

**State Policy Action Team Meeting  
Moving an Infant-Toddler Policy Agenda  
Maison Dupuy Hotel  
May 20 – 22, 2014**

**May 20**

5:00 pm Registration – *Toulouse*

5:30 pm *Welcome, Overview of Meeting, and Introduction of National Resource People – Toulouse*  
Facilitator: Jamie Colvard

5:45 pm *Introduction of Team and Overview of Strengths, Challenges, and Opportunities – Toulouse*  
Each state team leader introduces team members and gives an overview of their state's top 3 strengths, challenges, and opportunities in moving an infant-toddler policy agenda.

Facilitator: Jamie Colvard

Team Leaders:

- Georgia – Mindy Binderman, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students
- Louisiana – Ivy Starns, Louisiana Department of Education
- Michigan – Marijata Daniel-Echols, Early Childhood Investment Corporation
- Rhode Island, Leanne Barrett, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
- Wisconsin – Lana Nenide, Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health

6:30 pm *Messaging Focus Group – Toulouse*  
If the cover of Time Magazine was focused on the need to invest in infants and toddlers, what would the headline be? Messaging developed by a marketing firm for ZERO TO THREE will be shared, and discussion will continue over dinner.

Facilitator: Barbara Gebhard, ZERO TO THREE

7:00 pm *Dinner and Networking – Le Meritage*

## May 21

8:00 am Breakfast – *Toulouse*

9:00 am Large Group Session

*Developing an Infant-Toddler Policy Agenda – Toulouse*

Unless states have an intentional focus on infants and toddlers, the needs of the youngest children may not be met. This session will highlight various processes and tools useful to states as they develop a manageable list of policy priorities. It will also discuss strategies for embedding infant-toddler priorities in broader early childhood initiatives and the importance of evaluating progress in moving policy priorities. Examples of policy agendas developed by states will be shared.

Stage-setters:

- Barbara Gebhard, ZERO TO THREE
- Carey McCann, Ounce of Prevention

Respondent:

- Scarlett Boudier, Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC

10:30 am State Team Time

11:00 am Concurrent Sessions

*Establishing Infant-Toddler Initiatives that Cross Services and Systems – Toulouse*

Infant-toddler services often operate in silos with little connection. Implementing initiatives that work across systems to serve young children in multiple settings and situations can improve the reach and quality of services. This session will highlight states that have implemented cross-system initiatives in centralized intake and early childhood mental health consultation. Presenters will discuss approaches and tools they used that could inform other cross-system work.

Facilitator: Barbara Gebhard, ZERO TO THREE

Stage-setters:

- Charley Zeanah, Tulane University
- Sunday Gustin, New Jersey Department of Children and Families

*Engaging and Supporting Families – Renoir*

What is effective family engagement and how can state policies and systems support it? This interactive session will explore these questions and delve into how early childhood programs can serve as a gateway to two-generation approaches that support young children and their parents together. Participants will discuss the key components of family engagement strategies and a framework for successful two-generation approaches and brainstorm what is needed at the system-level to support the work.

Stage-setters:

- Sherri Killins, Build Initiative (will also serve as facilitator)
- Jennifer Stedron, The Aspen Institute

12:30 pm Lunch and State Team Time – *Le Meritage*

2:00 pm Concurrent Sessions

*Meeting the Needs of Young Children and Families in the Child Welfare System – Toulouse*

Rapid development during the first years of life makes very young children extremely vulnerable to the negative and long-lasting impacts of maltreatment and toxic stress. Early connection to appropriate services for children and their parents is essential. This session will explore how to embed a developmental approach into child welfare services for infants, toddlers, and their families. A national overview of states' policies and practices will be shared, and states with innovative policies and practices will discuss what they are doing and how they implemented the changes.

Stage-setters:

- Jamie Colvard, ZERO TO THREE (will also serve as facilitator)
- Leanne Barrett, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
- Christin Harper, Arkansas Department of Human Services

*Implementing Strengths-Based Initiatives to Achieve Equity – Renoir*

Research shows that many racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes, school achievement, and well-being are rooted in early childhood. Eliminating disparities requires an intentional focus on identifying and addressing the factors that perpetuate them. It also requires recognition of the strengths of families and communities so that services are designed to build on them. This session will highlight states that have made progress in achieving equity. It will also explore strategies for using data to understand where disparities exist and how policy and practice reform can improve them.

Facilitator: Maria Mayoral, ZERO TO THREE

Stage-setters:

- Laura Johns, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
- Dan Torres, Thrive By Five Washington

3:30 pm Break

3:45 pm State Team Time

5:00 pm Adjourn

6:00 pm Dinner and networking – *Court of Two Sisters Restaurant, 613 Rue Royal, New Orleans, LA 70130*

**May 22**

8:00 am Breakfast – *Toulouse*

8:30 am Large Group Session

*Effectively Communicating Your Infant-Toddler Policy Agenda – Toulouse*

Policymakers and the public often do not understand the needs of infants and toddlers. Educating them and building support for investments in our youngest children is essential to create a system that effectively supports families. This session will explore successful strategies for communicating and cultivating support for your state’s infant-toddler policy agenda. Stage-setters will share some of their communication challenges and successes in the infant-toddler space and then facilitate a brainstorming discussion with the group.

Facilitator: Steffanie Clothier, Alliance for Early Success

Stage-setters:

- Scarlett Boudier, Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC
- Scott Wilson, Urban Child Institute (Memphis, Tennessee)

10:00 am Break

10:15 am Concurrent Sessions

*Leveraging Funding Sources to Support Infant-Toddler Services – Toulouse*

In order to pay for the range of services needed by vulnerable infants, toddlers, and their families, state policymakers and service administrators have to coordinate and leverage existing funding sources and identify new ones. This session will explore ways states are using different financing mechanisms for infants and toddlers, including blending and braiding of funding streams and creation of tax credits as a new source of funding.

Facilitator: Margie Wallen, Ounce of Prevention

Stage Setters:

- Melanie Bronfin, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families
- Kristine Campagna, Rhode Island Department of Health

*Infusing Infant-Toddler Components into the Professional Development System – Renoir*

A coordinated, cross-sector professional development system is vital to building a strong infant-toddler workforce. This session will explore how to infuse strong infant-toddler components into all aspects of state professional development systems. Stage-setters will engage attendees in discussion about taking a cross-discipline approach to professional development and tackling the problem of low compensation for infant-toddler professionals.

Facilitator: Gail Nourse, Ounce of Prevention

Stage-setters:

- Dave Edie, Wisconsin Council on Children & Families
- Jamie Colvard, ZERO TO THREE

11:45 am State Team Time

12:45 pm Lunch and Continued State Team Time – *Le Meritage*

1:15 pm *Reports from State Teams on Action Plans – Toulouse*

2:00 pm Adjourn