

**Child Care Availability Task Force**

**Workgroups**

Listed below are five topic-based workgroups. Workgroups will be asked to convene at least monthly to address identified issues and other issues the workgroup agrees to review. Workgroups should engage additional stakeholders as needed, in consultation with the co-chairs of the task force; consult existing research; and draw on experiences of the members to develop a summary of issues that currently exist, identify opportunities for innovation, identify statutory and regulatory barriers, and make action-oriented recommendations for addressing the identified issues.

Within the first six months of work, each workgroup should have a well-developed understanding of the issues impacting the workgroup’s specific areas of concern. Workgroups should collaborate as needed to address areas of overlap. Following the development of an understanding of the issues, each workgroup should shift focus to the development of recommendations and suggestions that can be discussed with the larger task force and additional government stakeholders.

As the taskforce moves into its second year of work, the workgroups should be focused on refining recommendations and preparing the final report which is due to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2020.

We have made suggestions as to which task force members should be in which workgroups. If you don’t agree with these suggestions, please feel free to join a different workgroup by letting us know. We suggest that each workgroup has a chairperson or co-chairs. We have identified a possible chairperson for each workgroup. We have also assigned a Governor’s office liaison for each group.

The Task Force will include the following workgroups:

* **Affordability and Access**
* **Quality**
* **Child Care Workforce**
* **Cross System**
* **Business Community and Workforce Impacts**

**Affordability and Access**

This workgroup is asked to look at the following issues, provide an assessment of the issue, and identify ways to address concerns identified by the workgroup including review of statutory or regulatory barriers to implementation of suggestions.

Specific areas for this workgroup to focus on include, but are not limited to:

* Affordable childcare with a focus on the cost of care for families and factors that contribute to such costs;
* Access to and availability of subsidized child care, including identification of barriers families eligible under state law face to obtaining or utilizing such subsidies;
* Availability of child care during non-traditional work hours.

*Suggested Workgroup Composition:*

1. Larry Marx – *suggested Chairperson*
2. Kerri Neifeld – *Governor’s office liaison*
3. Annie Goldman
4. Debbie Benson
5. Dede Hill
6. Denise Dowell
7. Ian Rosenblum
8. Yolanda McBride
9. Jennifer Rojas
10. Sam Roberts/Jeff Gaskell
11. Sarah Merrick
12. Sheila Poole
13. Sue Kowaleski
14. Kate Tarrant
15. Meredith Chimento
16. David Wright

**Quality**

This workgroup is asked to look at the following issues, provide an assessment of the issue, and identify ways to address concerns identified by the workgroup including review of statutory or regulatory barriers to implementation of suggestions.

Specific areas for this workgroup to focus on include, but are not limited to:

* Varying levels of quality of care throughout the state;
* Availability of quality child care by economic development region including identification of underserved communities;
* Whether regulatory or statutory changes could promote access to child care and improve health and safety standards in child care programs.

Suggested Workgroup Composition:

1. Jenn O’Connor – *suggested Chairperson*
2. Emily Badalamente – *Governor’s office liaison*
3. Debbie Benson
4. Jada Callahan
5. Sue Kowaleski
6. Kelly Tobin
7. MaryEllen Elia/Karen McMahon
8. Kristen Kerr
9. Sheila Poole
10. Tiffany Malone
11. Kate Tarrant
12. David Wright

**Child Care Workforce**

This workgroup is asked to look at the following issues, provide an assessment of the issue, and identify ways to address concerns identified by the workgroup including review of statutory or regulatory barriers to implementation of suggestions.

Specific areas for this workgroup to focus on include, but are not limited to:

* Challenges specific to owners/operators of child care programs including center and group family day care programs;
* Challenges specific to employees of child care programs including training, education-related issues, etc.

Suggested Workgroup Composition:

1. Kelly Tobin – *suggested Chairperson*
2. Monique Owens – *Governor’s office liaison*
3. Annie Goldman
4. Debbie Benson
5. Dede Hill
6. Denise Dowell
7. Hilda Escher
8. Heather Bricetti
9. Jenn O’Connor
10. MaryEllen Elia/Laura Glass
11. Roberta Reardon
12. Sheri Scavone
13. Sonja Brown
14. Tiffany Malone
15. Sue Kowalski
16. Kristen Kerr
17. Beth Starks
18. Yolanda McBride/Moria Cappio
19. David Wright

**Cross System**

This workgroup is asked to look at the following issues, provide an assessment of the issue, and identify ways to address concerns identified by the workgroup including review of statutory or regulatory barriers to implementation of suggestions.

Specific areas for this workgroup to focus on include, but are not limited to:

* Ways that lack of child care is a barrier to education;
* Ways that the education system, including SUNY/CUNY, can provide access to child care for parenting students;
* Review of the relationship between the child care system and other systems like Head Start, and pre-Kindergarten programs;
* Ways that cross-system integration can support a more holistic funding model.

Suggested Workgroup Composition:

1. Dede Hill – *suggested Chairperson*
2. Jamie Frank – *Governor’s office liaison*
3. Heather Bricetti
4. Jennifer Rojas
5. Ian Rosenblum
6. Sarah Merrick
7. Sheila Poole
8. MaryEllen Elia/Renee Rider
9. Jenn O’Connor
10. Kristen Kerr
11. Dede Hill
12. Debbie Benson
13. Meredith Chimento
14. Sheri Scavone
15. Andrea Anthony
16. Yolanda McBride
17. David Wright

**Business Community/Workforce Impacts**

This workgroup is asked to look at the following issues, provide an assessment of the issue, and identify ways to address concerns identified by the workgroup including review of statutory or regulatory barriers to implementation of suggestions.

Specific areas for this workgroup to focus on include, but are not limited to:

* Whether parents are voluntarily leaving the workforce due to lack of affordable or accessible child care, and the demographic information of such parents, if known;
* Whether employers have identified lack of child care as a reason for a shortage of qualified workforce;
* The impact of child care, or lack thereof, on economic development throughout the state;
* Business incentives to increase child care access and the impact of tax credits and deductions relating to child care.

Suggested Workgroup Composition:

1. Heather Bricetti – *suggested Chairperson*
2. Kelli Owens – *Governor’s office liaison*
3. Dede Hill
4. Hilda Rosario
5. Jenn O’Connor
6. Kelly Tobin
7. Nonie Manion
8. Roberta Reardon
9. Sam Roberts/Jeff Gaskell
10. Sheri Scavone
11. Sonja Brown
12. Meredith Chimento
13. Andrea Anthony
14. Beth Starks
15. Debbie Benson
16. David Wright