



Faribault, Minnesota

Opportunities & Outcomes Workshop Summary

August 2023



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION



**BUSINESS
OF CHILD CARE**
Easy as 1 2 3

Workshop Summary

Business of Child Care led an Opportunities and Outcomes workshop in Faribault, MN as part of our Whole Community Approach for child care. This workshop aimed to understand the key desired outcomes to better support and resource the local child care space. Numerous insights and reflections emerged from the two sessions held on August 14, 2023:

Challenges & Opportunities:

The information revolves around challenges and opportunities identified in child care. Key challenges include the lack of 24/7 care options, issues with aligning care times with work schedules, transportation barriers for children attending multiple sites, affordability problems for families with multiple kids, and the underutilization of Child Care Assistance Programs (CCAP). Additionally, concerns about education quality, economic impact, provider retention, and bridging cultural/language gaps were discussed.

Desired Outcomes:

The desired outcomes focus on enhancing child care services. Goals include increasing care availability for infants, toddlers, and second/third shifts, catering to diverse cultural and language needs, and better financial support for providers. The community also seeks to raise awareness about child care's importance and engage the workforce to support providers. The desired outcomes also highlight the need for better networking, business support, benefits, and retirement plans for providers, as well as addressing middle-class affordability issues.

Overall Impact:

The community listening sessions aim to improve child care by addressing identified challenges and working towards desired outcomes. By fostering collaboration and enhancing support structures, the community seeks to create a more accessible, affordable, and supportive child care environment in Faribault, MN. Both families and providers stand to benefit from these efforts, contributing to a more robust and inclusive child care system.

Next, Business of Child Care will develop a Solution Pathway Wireframe. This tool will guide the task force in providing feedback on potential comprehensive plans and strategies aligned with these desired outcomes, with the goal to enhance the opportunities for child care services within the local community.

Community Listening Session Outcomes

August 14, 2023 12:30pm

Challenges & Opportunities

1. Workforce 24/7 – Not enough available care options
 - a. Start & end times don't always align
 - b. Proximity to work/home
 - c. Infant / Toddler – No where near capacity
2. Children to multiple sites – Transportation
3. Affordability
 - a. Multiple children
 - b. CCAP
 - i. Not being utilized enough by families
 - ii. Not enough offering providers
 - iii. Gap between rate and CCAP
4. Education / Field Pathway Highlights – Perception
5. Economic Impact – All around
 - a. Employee Retention
 - b. Provider Livability
6. Better student outcomes early and through high school graduation
7. Challenge keeping / getting providers
 - a. Family issues
 - b. Retirement
8. Close gap between culture/ language / diversity
9. Community reputation / magnet effect / community learning / Opportunity to build community

Desired Outcomes – A Collective Win - Faribault Centric

1. Increase Available Care
 - a. Infants / Toddler / 2nd and 3rd shift
 - b. Culture / Language
 - c. Special Needs
2. Financial Considerations
 - a. Livability
 - b. Affordability
 - c. Access
3. Community Messaging / Support – “What Child Care Means” / Community Importance through Knowledge
4. Community Workforce – Better child care would support acquisition and retention efforts



Provider Listening Session Outcomes

August 14, 2023

Challenges & Opportunities:

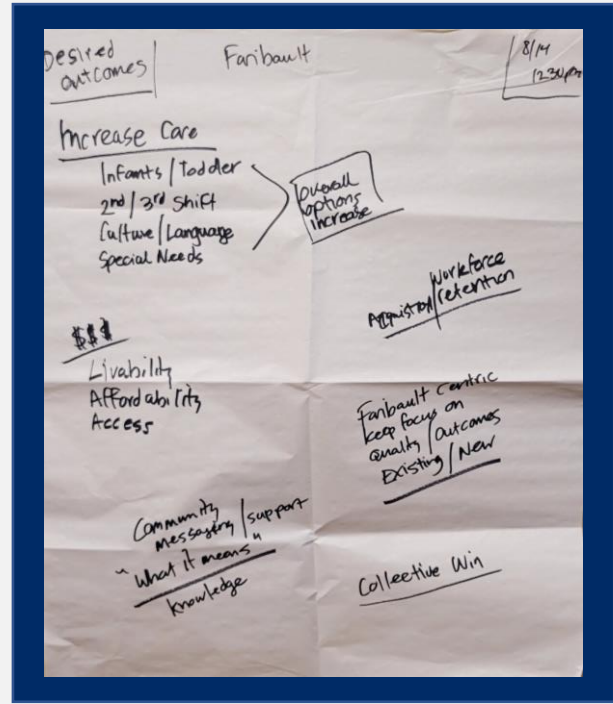
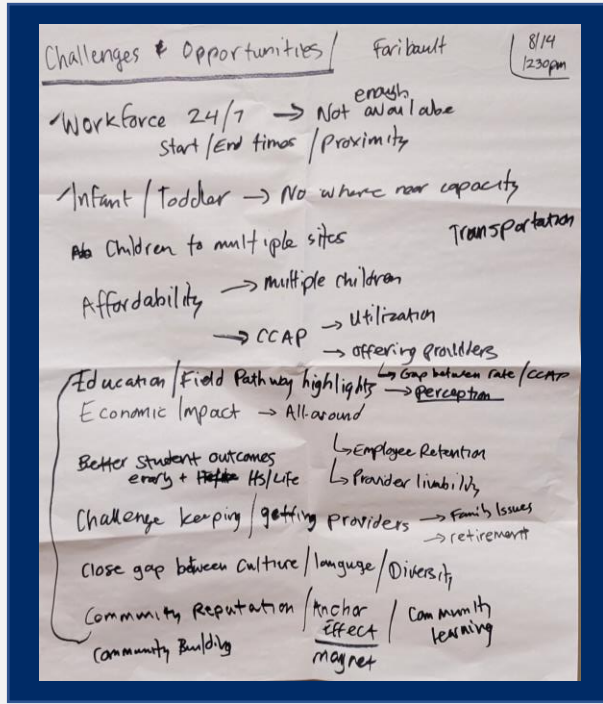
1. Get providers more involved
2. Networking opportunities and Engagements:
 - a. Support
 - b. Recognition
3. Transportation Support o Community Activities
4. Business Supports:
 - a. Bookkeeping
 - b. Software
 - c. Other
5. Lack of benefits / retirement
6. Middle class affordability
7. VPK Impact / Subsidy Disparity
8. Lack of back – up / substitute care for providers

Desired Outcomes:

1. Improve visibility and appreciation of child care in the community
 - a. Broader support
 - b. Choices
2. Increased participation / engagement by providers – Need a draw
3. Back – office support:
 - a. Accounting
 - b. Taxes
 - c. Bookkeeping
 - d. Provider Advocate?
 - e. Lunches (what's in my bag today)
4. Turn – key provider back up
5. Transportation Solutions:
 - a. Preschool
 - b. Activities
 - c. Provider Kids
6. Affordable / Accessible Benefits

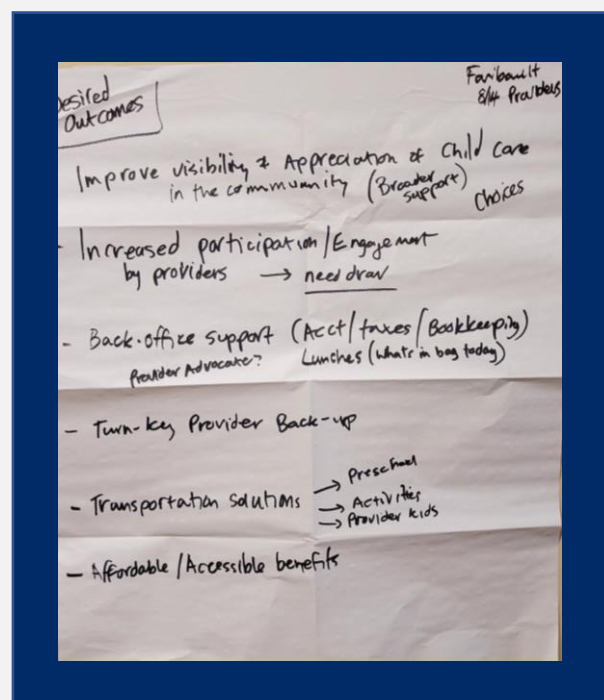
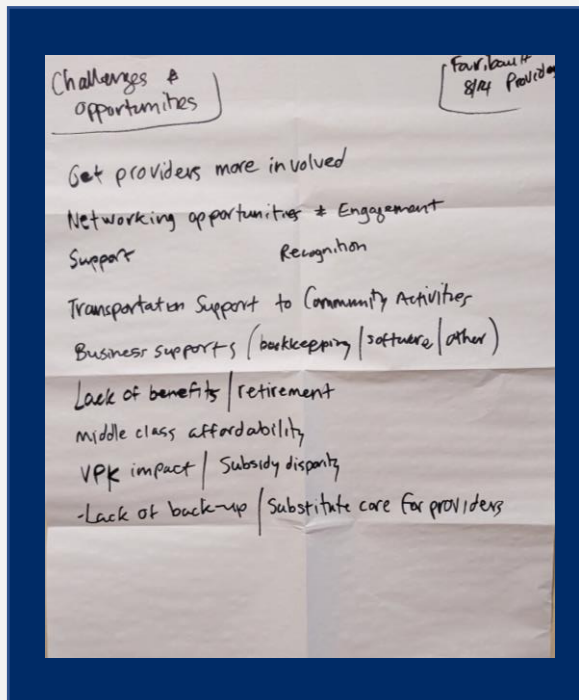
Community Listening Session Outcome

August 14, 2023 Afternoon



Provider Listening Session Outcomes

August 14, 2023 Evening



Task Force Session Outcomes

Potential Desired Outcomes for this Effort

1. Increase the capacity and availability of child care, especially for infants and toddlers, including care during unconventional hours like second and third shifts.
2. Develop specialized programs that address cultural and language diversity as well as the needs of children with special requirements.
3. Improve the community's understanding of the importance of child care through targeted messaging and education campaigns.
4. Foster a culture of appreciation for child care providers, reflecting the vital role they play in early childhood development and the economic health of the community.
5. Increase the engagement and participation of child care providers by offering incentives and recognition for their work.
6. Introduce efficient transportation solutions for preschool and other child-related activities, which support both providers' and children's mobility needs.
7. Work towards making benefits more affordable and accessible to child care providers, helping to create a more sustainable and attractive field for current and potential providers.