



Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Program Evaluation

Baseline Partner Report: Collaboration Analysis
for Miami Children's Initiative

2017

Chiles Center for Healthy Women, Infants, & Families
College of Public Health
University of South Florida

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Introduction

The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Impact Project, implemented by the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc. in 2016 with funding from the federal Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA), seeks to improve the developmental health of infants and young children in two Florida communities using the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) approach. An evaluation team at the University of South Florida Chiles Center located within the College of Public Health conducts an independent evaluation of the Florida ECCS Impact project.

The strategy used by the ECCS Impact project aims to improve early childhood comprehensive systems within Florida by fostering collaboration and coordination in two place-based community initiatives, the Miami Children's Initiative (MCI) in the Liberty City neighborhood and Jacksonville's New Town Success Zone in the New Town neighborhood. Thus, the evaluation assesses implementation, processes, and community networks at state and community levels. The community partner evaluation describes linkages between family support programs or services and the extent of those relationships.

Purpose

This baseline report documents the preliminary findings of the Liberty City ECCS community partner network analysis of MCI's early childhood and family support agencies. The analysis assessed the network structure, levels of collaboration, and partner perceptions of potential outcomes of the Liberty City ECCS Impact project. The community team structure, organization, and systems building evaluation component seeks to understand:

How are coordination and partnerships among organizations in Liberty City occurring?

- a. How well do the partners represent all sectors of the system, as well as the diversity of the region?
- b. To what extent do network size, density, interagency trust, contribution, and collaboration evolve throughout the ECCS project?
- c. What strategies work best to facilitate the ECCS project?

This report sets forth a foundation of Liberty City's ECCS development, growth, and progress in creating a collaborative, integrated network of community partners critical to meeting its goals of improving developmental screening and referral, promoting child development, and supporting family well-being. Throughout the ECCS initiative, the evaluation team will collect and analyze data to disseminate findings as they relate to the research questions above.

Methods

The quantitative measurement of collaboration among agencies, organizations, and groups was completed by the evaluation team using the Program to Analyze, Record, and Track Networks to Enhance Relationships (PARTNER) Tool (<http://www.partnertool.net/>). The PARTNER Tool, developed by the Center on Network Science at the University of Colorado Denver, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, collects data by administering an online survey to the identified stakeholders. This social analysis software is designed to measure the collaboration process by linking connectedness, trust level, and resource exchange among agencies. To fit the needs of the Liberty City ECCS evaluation, the evaluation team altered the survey with feedback from the Liberty City ECCS project lead. Following the revisions, the finalized survey was then sent to the identified list of Liberty City stakeholders through the PARTNER Tool software. The analysis was conducted using PARTNER Tool and SPSS 24.

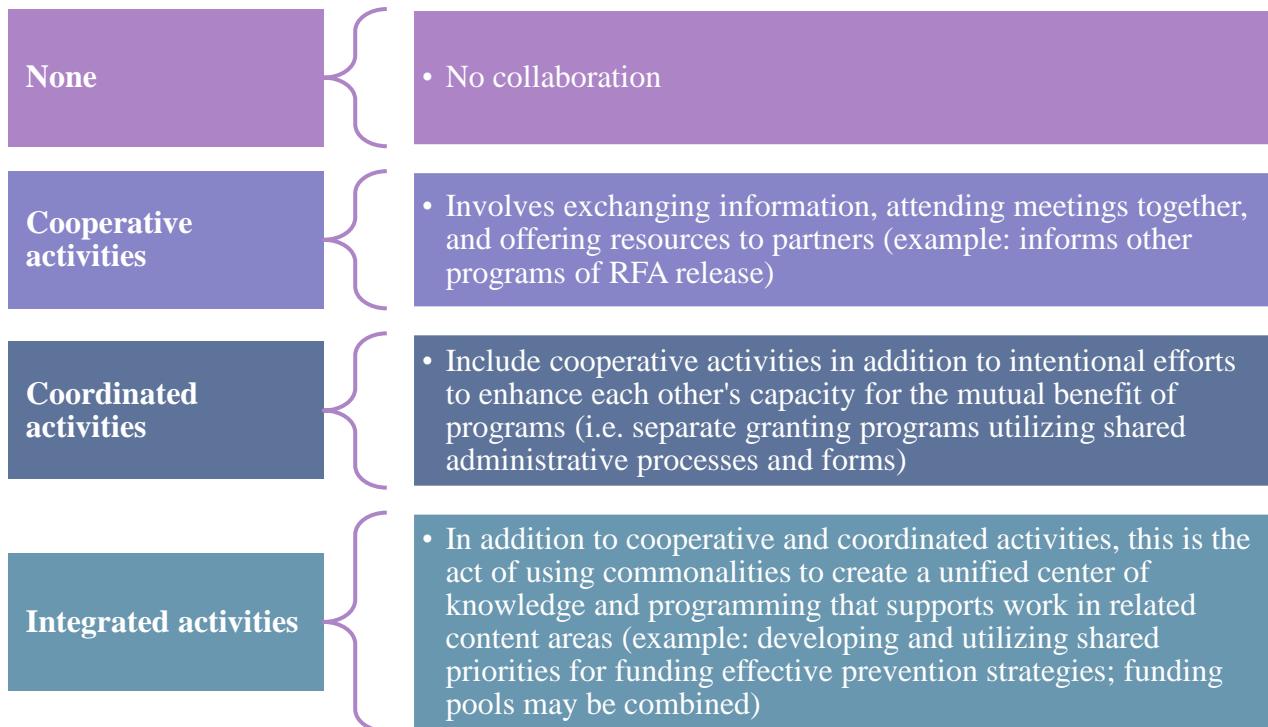
Results

Participants

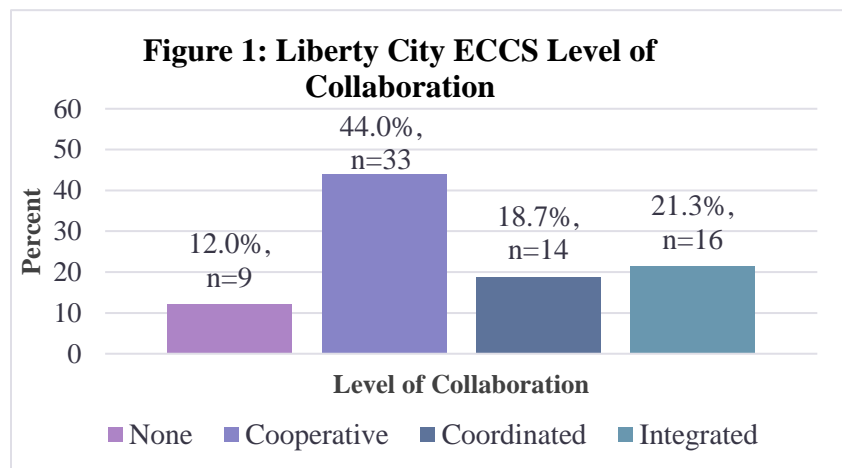
The Liberty City ECCS project lead identified 18 community stakeholders to participate in the PARTNER survey. This report depicts the responses of 15/18 survey respondents (83.3%).

Level of Collaboration

Level of collaboration measures the types of partnerships among network members towards reaching the goals of ECCS. By indicating, “*What kinds of activities does your relationship with this organization/ program entail?*”, the PARTNER Tool identified each agency’s level of collaboration with other community partners, including:



As shown in Figure 1, the Liberty City ECCS community partners most commonly identified their level of collaboration with one another (among all 72 possible interactions) as “cooperative” or “integrated”. Levels of collaboration will be tracked over time as partners work more closely together through the ECCS initiative.



Liberty City's ECCS Network

Community Networks

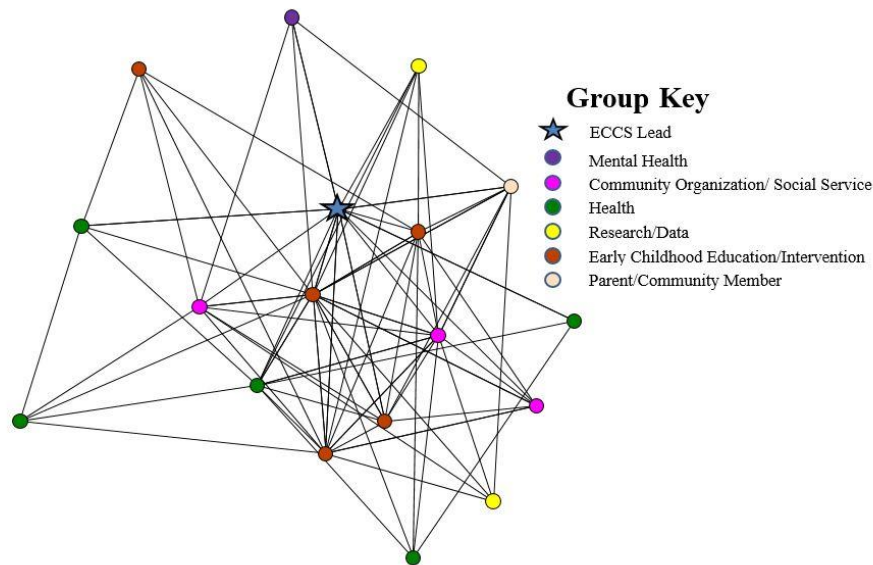
Network maps are also included in the analysis to illustrate collaboration within a community. Based upon information provided from the completed surveys, the network map (Figure 2) visually represents the connections among community partners in Liberty City, Florida. The fifteen stakeholders who participated in the survey are represented as colored dots in the network, depending on their agency's service sector, including:

- Mental Health (Purple)
- Community Organization/Social Service (Pink)
- Health (Green)
- Research/Data (Yellow)
- Early Childhood Education/Intervention (Brown)
- Parent/Community Members (Cream)

The line between two dots signifies a connection or a relationship between two agencies, and each agency can have more than one connection (up to the number of community partners). Density and trust scores are also described in the community network. The density score represents the number of connections in relation to the total number of possible connections within the state leadership network. In order to achieve a density score of 100%, all community partners must have a connection with each agency. A trust score measures the level of trust among state partners. The results of the network map, including the density and trust score, are presented below.

Figure 2: Liberty City ECCS Community Network Map

Density: 46.4%, Trust: 76.8%



Aspects of Collaboration

To understand the perceptions of the progress and success of the Liberty City ECCS Impact Project to date, stakeholders could also select aspects of collaboration that they believe contribute to their success. Among the 15 stakeholders who completed the survey, *exchanging information/knowledge* (16.4%, n=11), *bringing together diverse stakeholders* (13.4%, n=9), *sharing resources* (13.4%, n=9), *informal*

relationships created (13.4%, n=9), and *meeting regularly* (13.4%, n=9) were reported as the top five most important aspects of community collaboration contributing to the Liberty City ECCS Impact project's progress (Table 1).

Table 1: Aspects of collaboration that contribute to Liberty City ECCS's success:*

Aspects of Collaboration	(n = 15)
Exchanging information/knowledge	16.40% (11)
Bringing together diverse stakeholders	13.40% (9)
Sharing resources	13.40% (9)
Informal relationships created	13.40% (9)
Meeting regularly	13.40% (9)
Having a shared mission/goals	11.90% (8)
Collective decision-making	11.90% (8)
Formal relationships, MOUs	6.00% (4)

*Participants could choose all that apply

Potential Outcomes of ECCS

The potential and most important outcomes of the Liberty City ECCS Impact project were assessed through two survey questions. As with the aspects of collaboration, stakeholders were able to choose all of the potential outcomes that they believe are possible as a result of these community-level efforts. Respondents were also asked to choose which they believed should be the most important potential outcome of the initiative.

Improved services for children and families in high-need communities (8.8%, n=14), *improved school readiness* (8.1%, n=13), *reduction of health disparities* (6.3%, n=10), *increased coordination and referrals for other community resources* (6.3%, n=10), and *community support for the health and well-being of children and their families* (6.3%, n=10) were reported as the top five **potential** outcomes of Liberty City ECCS's efforts (Table 2). As shown in Table 3, eight of the community partners reported *improving services for children and families in high-need communities* (57.1%, n=8) as the top **most important** potential outcome of the project. *Improving services for children and families in high-need communities* is consistent with the most selected potential outcome of the project.

Table 2: Potential Outcomes of the Liberty City ECCS Impact Project:*

Potential Outcome	(n = 15)
Improved services for children and families in high-need communities	8.80% (14)
Improved school readiness	8.10% (13)
Reduction of health disparities	6.30% (10)
Increased coordination and referrals for other community resources	6.30% (10)
Community support for the health and well-being of children and their families	6.30% (10)
Increased knowledge sharing	5.60% (9)
Improved communication among agencies and organizations interested in the health and well-being of children and their families	5.60% (9)
Support, expertise in using Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)	5.60% (9)
Development of local systems for coordinated intake and referral	5.60% (9)
Innovation in service delivery	5.00% (8)
Support, leadership in Collective Impact	5.00% (8)
Public awareness of issues related to the health and well-being of children and families	5.00% (8)
Health education services, health literacy, educational resources	5.00% (8)
Improved resource sharing	4.40% (7)

Experience, expertise in implementing evidence-based interventions	4.40% (7)
Resources for professional development	4.40% (7)
Expertise in using data to drive service delivery	2.50% (4)
New sources of data	2.50% (4)
Access to federal resources	2.50% (4)
Policy, law, and/ or regulation	1.30% (2)

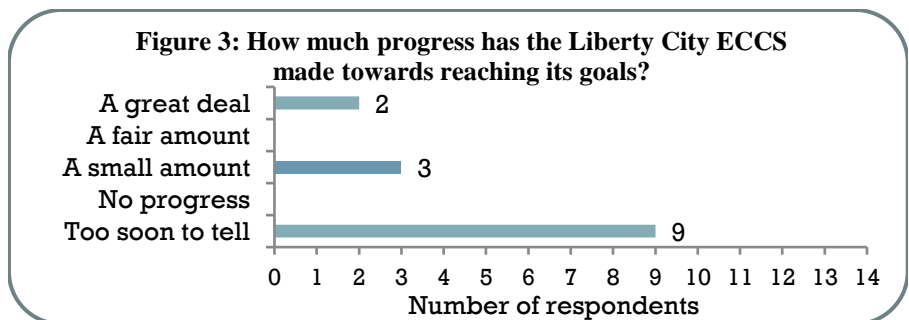
* Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose all that apply.

Table 3: Most Important Potential Outcome of the Liberty City ECCS Impact Project:*

Most Important Potential Outcome	(n = 14)
Improved services for children and families in high-need communities	57.10% (8)
Reduction of health disparities	14.30% (2)
Improved communication among agencies and organizations interested in the health and well-being of children and their families	7.10% (1)
Community support for the health and well-being of children and families	7.10% (1)
Improved school readiness	7.10% (1)
Increased coordination and referrals for other community resources	7.10% (1)
Experience, expertise in implementing evidence-based interventions	0.00% (0)
Support, leadership in Collective Impact	0.00% (0)
Policy, law, and/ or regulation	0.00% (0)
Public awareness of issues related to the health and well-being of children and families	0.00% (0)
Health education services, health literacy, educational resources	0.00% (0)
Support, expertise in using Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)	0.00% (0)
Resources for professional development	0.00% (0)
Development of local systems for coordinated intake and referral	0.00% (0)
Access to federal resources	0.00% (0)
Innovation in service delivery	0.00% (0)
Expertise in using data to drive service delivery	0.00% (0)
Improved resource sharing	0.00% (0)
Increased knowledge sharing	0.00% (0)
New sources of data	0.00% (0)

*Participants could only choose one answer option; missing a response from survey participant

At baseline, nine stakeholders believed that it is too soon to tell if progress has been made towards reaching the goals of Liberty City ECCS. Three stakeholders thought that a small amount while two great amount of progress has been made (Figure 3).



Discussion

This report reflects the preliminary analysis of the Liberty City ECCS network at baseline. With partners from a number of service sectors - including social services, health, early childhood education and early intervention, mental health, and parents/community members - the initial network of partners reflect diverse engagement. These stakeholders, along with new community partners engaged throughout the initiative, will be asked to complete the PARTNER survey periodically through the five-year grant.

Network maps display the frequency of interactions among these stakeholders. Network size and density (current score 46.4%) may fluctuate as the leadership group undertakes system development using both

the CoIIN and Collective Impact Framework approach. As the implementation of the ECCS initiative is in its first year, it is expected that most stakeholders would report cooperative partnerships, with the potential for greater integration of services among some partners as the initiative progresses. There is a fairly high level of trust (76.8%) among this initial group of stakeholders; *Exchanging information and knowledge, bringing together diverse stakeholders, sharing resources, informal relationships created, and meeting regularly* are aspects of collaboration that partners feel most contribute to the progress of ECCS achieving its goals.

The stakeholders' top five potential outcomes include: *improved services for children and families in high-need communities, improved school readiness, reduction of health disparities, increased coordination and referrals for other community resources, and community support for the health and well-being of children and their families*, with the **most important** reported potential outcome of the ECCS Impact Project being *improved services for children and families in high-need communities*. Similarly, there was stakeholder agreement that this was also the most important **potential** outcome of the initiative. Therefore, the team had an agreement towards working on strengthening systems to improve services for children and families. At baseline, nine stakeholders believed that it is too soon to tell if progress has been made towards reaching the goals of Liberty City ECCS while five stakeholders thought that a small to great amount of progress has been made.

Next Steps

The network analysis of Liberty City partnerships contribute to an understanding of the community's structure, organization, and current system through the lens of multiple stakeholders. It aims to document their efforts and ultimately, positive impacts in Liberty City. The next step for the evaluation team is to gather qualitative data through continued in-depth interviews and focus groups to further understand the collaboration activities of the child development and well-being agencies in Liberty City. Additional evaluation efforts to measure how community agencies are progressing according to indicators identified by the state and local needs through Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) data, public and program data, and focus groups will be conducted to improve ECCS systems and outcomes. Furthermore, through data collected from PDSAs, PARTNER Tool, focus groups, and data consultation, the evaluation team will be able to assess how Liberty City is developing and implementing plans to meet the needs of the community.



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FL ECCS Evaluation: <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/chiles/eccs>

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