



Governance Concepts, Framework, and Models

Barbara Gebhard
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Definition of Governance

- **The means by which actors use purposeful efforts to guide, steer, control, or manage sectors or facets of society**
- **How (often multiple) programs and entities are managed to promote efficiency, excellence, and equity: how power is exercised, how constituents are given voice, and how decisions are made**
- **A state's organizational structure and its placement of authority and accountability for making program, policy, financing, and implementation decisions**

West Virginia's early childhood community is governed by a pro-active and efficient system of governance that invites and values participation by all stakeholders. It facilitates effective communication between partners and with communities and families. The decisions brokered by this governance structure are equitable and accountable, creating results that matter to young children and families and maximize the state's financial investment.

Purposes/Functions of Governance

Questions and Lessons About Early Childhood System Governance ●●●

What Authority Should Governance Have?

1 COORDINATION
(across programs and services)

2 ALIGNMENT
(to promote a developmental continuum)

3 EFFICIENCY
(no duplication, more value for money)

4 ACCOUNTABILITY
(for quality, equity and results)

What Does It Mean for Governance to Be Effective?

For Elected Officials

Usable advice that informs decision making

For Administrators

Ability to innovate without bureaucratic constraints

For Providers

Ability to move and connect vertically and horizontally in the system

What About Governance Should We Be Trying to Sustain?

Structures

Relationships

Spread

Depth



For Children & Families

Seamless system of programs and services

Factors Affecting Governance

Factors That Affect Performance of Governance ●●●

Authority

Gubernatorial Leadership

Strong Leadership
(of the Structure)

Clear Statutes

Control of \$

Consolidation or Co-Location

Effectiveness

Representation

Transparency

Data

Plurality of Leadership

Bureaucratic Expertise

Sustainability

Statutes vs. Pliability

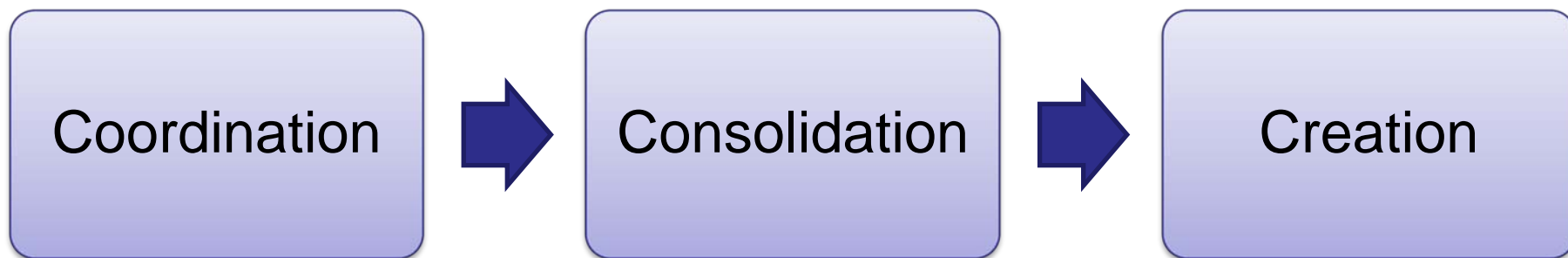
Public-Private Partnership

Broad-Based Support

K-12 Alignment

Demonstration of Results

Models of Governance



- ***Nebraska:*** Memo of Understanding between Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to co-lead the Part C early intervention program and administer quality child care funds
- ***Illinois:*** Office of Early Childhood Development in Governor's Office to coordinate the Early Childhood Advisory Council and support efforts to improve and expand programs and services

- ***Maryland:*** Division of Early Childhood Development in the Department of Education created in 2005 and expanded in 2006; incorporates pre-K, child care, Head Start collaboration, early intervention, home visiting, and family resource centers
- ***Pennsylvania:*** Office of Child Development and Early Learning created in 2007 and housed in both Education and Public Welfare; incorporates pre-K, K, preschool special education and early intervention, Head Start collaboration, child care, home visiting, and family support

- ***Massachusetts:* Department of Early Education and Care created in 2005; combines functions of former Early Learning Services Division of Department of Education with former Office of Child Care Services**
- ***Washington:* Department of Early Learning created in 2006 as a cabinet-level agency for early childhood initiatives formerly in several departments**

Local/Regional Governance Structures

Categories of the relationship between state system work and local/regional governance structures:

- **Formal set of local/regional entities that relate to the state entity in a particular way, including receiving funding and incurring reporting responsibilities (*North Carolina, Michigan, Virginia*)**
- **An informal set of local/regional entities that don't have an integrated relationship or were developed earlier (*Ohio, Massachusetts*)**
- **No relationship between community-level systems work and state-level systems work**

Public-Private Partnerships

Many states have entered into public-private partnerships or supported the creation of a public-private entity:

- ***North Carolina:* North Carolina Partnership for Children**
- ***Washington:* Thrive by Five**
- ***Virginia:* Virginia Early Childhood Foundation**
- ***Michigan:* Michigan Early Childhood Investment Corporation**
- ***Arizona:* First Things First**
- ***Alaska:* Best Beginnings**