



MEETING TWO KEY TAKEAWAYS June, 2020

Introductions: Members agree that child care/early childhood education (ECE) is an essential workforce and economic development engine.

Priorities and Charge: The Task Force will develop recommendations for each of 4 stakeholder groups who have a stake in and can influence child care reform in VA: business/employers, government, philanthropy, communities. Meeting Two focused on the priorities and **potential for employers/business to influence and impact the development of a more resilient and equitable child care system for Virginia: 1) Influencing/advocating for congressional and state level decision-making and 2) Assertively advancing public-private partnership to address immediate child care supply and demand problems** that build toward a more durable and equitable future state.

Problems to Solve: 1) Employers seek immediate opportunities to build their employees' demand for and confidence in child care options so that they can return to work. 2) Working parents continue to struggle with a) lack of access to open/available and affordable child care, b) fears about returning their children to care, especially in larger groups, regarding exposure to the virus, both exacerbated by closure of schools, reduced options for summer camps, etc., and the disincentive of pandemic unemployment insurance coverage. 3) Inertia and complexity have slowed action and shared agreement across stakeholder groups to create the structures and financing mechanisms needed for this public good. **Virginia should address these immediate employment needs and pain points with strategies that advance collaboration/shared accountability for the reform/change agenda needed for a re-imagined future state.**

Three Horizons: While the Task Force will necessarily explore issues in the current (pandemic) era, we will focus on future state in terms of identifying solutions for a reformed system for child care. **We don't want to lose the immediate opportunity of heightened interest/concern about child care (especially for employers and the workforce) for successful workplace and economic recovery.**

Outcomes from Meeting Two: 1) The members heard from Senator Tim Kaine about a potential additional federal relief package for child care and shared with him their perspectives and opinions about child care needs in Virginia. Senator Kaine urged the task force to continue to communicate with him regarding this issue. 2) The memos, speakers, recommendations, and discussion led to a) a charge to develop a pilot model for partnership among employers, the state, an intermediary/broker, and a ready vendor to create a staffed network for family child care providers with whom employers could contract for slots/services for their employees, and the state could provide quality assurance supports; b) a suggestion to develop additional resources for employers to consider strategies supporting the child care needs of their labor force (facilitate information and accessing expertise for on-site/near-site care strategies; resource and referral tools/relationships; c) the need to identify a "broker" or intermediary/advocacy structure to speak for/represent the child care industry and support quality assurance and business practices across it.

What else do we need to know? The next meeting will engage government as a key constituency. Members expressed interest in engaging key VA and administration officials responsible for early childhood/child care programs and policies, workforce and economic development in the discussion, especially leveraging the recommendations and potential strategies articulated in BPC's memo toward both recovery and renaissance of child care systems. Interim activity with informants, influencers, government officials, and experts will generate insights for task force deliberation in late July.

Adjourn: With the composition and purpose of the Task Force, Virginia is positioned to see significant, impactful results both in the near term and for the future.