



# Every Child Ready Chicago Working Group Meeting

February 2021





**Welcome from the Mayor's Office**



**Grounding in the Purpose**

# Mayors Office Vision



- **Purpose:** Every Child Ready Chicago is an initiative to build a coherent prenatal to five system that provides equitable access to the supports and services families need.
- **Process:** With support from School Readiness Consulting and Start Early, the Mayors office is convening a working group in a series of meetings representing a broad base of stakeholders to:
  - IDENTIFY and BUILD on existing efforts underway
  - Collectively identify strategic priorities
- **Goal:** Co-design a strategic plan for implementation of a strong system that ensures equitable access to quality services and positive outcomes for all children.



## Reflections from December Working Group Meeting

# REFLECT ON FEEDBACK

## Revisiting the Structure

Concerns were raised about the role and composition of the Steering Committee. Specific requests for broader representation to include family and provider voice, and to consider racial and linguistic diversity.

## Revising Timeline

Desire to extend the overall timeline allowing for more ongoing engagement, opportunities for collaboration and to gather input from wider range of stakeholders. Request for more information about the “big picture.”

## Connection to Existing Early Childhood Context -- *both state and citywide*

Call to create opportunities in the strategic planning process to recognize existing system strengths and challenges and align with efforts currently happening in the early childhood field.

## Balancing Current Needs with Long-term Goals

A need to address the issues impacting the current landscape, such as COVID-19, with long-term priorities needed to reach the initiative goals.

## Opportunities to Strengthen Relationships and Build Trust

More focus on fostering a space to encourage relationship building, promote trust and transparency, as well as highlight expertise from the group.



**Updated ECRC Working Group Process**

# Updated ECRC Working Group Process

February 2021 – July 2021



- Meeting supports, logistics & agendas
- Who: SRC, Start Early, Working Group members

Planning Committee

**Mayors Office**

- Convenor
- Coordinator of vision & strategy
- Who: Sybil, Jennifer, Nataly



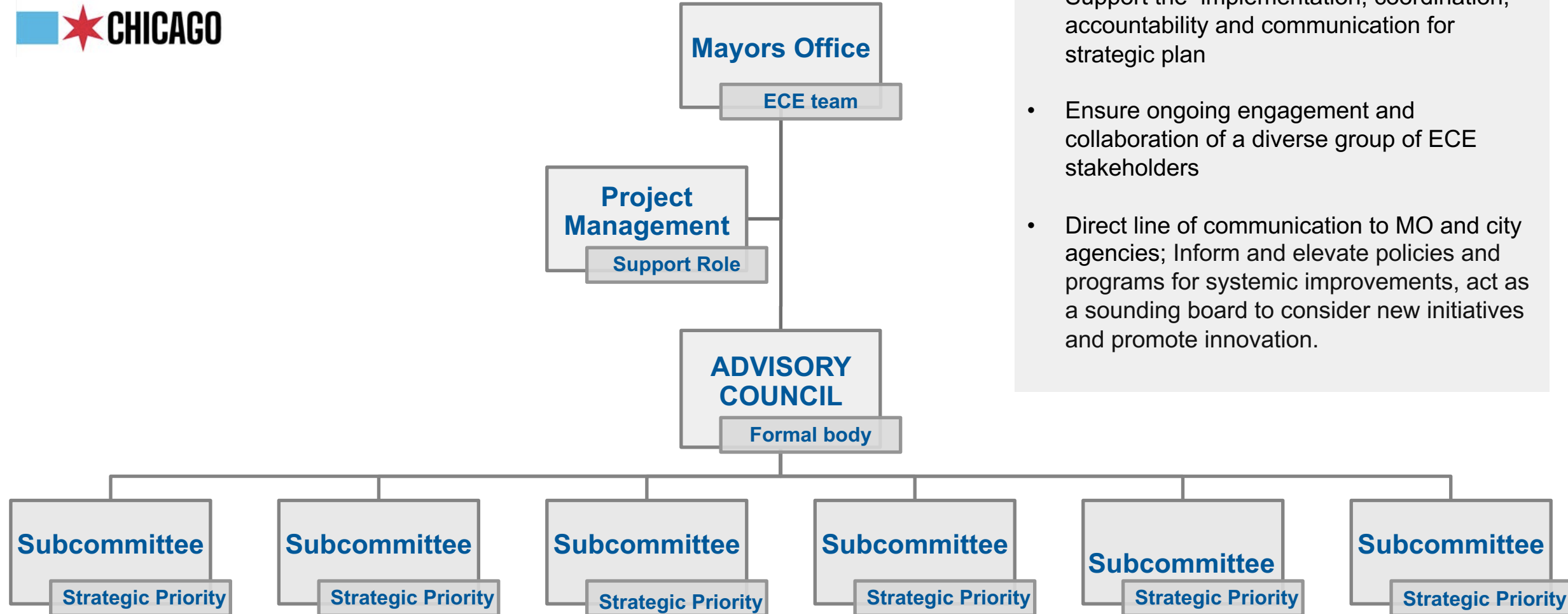
**Working Group**

- Inform vision and governance
- Expand landscape analysis
- Identify strategic priorities
- Who: Key early learning stakeholders from the public and private sectors



# Proposed Advisory Council Structure

Summer 2021 and beyond



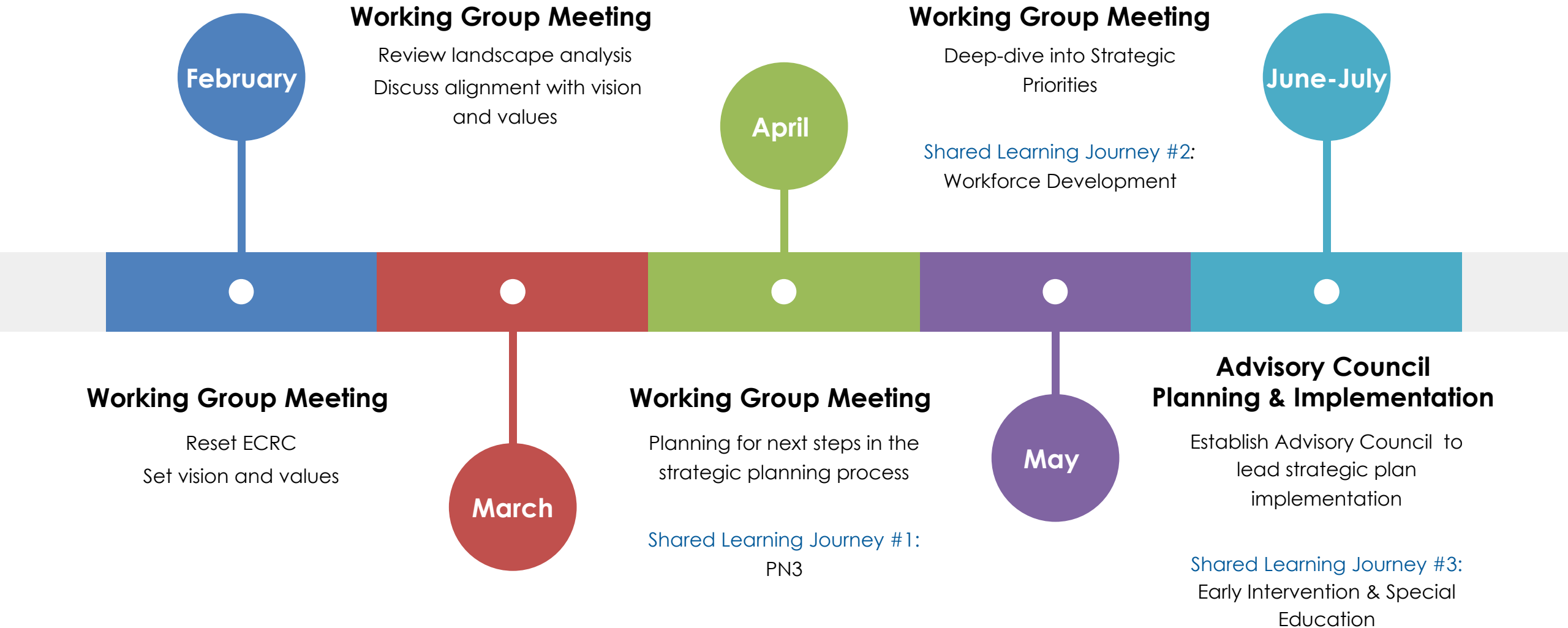
**Advisory Council: City-wide Reach**

- Support the implementation, coordination, accountability and communication for strategic plan
- Ensure ongoing engagement and collaboration of a diverse group of ECE stakeholders
- Direct line of communication to MO and city agencies; Inform and elevate policies and programs for systemic improvements, act as a sounding board to consider new initiatives and promote innovation.

**Subcommittees**  
Formed based on the strategic priorities identified through the strategic planning process; develop action plans for meeting goals and objectives.

# Looking Ahead

6 Month Timeline





**Finalizing the Vision and Values**



## Draft Vision Statements

OPTION A. Young children in every Chicago neighborhood thrive in the care of strong families, supported by quality programs, and upheld by communities that put children first.

OPTION B. Families in every Chicago community have what they need for their young children to grow strong, live joyful lives, and realize their greatest potential.

OPTION C. Every child in Chicago is supported by strong families, effective programs, and well-resourced communities so they can learn, achieve, and step into a bright future.

# Draft Value Statements



- **Transparency**  
Building trust through communication, integration of family and community voice, and clear decision-making processes that prioritize children and families
- **Diversity & Inclusiveness**  
Ensuring that stakeholders across all roles, identities and interests have a seat at decision-making tables
- **Equity**  
Breaking the barriers that have kept early childhood opportunities and positive outcomes out of reach for many of Chicago's children and families
- **Accountability**  
Establishing clear roles, time-bound actions, and measurable benchmarks of progress toward shared and meaningful goals
- **Transformation**  
Partnering with families and communities to improve the system and bring lasting change



# Finalizing the Vision & Values

STEP 1: Reflecting alone, review the vision and value statements

STEP 2: Discuss the following:

What questions do you still have? Which vision and value statement most resonates with you? Why?

STEP 3: Large group reflections

STEP 4: Voting - pick the vision statement that most resonates with you



# Shared Learning Journeys

# Shared Learning Journey Series



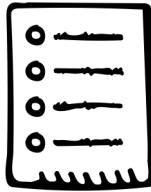
## WHAT?

75-minute overview & discussion on key topics identified by Working Group



## OBJECTIVES

- Leverage the knowledge and expertise of Working Group members to add to landscape review of local and state early childhood initiatives
- Ensure all Working Group members have a shared knowledge and understanding of key initiatives
- Begin to explore how these initiatives will inform the ECRC strategic plan (including potential areas for strategic overlap)



## TOPICS

- Prenatal to Three (PN3) Initiative (April)
- Early Childhood Workforce Partnership (May)
- Special Education & Early Intervention (June)



## NEXT STEPS

- Complete live poll: *How familiar are you with the PN3 initiative?*
- We will be sending a poll to determine availability for the week of April 12th



# Closing & Next Steps



*As we share next steps, please add a gratitude to your colleagues in the chat*

- Calendar invitations for the March and April Working Group and planning meetings
- Poll to secure dates for April Learning Journey