

Next Steps Discussion

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The *Next Steps* session gave participants an opportunity to reflect on their connection to this work, to discuss NAFFNCC's strengths as a group, and to clarify future goals.

Participants identified various issues and discussed the many different systems that we need to engage in future conversations about family, friend and neighbor care. Participants discussed a variety of strategies, including:

- Identifying ways to approach policy makers and practitioners in different systems.
 - Create a long-term goal to raise awareness in Congress.
 - Build a coalition of people who can do political work and strategize about public policy. How can we get on the federal policy agenda and inform representatives about the role that family, friend and neighbor care plays in systems, outside of early education, such as health, for example?
 - Capitalize on baby boomer strengths as a political force.
 - Point out that children grow up in families: “We can’t put all of school readiness on center-based child care; it is a shared responsibility.”
 - Connect family, friend and neighbor care issues with immigration issues.
 - Create natural allies
- Clarifying our language and message: How are we purposeful about infusing this topic into discussions?
 - Understand what we are advocating.
 - Frame issues and be clear about definitions
 - Frame the message in a historical context and perspective: Before center-based child care, there was family, friend and neighbor care. It is pervasive and always has been.
 - Create a working group on language.
 - Create well-defined talking points.
- Getting on the agendas within different systems.
 - Collaborate and present at pertinent conferences.
 - Create a matrix of conferences & communication- who is speaking, who is attending?
 - Seek out meeting opportunities.
 - Cross populate each other’s websites.
- Identifying the primary locations that family, friend and neighbor care is naturally occurring? How can we affirm and support these communities?
 - E.g. Georgia has one of the fastest growing Latino populations
 - In thinking about supporting these communities and caregivers, we need to define support and training.

Participants discussed future visions for NAFFNCC and next year's meeting, including:

- Using five categories as work groups: research, policy, practice, system building, messaging/public will
 - If we are interested in another meeting, are there subgroups that want to discuss particular topics?
 - Suggestion to include a visit to one or several programs at the meeting.

- Posting curriculum on NAFFNCC website

- In terms of Research,
 - Create a research synthesis.
 - Create an Oral History Project (A unique research design to help people connect to the issue).
 - Figure out when and how we begin to look at child outcomes.
 - Identify funders and their interest in this issue.
 - Be more creative about what viable outcomes look like. Should they include parent outcomes? Community outcomes?

- In terms of Practice,
 - Create a promising practices network and aim to generate evidence about effective approaches.
 - Identify models that work.
 - Consider Hawaii's new standards for Family Interaction Programs..