

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

October 23, 2023, 11-12:30, Rm 155, City Hall

Present Members: Kameron Perez-Verdia (Assembly), Kevin Cross (Assembly), Anna Brawley (Assembly), Jennifer Veneklasen (Assembly staff), Carl Jacobs (ASD – School Board), Trevor Storrs (Alaska Children’s Trust), Jen Griffis (Alaska Children’s Trust), Kim Rash (Anchorage Health Department), Dawn Skeete (Anchorage Health Department), Melinda Myers (thread), Eric Croft (volunteer; campaign team)

Absent Members: Katrina Ahlfield (Kids’ Corps., Inc.), Ivy Spohnholz (volunteer; campaign team)

Members Not Yet Seated: parent members; provider members; member from JBER; member from business community

Staff: Austin Quinn-Davidson

Guests: No guests

Notes:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. IT Roles and Composition/Timeline
 - a. T Storrs provided overview of Prop 14: its origin (idea by Eric Croft); initial partners (Children’s Funding Project); next steps (formed small team, including Ivy Spohnholz). Worked with Assembly and brought forward to the public for a vote in 2023. Raised \$350,000 to support campaign. All municipal marijuana tax (5% currently) is now dedicated to child care and early education. Tax held at 5% until at least 2028. Tax cannot go above 10% (lowered from 12%). Can use 10% of tax revenue for administration so AHD isn’t burdened by another program with no funds to administer. Important to build trust and transparency with the public and intend to use staff to organize many engagement and listening sessions, in all different forms. Staff will also explore best practices and trends in the sector and produce a white paper. The public is very interested and we’ve had lots of interest! There have been no decisions yet on how to use the funds; that’s what we’re here to do. Funds can be used for capital costs, operations, workforce, etc. We will be exploring matching funds and leveraging where we can. Next major steps are engagement, white paper research and discussion, Assembly ordinance implementing the Accountability Board, drafting of a three-year strategic plan, and seating the Accountability Board.
 - b. Discussion re: parent and provider member applications. Please spread the word!
 - c. Discussion around providers being members of the IT, vs. merely an advisory group. Pros are having the experts at the table, shaping the fund. Cons are possible conflicts if they also eventually apply for funds. All members are essentially sitting in an advisory capacity, since the

budget and Board seats have to be determined by Mayor and full Assembly vote. Group decides all members will sign a conflicts form – if conflicts arise, raise them. The group agrees the benefits of having providers at the table outweigh the complications and identifying conflicts takes care of concerns.

- d. Discussion around having a business representative on the IT: would make sense, given the workforce challenges in the sector and impact to employers. T Storrs and A Quinn-Davidson will invite a business member.

III. Public Nature of Meetings and Notes

- a. IT members agree these meetings should be public and notes should be displayed on our website.

IV. Leadership of IT

- a. Will discuss co-chairs concept at the next meeting, once all members are seated. Would be nice to have one co-chair from this existing group of folks (some discussion around that being an Assembly member or someone from ACT), and one either a parent or provider.

V. Group reviews the new website and the draft communications plan, which will be completed once we discuss channels for each member. Staff will then build a communications calendar. She circulate draft plan for specific feedback.

- a. Suggestion that we add “events” to the “meetings and presentations” category.

VI. Discussion on who we need to ensure to engage

- a. Northlink aviation study discussed.
- b. Staff will redistribute the AAIEYC presentation notes to the IT; last page has a list of entities we need to talk with (just to start; want to many more and currently soliciting feedback).
- c. Make sure to engage with Alaska Resource Families, an organization that works with foster children.
- d. Staff will share white paper with Assembly, once we have it. Perhaps we hold an Assembly (joint w ASD?) work session at that point. Staff will reach out to all Assembly members in the meantime to share status of our work and next steps (as well as share provider and parent application). Full Assembly had requested an Assembly Resolution on ACCEEF status and next steps. J Veneklasen can draft, with A Quinn-Davidson’s support. Also could give a monthly update to Rules committee. One of co-chairs can generally give update.

VII. Discussion around different approaches to spending funds (deep vs. wide impact). Might be useful in strategic plan to categorize different types of funds.

VIII. White paper

- a. A Quinn-Davidson obtain notes from Alaska Humanities Forum recent child care convening. Also can ask United Way to get applications out to potential parent members.
- b. Important to understand not only what other jurisdictions are doing, but how they fund those actions.

IX. Governor’s Task Force on Child Care

- a. A Quinn-Davidson summarizes discussions and work so far
- b. J Griffis regularly attends Governor’s Task Force. Will provide updates to this group going forward. A Quinn-Davidson also attends regularly and can be backup for J Griffis.

X. Future meetings

- a. In person/Teams hybrid.
- b. Perhaps early afternoon is best for providers?
- c. Next meeting: November 28th from 2-4pm

- d. A Quinn-Davidson commits to meeting with new IT members added later to go over background and catch them up before next meeting