Strategizing for Infants & Toddlers in Michigan

Alliance for Early Success Partner Summit

October 15, 2014
SETTING THE STAGE

- Foundation for early childhood investment laid over decades
- Gov. Snyder prioritizes early childhood
  - Office of Great Start established in 2011
  - GSRP expansion
- Birth to three always under discussion among advocates
- Michigan’s RTT-ELC grant has birth-to-three focus
- MIECHV grants
GSRP STRATEGY

- Research on unmet need, capacity, and policy options
- HighScope evaluation shows long-term benefits
- 120 business leaders sign call to action
- Gov. Snyder and Sen. Kahn come out early in support
- Coordinated strategy: governor’s office, OGS, traditional advocates, business leaders, legislative champions
- Focus on GSRP and GSRP alone
- Success: $130 million expansion over two years

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ON TO BIRTH TO THREE

- Research on unmet need, evidence-based practices, cost of expansion
- Four areas: home visiting, medical homes for young children, high quality child care, early preschool
- Tension between system/capacity building and individual evidence-based programs
- System building through RTT-ELC and other means
- Beginning of deliberations among governor’s office, OGS, advocates, business leaders on options
- Messaging research with advocates, business leaders, service providers, parents, legislators (how do we talk about birth to three?)
COMPLICATIONS, ALWAYS

- In Michigan, OGS doesn’t administer home visiting, medical home efforts
- FY16 budget may have shortfall
- May need to protect GSRP expansion
- Our legislative champions will be gone (term limits)
- Good alternatives to general fund/school aid fund: social impact bonds, MIECHV, and child care tax credits
SO...

- Birth to three a much harder sell (nanny state)
- May take a multi-year strategy
- Stay tuned!