✓ *What are the "early returns" from cost modeling processes for policy/systems development?*

4:45   **Review of day 1 and Key Take-Aways**
             GG Weisenfeld and Tracy Jost

5:00   **Day 1 Concludes, Dinner on Your Own**

8:30   **Opening and Setting the Stage for Day 2**

Welcome, Maria Whelan, President/CEO & Theresa Hawley, Illinois Action for Children

8:50   ***What Do We Know*** **about collecting cost data that reflects true costs of quality given the realities of early learning systems at the state and local level?**

Moderator: GG Weisenfeld
Facilitated Discussion: George Rickus, 3SI; Garrison Kurtz, WA; Simon Workman, CAP; Teresa Waite, OR

Group Discussion:
✓ *Are there core principles of collecting and using cost data to inform policy?*
✓ *What are the "true" costs of quality, how do we get this data?*
✓ *How can cost studies more accurately reflect the realities of early learning systems at the state and local level?*

10:30   **Networking Break**

11:00   ***What Gets In The Way*** **of adequate and stable funding at the state and local level?**

Moderator: Lori Connors-Tadros
Facilitated Discussion: Steve Barnett and Lynn Karoly

Group Discussion:
✓ *How can we increase the use of valid cost data in evidence-based policy?*
✓ *How does a state that wants to efficiently fund quality programs do the best job of making the right choices?*
✓ *What gets in the way of allocating resources to programs to support sustainable and stable funding?*

12:15   **Networking Lunch in the Atrium**

1:00   ***What Is Needed*** **to communicate and influence funding decisions to support access to high quality early learning programs?**

Moderator: Tracy Jost
State Sparks: Lisa Backer, MN, Dana Hepper, OR Children's Institute
Advocacy Spark: Albert Wat

Group Discussion:
- ✓ *Do cost studies lead to policy changes or are they purely an academic exercise?*
- ✓ *What information do policy makers need to make informed decisions, and what information do we need for advocacy? Do we confuse these two needs?*
- ✓ *How can we best leverage the communication materials created to advance individual state and national advocacy?*

2:30   Break

2:45   *What's Next* to drive policy and funding decisions on financing for high quality early learning programs?

Moderators: Lori Connors-Tadros and Theresa Hawley

Group Discussion:
- ✓ *What are the **Top 5** "shared understandings and principles" of addressing costs in evidence-based policy?*
- ✓ *What are the **Top 5** capacities, research and tools needed in the next 1-3 years to increase adequate and stable funding for high quality early care and education?*

3:45   Concluding Thoughts and Next Steps

4:00   Meeting Adjourns

Thank you for attending and contributing to a great meeting!