

## **IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**

November 28, 2023, 2-4pm, Rm 155, City Hall

Present Members: Kameron Perez-Verdia (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); Katrina Ahlfield (Kids’ Corps., Inc.), Jade Hayden (Hmoob Cultural Center of Alaska), Branwen Collier (Early Learning for Everyone), Ethan Petticrew (Cook Inlet Native Head Start), Nora Matell (parent), Jessica Simonsen (parent), Ellie Ishaya (parent), Heather Weafer (Child and Youth Programs, U.S. Air Force), Kathleen McArdle (Anchorage Chamber)

Absent Members: Ivy Spohnholz (volunteer; campaign team), Kevin Cross (Assembly), Kirsten Scott (Little Sprouts Child Care)

Staff: Austin Quinn-Davidson

Guests: Two members of the public

### Notes:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. The IT welcomed its newest members: Ethan, Branwen, Jade, Nora, Jessica, and Ellie. All present members and staff introduced themselves.
- II. Overview of Prop 14 & ACCEE Fund
  - a. T. Storrs provided an overview including Prop 14’s origin (idea by E. Croft), initial partners, and next steps. 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. Important to build trust and transparency with the public and intend to use staff to organize many engagement and listening sessions. Staff will also explore best practices and trends in the sector and produce a white paper. 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 first budget, and seating the Accountability Board.
- III. Finalize Agenda
  - a. Nothing additional added to agenda
- IV. Select IT Co-Chairs
  - a. Members engaged in a discussion around the purpose of the co-chairs (primarily running the meetings, but some pre-work, whether meetings or reviewing drafts agendas, etc. may occur).

- b. K. McArdle moved to make T. Storrs and J. Simonsen co-chairs. K. Perez-Verdia seconded. Members voted unanimously for T. Storrs and J. Simonsen as co-chairs.
- V. Update on Governor's Task Force
  - a. J. Griffis provided an update on work done so far. J. Griffis, A. Quinn-Davidson, and H. Weafer described the relationship of this work to ours and answered questions about the Task Force.
- VI. Engagement Plan and Schedule
  - a. Engagement events
    - i. A. Quinn-Davidson presented a draft engagement schedule. Members engaged in a discussion around the importance of engaging the public, including community members who might be difficult to reach based on language or other barriers. Members recommended the events be fun for kids to draw in families and that we make efforts to reach unlicensed providers, churches, and residents in specific geographic areas. Members discussed piggybacking on other community events, in addition to the specific events suggested by staff, to maximize engagement in our community. Multiple members suggested attendance at specific events and committed to following up with staff with dates and additional details. A. Brawley suggested members might volunteer to attend an event, as staff wouldn't be able to do them all. Staff is working to secure space, child care, food, and take care of other details for the events described.
    - ii. Staff is working on a survey that will be included in all communications regarding the events, so if folks cannot participate in person or via Zoom for the Zoom events, they can still complete the survey so their feedback is captured. There will be prizes for submitting the survey to encourage participation.
  - b. Possible panels
    - i. Staff suggested possible panels we could host at IT meetings. Members were particularly interested in the following issues/panels: workforce, including gaps and other technical information as well as a discussion of the career pipeline/track for this sector; hearing from the City of Juneau about their program.
- VII. Communications
  - a. Staff reviewed upcoming communications and outreach she did to individual IT members. She hopes to have more communications coming soon in the form of newsletters, social media posts, website blurbs, etc. Staff can assist with reviewing communications and members have the Communications Plan as a guide.
  - b. Members discussed our use of the terms "child care" versus "early education." These terms can be confusing and sometimes mean different things to different people. Members agreed that when we discuss "child care" in this group, we mean all forms of child care and early education, including traditional child care during the typical work day, before school care, after school care, pre-k, summer care, early education programs, etc.
- VIII. White paper
  - a. Staff reviewed ongoing research she has done, including:
    - i. Meetings with experts and those in the sector, including Commissioner Hedberg and policy expert Leah VanKirk, providers, consultants working on substantive reports on child care topics, such as Agnew::Beck, school-aged providers and representatives, and parents
    - ii. Research into what other jurisdictions are doing, whether in Alaska (Juneau) or outside of Alaska (KY, TN, WA, NM, etc.)

- b. Staff raised potential ideas for inclusion in the upcoming white paper (expected to be discussed at the next IT meeting), including:
  - i. Setting aside funds for capital expenses, including renovations
  - ii. Using funds to support technical assistance for businesses who want to establish on-site or adjacent child care
  - iii. Funding wage increases for providers
  - iv. Funding the cost of providers' kids care, thus drawing in more child care employees, resulting in more overall care being available to the community
  - v. Incentivizing retention through support of programs like ROOTS (Retaining Our Outstanding Teachers)
  - vi. Funding training for providers
  - vii. Partnering with organizations that could provide mental health supports to children and providers
  - viii. Evaluating the Muni licensing program and exploring possible improvements, if needed
  - ix. Exploring a health care co-operative model so that providers could more easily provide benefits to their employees
  - x. Exploring a substitute pool for providers, including in-home providers
  - xi. Exploring a mobile child care unit and drop-in child care services

IX. Conflicts Form

- a. Brief discussion around the purpose of the form. All IT members are advisory; ultimate funding decisions will be made by the Mayor and Assembly, based on recommendations by the Board.
- b. Members signed and delivered forms to staff. Staff will collect signed forms from members not physically present.

X. Future Meetings

- a. In person/Teams hybrid option will be available for each meeting
- b. All meetings will be held from 2:30-4:30pm in Rm. 155 at City Hall, unless it's not available, in which case the meetings will be held at the Anchorage Health Department. Staff will send out calendar invites for all meetings.
- c. Meeting dates selected through June 2024: January 16<sup>th</sup>, February 15<sup>th</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, and June 18<sup>th</sup>

XI. Public participation

- a. K. Rash moves to ensure we post notes from every meeting on the ACCEE Fund website, and invite members of the public to join the meetings in person as well. K. McArdle seconds. Members unanimously support.