At the 2/20 meeting of Zero to Five - Missoula, a Governance Task Force was created to develop a proposal to structure our Zero to Five work as we move from the planning phase toward a phase focused on developing goals, and taking action. The Governance Task Force met twice in March and considered suggestions, priorities and concerns gathered from the Zero to Five community.

In order to make better decisions and understand the impact of our programs, we need to develop a shared set of data points to guide our Zero to Five work. Since February, a working group has been participating in a mentor-mentee learning group on data sharing across sectors, with CORE (Center for Outcomes Research and Education).

Workgroup members will begin conducting data interviews over the next six weeks with community partners in the Zero to Five network to begin to map the landscape of programs and knowledge in Missoula County regarding young children and their families.
Assessment of School Readiness Pilot

Anecdotally, elementary schools report children arriving at school with higher needs than in previous generations of children, but there is no systematic collection or analysis of this information in our area.

In 2018, the Data and Knowledge Workgroup explored the idea of using a kindergarten readiness assessment tool to learn about trends and patterns in school readiness, including linking those trends to the supports and services families and children are provided or are accessing in Missoula County.

We are planning a pilot project to use the assessment tool in a small (<20) diverse set of classrooms across Missoula County. A task force of interested school personnel will be convened in April to design and plan for the pilot.

Early Childhood Partnerships:
Healthy Start - State of the Young Child

The State of The Young Child, an annual event put on by Healthy Start Missoula, takes place this year on May 23. The day’s events include a learning session on CONNECT, a luncheon panel discussion, and breakout sessions on Trauma-informed staff supports, and neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) success stories, and a session on business solutions to the Child Care shortage, moderated by Zero to Five.

The $25 fee includes lunch and up to 4 hours of ECP training credit. Zero to Five Missoula is offering up to 10 scholarships to our community partners, especially to parents or caregivers working with and served by your organization.

Save the Date!

Projects in Motion:
Family Engagement

We are launching a workgroup group focused on engaging parents, families, and other experts with lived experience in the work of Zero to Five. The YMCA has generously agreed to host our workgroup meetings in their conference room and provide drop-in child care for meeting attendees. We are looking at national models for developing parent leadership and authentically involving context experts at all levels of a community-wide initiative.

Check out this guide from Tamarack Institute on engaging context experts in community initiatives!

Projects in Motion:
Early Learning Summit

In 2018, the work group on Kindergarten Transition identified the need for greater collaboration and a shared definition of “kindergarten readiness” between the early
To address this identified gap, we are assembling a planning committee to envision and create an event that will bring together professionals from early childhood and the early grades, to participate in training and facilitated discussion about creating a system that works more seamlessly for children and families, and recognizes our shared focus on this critical age and stage.

Other states and counties are using this kind of event to strengthen early childhood - K12 partnerships. [Here is an overview of this kind of event from the National Head Start Early Learning & Knowledge Center.](#)