

Let's Work Together (to Make Families' Lives Easier)! How to Coordinate Eligibility and Enrollment to Increase Equitable Access to Services

Wei-Bing Chen, Howard Morrison,
& Denise Mauzy

SRI Early Childhood State Systems Building Webinars
April 4, 2023



SRI EducationTM

SRI Early Childhood State Systems Building Webinar Series

Wednesday, March 15, 2023; 9 AM – 10 AM PT: Part 1: Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning: What's Data Got to Do With It?

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Thursday, June 8, 2023; 12 PM – 1 PM PT: Part 4: Information is Key: Engaging Families by Supporting Decision-Making

SRI Early Childhood State Systems Building Webinar Series

SRI Education™

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Part 2:

**Let's Work Together
(to Make Families' Lives Easier)!
How to Coordinate Eligibility
and Enrollment to Increase
Equitable Access to Services**



Wei-Bing Chen
SRI International



Denise Mauzy
SRI International

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

2 PM – 3 PM EST

Register at <https://bit.ly/3SGGPeo>

Journey to Coordinated Eligibility and Enrollment (CEE) Implementation



Step 1. Develop a Common Understanding

Develop a common understanding of what can be achieved with CEE.



Step 2. Agree on Your Direction

Reach consensus (at the local, regional, and/or state level) on a CEE goal.



Step 3. Map Your Route

Together, lay out the roadmap for achieving this goal.

Step 1. Develop a Common Understanding

- What is CEE?
- Why should we do it?



Poll Question

- Does this describe your community or state? (choose one)
 - Yes, this is definitely an issue.
 - Kind of, we've made some progress but we're not there yet.
 - No, we have this figured out—feel free to call us!

In My Community...

1. Families are often unaware of which programs exist to serve young children and have to search multiple places to learn about them.
2. Families who need the services most may have the hardest time getting access to what they need.
3. Families have to submit multiple applications for programs or providers they are interested in and wait to hear where they can go.
4. Providers of similar services can feel like they are competing with each other for children and families.
5. Programs or providers have to wade through a large number of applications to find families who are eligible and a good match.
6. Individual families may choose programs in a way that does not make for the most efficient use of public funds when looking across *all* families.

Poll Summary

Item	Percent Saying Yes and Kind Of
Families are often unaware of which programs exist	96%
Families who need services most have the hardest time getting access	96%
Families have to submit multiple applications	96%
Providers of similar services can feel like they are competing	92%
Programs or providers have to wade through a large number of applications	68%
Families may choose programs in a way that isn't the most efficient use of public funds	88%

What is CEE?



Word or phrase describing what “doing” CEE looks like for you or your community

<https://www.menti.com/alct9eoxrwkt>

- voting code 75 65 86 2



The Promise of CEE

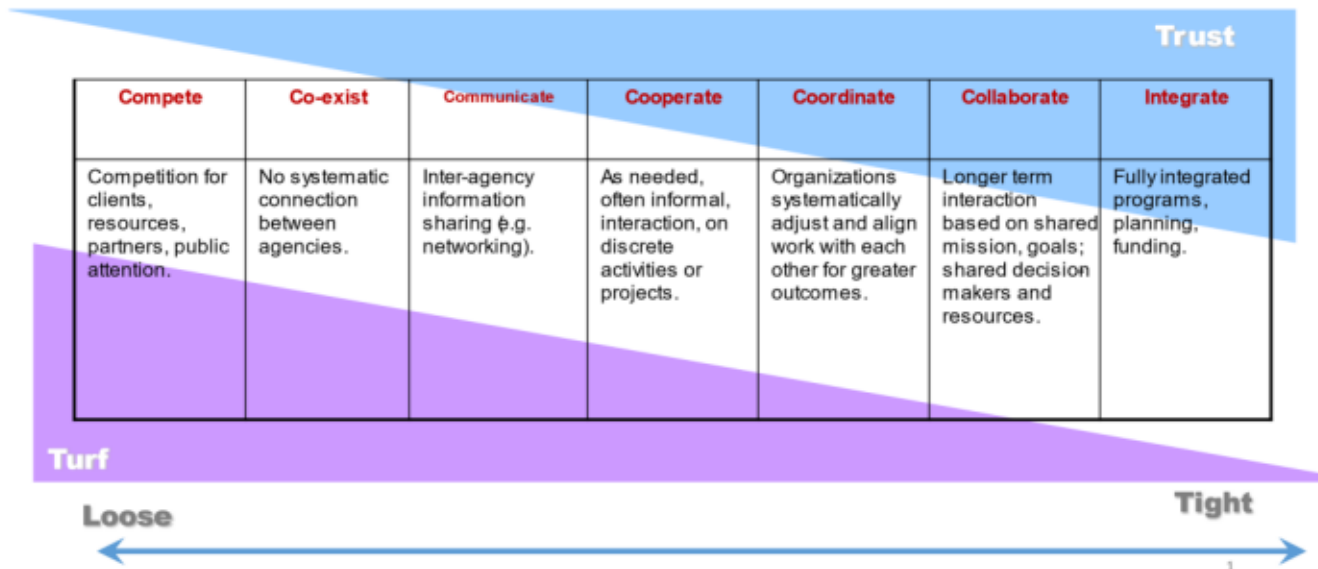
- Families have improved and more equitable access to services
- Providers collaborate rather than compete
- Public resources are used more efficiently

Continuum of Program Enrollment Processes



Moving from Competition to Collaboration

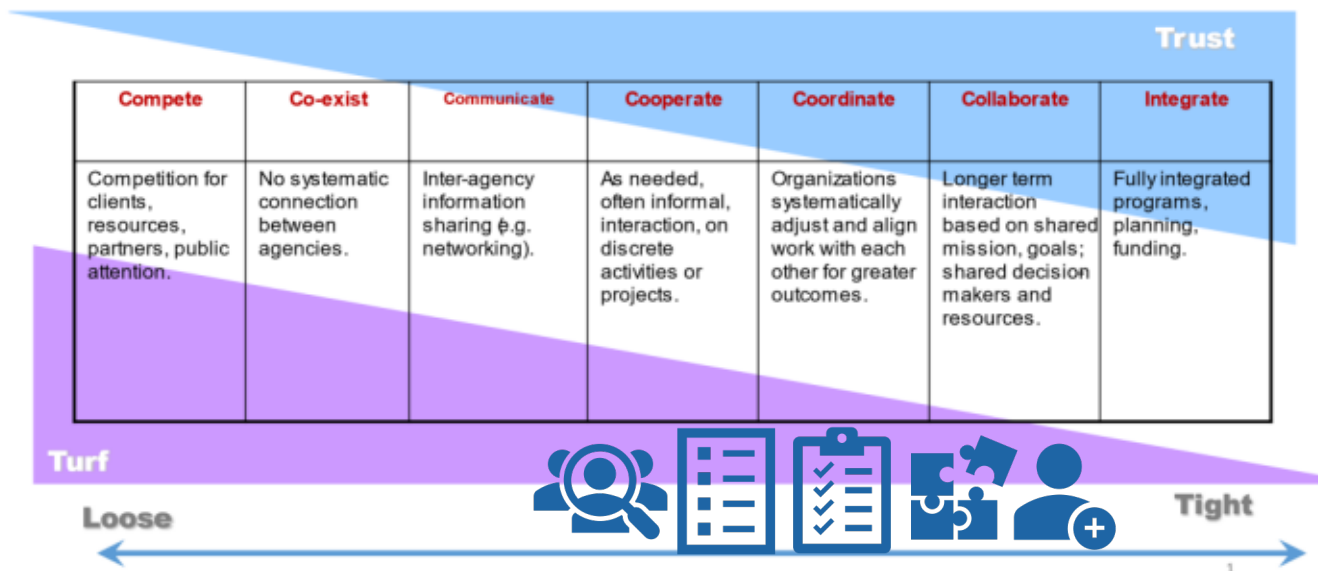
The Collaboration Spectrum



(Tamarack Institute, 2021)

Moving from Separate to Joint Enrollment Processes

The Collaboration Spectrum



(Tamarack Institute, 2021)



Q&A

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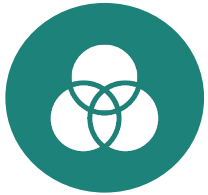
Step 2. Agree on Your Direction

- Reach consensus (at the local, regional, and/or state level) on a CEE goal




Key Questions in Choosing a CEE Goal

- Which program enrollment processes?
- Which programs/providers (scope of coordination)?
 - Within service sector (e.g., early care and education, benefits) or across?
 - Need data sharing and joint data management capacity
- Coordinated at what level(s) of governance (level of implementation)?
 - May depend on whether local providers are involved
 - States can provide support and guidance to local communities
 - Best when decision-making is aligned and data flows between local and state levels



Examples of CEE Implementation

- Local implementation
 - Roanoke Valley Smart2Start



Apply Now

Helping families to navigate their childcare needs. Connecting families to providers in the following areas:

- Alleghany County
- Bath County
- Botetourt County
- Buena Vista
- Covington
- Craig County
- Franklin County
- Henry County
- Highland County
- Lexington
- Martinsville
- Patrick County
- Roanoke City
- Roanoke County
- Rockbridge County
- Salem

**We are partnering with school systems, non-profits, the faith based community, and private childcare providers to ensure families have a safe place for children to grow socially, emotionally, and academically! We are accepting applications for children birth-5 years old. Please fill out the application in its entirety. You may qualify for financial assistance and we want to be sure to connect you to those resources.*

Just One Application

Smart2Start makes it easier for all families to review and sign up for early care and education opportunities that meet their family's preferences and needs. This single application can also inform families of their eligibility for publicly-funded programs that may provide free or reduced cost options.

<http://smart2start.org/>

Examples of CEE Implementation

- Local implementation
 - Roanoke Valley Smart2Start
- Local implementation with state support
 - Virginia, Michigan



Needs Assessment

- [PDF Summary of Needs Assessment Findings and Strategic Plan](#)
- [PDF Needs Assessment of Michigan's Prenatal through Age Five Mixed Delivery System](#)
- [PDF Child Welfare Prevention Service Partnerships Across Michigan](#)
- [PDF Landscape of Family Engagement in Michigan](#)
- [PDF Innovative Workforce Solutions Review](#)
- [PDF Literacy Scan Research Report Executive Summary](#)
- [PDF Building Bridges: Migrant Families' Access to Early Childhood Care and Education in Michigan](#)
- [PDF Support Beyond the Welcome Mat: Supporting Refugee Families with Young Children](#)
- [PDF Limited Choices and Long Drives: Living in Rural Michigan With Young Children](#)



Evaluations and Reports

- [PDF Inclusion Builders 2021 Implementation Evaluation Findings](#)
- [PDF Pediatric Providers Use of Universal Developmental Screening Tools](#)
- [PDF Building Knowledge and Connections: Evaluation of Virtual Caregiving Conversations in Michigan](#)
- [PDF Great Strides Begin With Small Steps: Evaluating the Steps Pilot](#)
- [PDF Michigan Listen and Learn Symposium Report](#)
- [PDF Documenting Collaboration in Michigan's Early Childhood Mixed Delivery System](#)
- [PDF Statewide Child Care Workforce Spending and Vacancies](#)
- [PDF Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing in Michigan](#)
- [PDF Connecting Families to the Mixed-Delivery System: Evaluation of Trusted Advisors Grant in Michigan](#)



Coordinated Eligibility and Enrollment (CEE)

- [PDF CEE Guidebook](#)
- [CEE Guidebook Walkthrough \(Webinar\)](#)
- [PDF Michigan Coordinated Eligibility and Enrollment Landscape \(Executive Summary\)](#)
- [PDF Michigan Coordinated Eligibility and Enrollment Landscape \(Full Report\)](#)
- [PDF Michigan Coordinated Eligibility and Enrollment Project Summary](#)
- [What is Coordinated Eligibility and Enrollment? \(Webinar\)](#)
- [Understanding What's Possible: Strategic Solutions for Community-Based CEE Plans \(Webinar\)](#)
- [Putting it Into Practice: Developing a Community-Informed CEE Plan \(Webinar\)](#)
- [Applying to the Community of Practice \(Webinar\)](#)

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/early-learners-and-care/pdgb5>

Examples of CEE Implementation

- Local implementation
 - Roanoke Valley Smart2Start
- Local implementation with state support
 - Virginia, Michigan
- Statewide implementation of local CEE
 - Louisiana

BACK

Early Childhood (Birth - 4 Years)

1 HOW DO I CALCULATE MY INCOME? +

2 WHAT DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED TO SUBMIT FOR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD APPLICATION? +

3 HOW TO APPLY TO AN EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL -

- Log into the [Parent Portal](#). If it is your first time applying, you will need to create login credentials.
- Follow the prompts to create your family profile.
- Complete Eligibility Check prompts.
- Select school choices.
- Answer questions and upload documents for eligibility verification directly in the [Parent Portal](#).

4 WHAT DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED TO ENROLL IN HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START? +

5 WHAT IS THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMIT FOR FAMILIES TO QUALIFY FOR A PUBLICLY FUNDED EARLY CHILDHOOD (BIRTH-PK4) SEAT? +

[nolaps.com/resources#FAQ](https://enrollnolaps.com/resources#FAQ)

<https://enrollnolaps.com/>

Examples of CEE Implementation

- Local implementation
 - Roanoke Valley Smart2Start
- Local implementation with state support
 - Virginia, Michigan
- Statewide implementation of local CEE
 - Louisiana
 - Oregon
 - Colorado
- State-level implementation
 - South Carolina

Get the support your child needs from birth through age five.

We connect families with South Carolina's public services for young children.



Check your eligibility for over 40 services.

Answer a few questions and we'll show you what you qualify for. You can now apply online.



<https://first5sc.org/>

Examples of CEE Implementation

- Local implementation
 - Roanoke Valley Smart2Start
- Local implementation with state support
 - Virginia, Michigan
- Statewide implementation of local CEE
 - Louisiana
 - Oregon
 - Colorado
- State-level implementation
 - South Carolina
 - Minnesota, Michigan

Step 3. Map Your Route

- Together, lay out the roadmap for achieving your CEE goal
 - Develop steps and progress metrics
 - Continue to gain buy-in from leaders and the community



Key Facilitators and Barriers



Poll Question

- Where is your community or state in the planning process for CEE? (choose all that apply)
 - We'd like to do but it's feeling a little too ambitious for us right now
 - We have a committed, core group convened for planning
 - We are well into planning but are not yet ready to implement
 - We have goal(s) chosen, a roadmap laid out, and the community is ready to start driving!



Q&A

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Key Takeaways

- CEE is a systems-building strategy that requires widespread community buy-in to plan for and implement
- It takes an initial investment in relationship-building, time, and resources, but leads to
 - Easier, more equitable access to services for families
 - Collaboration rather than competition as the strategy for achieving full enrollment for providers, and
 - More efficient use of public resources for the community
- It also takes expertise on the what, why, and how of CEE

Contact Us

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International



Howard Morrison

Early Learning, State Strategy & Support,
Systems Thinker and Early Childhood Data En...



Resources

- [PDG B-5 CEE Application Review](#)
- [CEE 101 brief](#)
- Websites featured in this presentation
 - <http://smart2start.org/>
 - <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/early-learners-and-care/pdgb5>
 - <https://enrollnolaps.com/>
 - <https://first5sc.org/>
- [*Helping Families Navigate Early Childhood in South Carolina*](#) podcast episode

Closing Poll



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at sri.com/careers

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Thank you
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