



# Connecting the **P.I.E.C.E.S. KC**

Plans to Improve the  
ECE System in Greater KC



# Steering Committee

Christina Anderson (Parent)  
Deidre Anderson-Barbee (Starting Early)  
Emily Barnes (Kansas Action for Children)  
Scott Balog (Kansas City Kansas Community College)  
T'Kayla Callahan (MARC)  
Christina Chandler (JE Dunn)  
Kristina Collins (SchoolSmart KC)  
Megan Cook (Kansas City Public Schools)  
Rebecca Coulson (Hall Family Foundation)  
Megan Crook (The Civic Chamber of Greater Kansas City)  
Alexis Delaney (Guadalupe Centers)  
Ava Delsemme (Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce)  
Noah Devine (Missouri Charter Schools Association)  
Mary Esselman (Operation Breakthrough)  
DiaShae Hargrove (Parent)

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Clyde McQueen (Full Employment Council)  
Paula Neth (The Family Conservancy)  
Megan Nichols (Metropolitan Community Colleges)  
Brandy Peterson (MARC)  
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Joanna Pohl (University of Missouri-Kansas City)  
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Tatia Shelton (Metropolitan Community Colleges)  
Toni Sturdivant (MARC)  
Je'Taime Taylor (Front Porch Alliance)  
Emily Thorpe (Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics)  
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# Workgroup Members



## Policy and Public Engagement

Aimee Alderman  
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## Quality Pedagogy

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## Supported Teachers and Families

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## Services, Funding, and Coordination

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JOanna Pohl  
Juan Rangel  
Sandra Reece  
Mariah Roady  
Toni Sturdivant (chair)  
Emily Thorpe  
Amanda Vega-Mavec  
Patti White

# Forum on Early Learning



- National speaker
- 90 Attendees
  - 49 organizations
    - local and state government
    - workforce development organizations
    - school districts
    - childcare providers
    - funders
    - higher education institutions





# Data Shared with Community



- 1,353 providers currently
- Need more than 30,000 additional infant-toddler slots
  - Johnson (5,928), Wyandotte (4,121), Jackson (14,526), Platte (2,062) and Clay (5,209)
- 67% of providers are operating under capacity and keep a waitlist
  - 36% struggle to pay competitive wages
  - 13% struggle with ratios due to staffing challenges
  - Families wait 6 months to 2.5 years for slots

# Community Priorities

- Growing the workforce with effective teachers and quality programs
- Providing data on workforce needs and growth
- Informing parents about available resources and child growth and development
- Improving the transportation system for families and educators



# Community Priorities



- Providing accessible professional development for early educators
- Subsidies for early educators, such as home loan programs and tax breaks
- Increasing government funding at all levels, even if it comes with increased taxes



# Local Government Considerations




- Transportation
- Recognition of and engagement with early childhood field
- Exploration of programs in other localities
  - Community members mentioned
    - Denver, San Antonio, New Orleans and Boston



# Next Steps:

## Stabilizing the ECE Workforce



### Policy and Public Engagement

- Identify state and national organizations whose policy agendas are in alignment
- Identify policies that hinder workforce progress

### Services, Funding and Coordination

- Design potential metro-wide wage supplement program
- Pilot early learning shared services as a cost-saving mechanism

# Our Next Steps: Stabilizing the ECE Workforce



## Support for Teachers and Families

- Map local pathways to earn a CDA and develop a recruitment plan

## Quality Pedagogy

- Create shared quality definition and “Classrooms to Learn From” digital resource
- Create plan to connect local educators to NAEYC resources

# Our Next Steps: Stabilizing the ECE Workforce

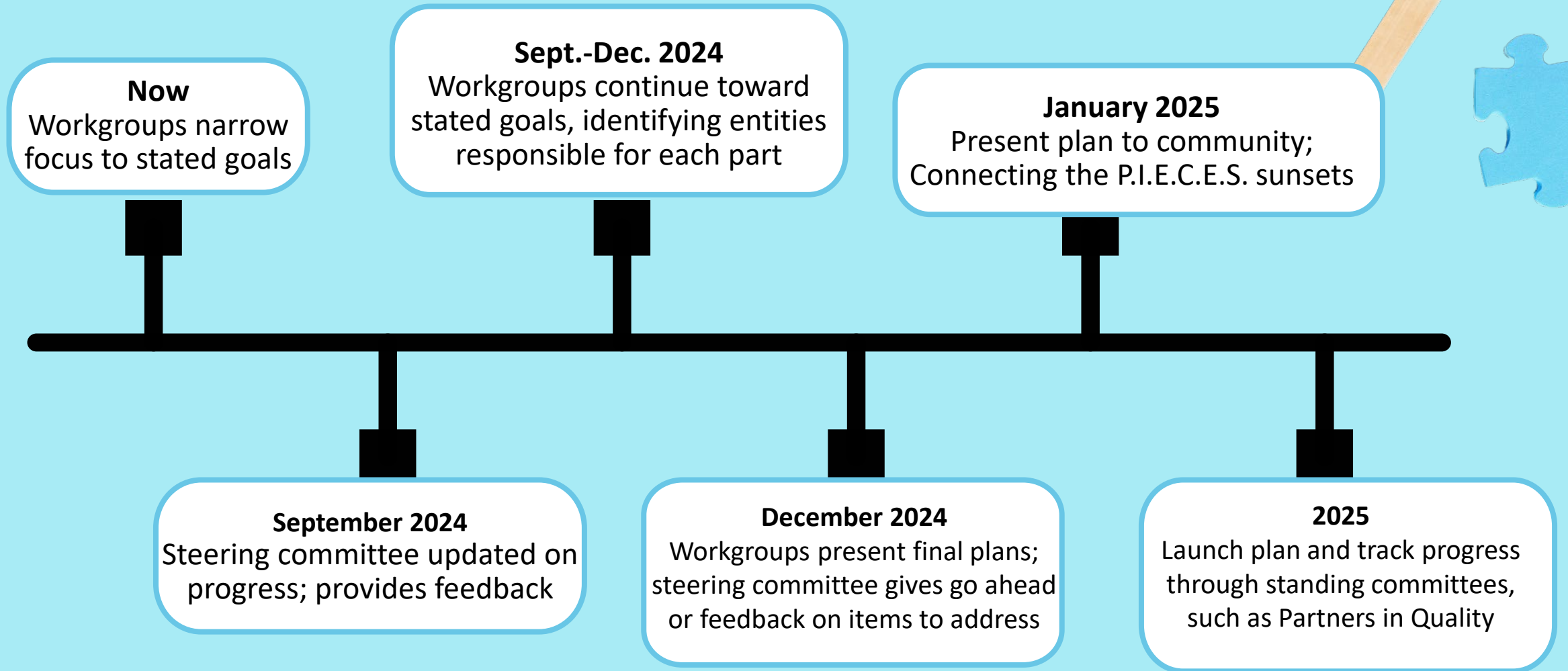
## Data and Metrics

- Identify “holder” of data dashboard and data sources
- Keep track of progress toward goal
- Identify other easily sourced workforce data to include in dashboard





# Timeline





**Want to get involved?**

Scan the QR code  
to join a workgroup!



Regional Early Learning Strategic  
Planning Workgroup

