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
DAY 2 | May 17, 2018

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!