



Nemours Project HOPE Ripple Effects Report

April 2, 2019

A key focus of the Consortium Evaluation is on ripple effects. As part of the Nemours Project HOPE evaluation Altarum is also collecting data on ripple effects. There is no generally accepted definition of ripple effects. Altarum is defining ripple effects as events that may potentially shape early childhood partners, systems, policies, or practices, but occur outside of the central activities of the main project being evaluated. For example: two partner organizations develop a stronger relationship as a result of work on Project HOPE and then develop an initiative or apply for a grant together; or a participant in Project HOPE may decide to take the lead in enhancing equity, diversity, and inclusion training (EDI) in his or her agency or organization because of their experience with the project. As part of this data collection effort we recognize that ripple effects often involve potential effects that may not be realized immediately and that often go beyond the boundaries of data collection for a particular evaluation in terms of scope or time horizons. None-the-less it is useful to compile these events particularly for system change grants that are designed to make changes that potentially have long term effects that go beyond a particular project period.

This report summarizes the ripple effects that have emerged so far. Altarum collected data on these through its participation in various HOPE activities, through key informant interviews and focus groups, and through a review of HOPE materials as well as through asking about any that have been observed during periodic Nemours HOPE Partners calls that include: Nemours' staff, the individual state TA consultants, and the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI) which is Nemours' EDI consultant. The previous Ripple Effects report is included at the end of this document to provide a cumulative record of Ripple Effects tracked to date.

Event: Raising Parent Leader Awareness of Challenges Facing Bilingual Parents in Oklahoma

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Parents attending EDI training in Oklahoma
Approximate Event Date: December 2018

Significance: During the HOPE EDI training in Oklahoma, a parent whose first language was Spanish expressed frustration over having had to attend her child's regular Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting without adequate translation services. Another parent whose primary language is English and who is not Latino provided her with a Spanish language copy of a document listing parents' rights when their child is receiving special education including rights around adequate translation. The non-Latino parent has a child with special needs and a husband who is special education teacher and she has become an activist around issues related to children with special needs. Not only did this one event occur, but it was clear from what the parent activist said that she has become much more aware of the challenges faced by Spanish-speaking parents and will carry that awareness forward as she continues her community activism.

Event: Rethinking Approaches to Cultural Competency/Cultural Humility Training

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Department of Health participant in EDI training in Oklahoma
Approximate Event Date: December 2018

Significance: A participant in the EDI training from the Oklahoma Department of Health indicated that



she planned to go back to her department and question the idea of doing “cultural competency” training and suggest they change the focus to “cultural humility” because as indicated in the training it is neither realistic nor respectful to aspire to cultural competency. This has the potential to open up a dialogue about the agency’s approach to EDI and lead to improvements that make it more useful.

Event: Bringing EDI Training to an Organization with a Tribal Focus

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Tribal representative who attended Oklahoma EDI training

Approximate Event Date: Winter 2018-2019

Significance: A representative of the Cherokee Tribe in Oklahoma attended the EDI training. At a later HOPE-related meeting involving the tribal child care representatives, the participant indicated that she found the training to be extremely valuable and thought that it would be useful for those involved in tribal work to conduct such trainings. One initial possibility that was discussed was holding a training for the Oklahoma Tribal Child Care Association.

Event: Strengthening a Lead HOPE Agency’s Approach to Tribal Communities

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) and Tribal Organizations and Representatives

Approximate Event Date: Winter 2018-2019

Significance: OPSR has struggled to meaningfully engage Tribes in the work that it does. As a result of HOPE, OPSR is working in partnerships with Tribal representatives and organizations to develop a community-focused approach to achieving the goals of the HOPE project. OPSR has met with Tribal child care representatives and engaged in other discussions that may serve as a model for future endeavors involving OPSR and Tribes.

Event: Modeling State-Community Collaborative Approach to Policy Development

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Washington State CSSG

Approximate Event Date: Ongoing

Significance: The Washington State CSSG brings together a group of state and community representatives looking to develop a strategy to implement Help Me Grow in multiple communities as part of a statewide system, and to provide state support for those efforts. The Project Director envisions this effort serving as a model for other initiatives in the state and helping them move away from the more typical policy development practice where state agencies get together and develop initiatives before they engage the communities that are expected to implement them.

Event: Providing an Example of How a Regional Early Learning Coalition Can Address Equity

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Florida Office of Early Learning and Orange County Early Learning Coalition

Approximate Event Date: Ongoing

Significance: The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County is serving as one of the lead agencies for the HOPE-supported effort to extend Florida ECCS into the Orlando area. The Early Learning Coalitions play a lead role in administering the Voluntary Pre-K Program and Child Care Resource and Referral services among other early learning initiatives. OEL has sought to encourage the Coalitions to put a greater focus on equity issues with mixed success. The Orlando coalition will play a key role in HOPE’s efforts in Florida and this has the potential to serve as a model for other early learning coalitions.



Event: Using the Lessons Learned in EDI Training

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Florida OEL and Early Learning Coalitions

Approximate Event Date: March 2019

Significance: As noted above, Florida OEL has sought to encourage the 30 early learning coalitions in the state to put an increased emphasis on equity. For a variety of reasons this has been challenging. One of the modules in the EDI training is “Communicating Equity to Stakeholders.” During this session the lead from OEL noted with appreciation that the training was providing “tools to communicate.” She is likely to use these tools as she continues her work to strengthen the coalitions’ focus on equity.

Event: Infusing an Equity Focus into Other Key Initiatives

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: The Florida Healthy Start Coalition

Approximate Event Date: March 2019

Significance: One of the modules for the HOPE EDI training is Action Planning for EDI. During this section the Director of Florida Healthy Start suggested that the agency needs to take a look at its initiatives beyond ECCS. Florida Healthy Start encouraged the national ECCS initiative to put more of a focus on equity with some success. They have not looked at equity within their biggest initiative the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) in part because it has not been a major focus of the Federal funder for MIECHV. As a result of the training she indicated they would be taking another look at putting more of an equity focus and addressing this issue with the Federal agency that funds the program. Florida’s MIECHV grant is \$10.2 million. Nationally MIECHV is a \$400 million program that provides funding to 56 states, territories, and community-based organizations to support communities in providing voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services.¹ There is tremendous potential if the initiative puts a stronger focus on promoting equity.

Event: Strengthening the Relationship Between a State’s Key Early Childhood System Building Focused Agencies

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: OPSR and Maternal and Child Health Service, Oklahoma Department of Health

Approximate Event Date: Ongoing

Significance: The Maternal and Child Health Service (MCH) is the state agency with the strongest focus on early childhood system building in the state. It was not originally on the Oklahoma CSSSG for HOPE. In the process of developing a Data Report deliverable for Project HOPE OPSR reached out to the Senior Biostatistician at MCH who eagerly contributed her expertise to the report and who has a strong interest in infant mortality in Oklahoma. As a result of this connection, OPSR will reach out to MCH to learn more about their efforts. This potentially presents future opportunities for the two agencies to work closely together on issues related to HOPE and other projects.

¹ Maternal and Child Health. Health Resources and Services Administration. “Home Visiting.” Accessed at: <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/maternal-child-health-initiatives/home-visiting-overview>.



Event: Strengthening Parent Leadership and Building a Network of Parent Leaders through Leadership Training

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Florida Healthy Start and Parent Leaders in Various Locations Across the State

Approximate Event Date: Ongoing

Significance: Florida is planning on using HOPE resources to send parent leaders associated with its ECCS initiative to parent leadership training at COFI which stands for Community Organizing and Family Issues. COFI trains parents in Family Focused Organizing which empowers them to make changes in their own lives, families, and communities. The training includes a focus on policy and systems change by training them to create a community-based policy agenda that starts with common concerns raised by parents, such as childcare and safety and giving them tools to communicate their ideas and concerns to decision-makers and to build partnerships with professionals to develop programs and policies that work.² Once the training is complete their will be parents trained in leadership skills in Tallahassee, Orlando, Miami, and the Tampa area who will also be able to connect on statewide issues. The parent leader based in Tallahassee has played a key role in a number of initiatives in that city beyond ECCS and the training will help ensure that there are strong parent leaders in other communities across the state with key leadership skills. If successful the training may inspire other initiatives to support parents in their communities to attend such training.

² COFI. "The COFI Way." Accessed at: <http://www.cofionline.org/the-cofi-way/introduction/>



Nemours Project HOPE Ripple Effects Report

November 30, 2018

A key focus of the Consortium Evaluation is on ripple effects. As part of the Nemours Project HOPE evaluation Altarum is also collecting data on ripple effects. There is no generally accepted definition of ripple effects. Altarum is defining ripple effects as events that may potentially shape early childhood partners, systems, policies, or practices, but occur outside of the central activities of the main project being evaluated. For example: two partner organizations develop a stronger relationship as a result of work on Project HOPE and then develop an initiative or apply for a grant together; or a participant in Project HOPE may decide to take the lead in enhancing equity, diversity, and inclusion training in his or her agency or organization. As part of this data collection effort we recognize that ripple effects often involve potential effects that may not be realized immediately and that often go beyond the boundaries of data collection for a particular evaluation in terms of scope or time horizons. None-the-less it is useful to compile these events particularly for system change grants that are designed to make changes that potentially have long term effects that go beyond a particular project period.

This report summarizes the ripple effects that have emerged so far. Altarum collected data on these through its participation in various HOPE activities and through a review of HOPE materials. Altarum is also in the process of working with Nemours to implement a more systematic data collection process whereby state partners are asked about any ripple effects they are observing during the regular state check-in calls. A copy of the spreadsheet for collecting these data is included at the end of this document. Altarum will also continue to collect these data through its participation in other HOPE activities and through a review of project documents.

Event: Strengthening Relationships Between Key Early Childhood Partners in Kansas

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Kansas Action for Children, Child Care Aware Kansas, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

Approximate Event Date: Winter 2018

Significance: Three organizations submitted separate applications for the HOPE grant in Kansas. By the time they were asked to work on a combined approach they had already begun doing so. The organizations indicated that they were embarrassed by the number of uncoordinated applications submitted and that while they worked together in the past they clearly needed to build a stronger relationship moving forward. During their application interview and in individual consultations with Nemours staff, they indicated regardless of whether they received the HOPE grant that they would work closer together in the future and coordinate funding applications. Though their grant and interview were very strong Kansas did not receive a HOPE grant. However, it is quite likely that the experience of having submitted a grant and having developed a common approach to addressing inequity will lead to greater coordination among these key actors in the early childhood system in the future.



Event: Development of a stronger relationship between Florida Department of Health's initiative designed to address obesity in early childhood settings and the Florida Office of Early Learning

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Florida Department of Health Division of Community Health Promotion and Florida Office of Early Learning

Approximate Event Date: Summer 2018

Significance: The Florida Department of Health's Division of Community Health Promotion has developed initiatives that recognize child care providers who are acting to prevent obesity. In their Nemours application, which was separate from the Office of Early Learning application, they had proposed working to implement a recognition program for child care centers that have demonstrated "commitment to creating healthier environments and supporting the wellness of the children and families they serve." While a representative from the Office of Early Learning (OEL) served on the Florida Early Care and Education Stakeholder Committee, the two agencies had not discussed the best strategy for implementing the recognition program. When the two agencies applied separately and were asked to discuss how best to collaborate on HOPE the consensus that eventually emerged was that the focus should be on early childhood mental health which was more of the focus of the OEL application. However, the two agencies did agree to work more closely together to determine how the recognition program could most effectively be implemented in a way that compliments work being done by OEL. This will potentially help ensure that the recognition program is seen as a collaborative effort and does not involve contradictory or overly burdensome requirements for child care providers.

Event: Nemours presentation on Medicaid to Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG) applicants

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Nemours, BUILD, PDG applicants

Approximate Event Date: October 22, 2018

Significance: Through their participation in the HOPE Consortium, Nemours shared its work around promoting partnerships between early childhood partners and Medicaid. BUILD provided technical assistance to states who were applying for the PDG issued by the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Nemours and BUILD decided it would be useful if Nemours could present its work on partnering with Medicaid on a webinar held during the application period. Over 100 people registered for the webinar that was held on October 22. Assuming some states act on the information they heard there is great potential for positive outcomes. Medicaid is not routinely part of early childhood system building collaboratives though the program plays a vital role in supporting the health and well-being of young children and pregnant women. Anecdotal evidence suggest that changes associated with the Affordable Care Act have helped drive an increased interest in partnering among Medicaid agencies. Of the agencies interviewed for baseline key informant interviews in Oklahoma the Medicaid agency was doing some of the most innovative work addressing disparities and also has access to a great deal of data. Partnering with Medicaid has great potential and the webinar has the potential to help promote such partnerships in a large number of states.



Event: Nemours consultant prepares fact sheet on how to work with Tribes for PDG applicants

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Nemours, BUILD, PDG applicants

Approximate Event Date: October 2018

Significance: Nemours asked their consultant from Oklahoma, Eva Carter, to attend a PDG application event to learn more about the grant opportunity and possible synergy with HOPE. They informed BUILD about this plan and shared that the consultant had extensive expertise in building tribal partnerships. BUILD asked the consultant to develop an Issue Brief on “Engaging Tribes in the Design and Implementation of Early Care and Education Systems” to be shared with PDG applicants attending the event and to be posted on their application assistance website. The consultant used language from HOPE in the document. Tribes were ineligible to apply for PDG, but by developing this document the likelihood of states engaging in effective partnerships with tribes increased. In addition, because language from HOPE was used in the document it could potentially make it easier for HOPE states with significant tribal populations such as Oklahoma and California to coordinate their efforts across grants if they were awarded the PDG.

Event: Nemours provides support to Boston Medical Center’s (BMC) NOW initiative to work at the community-level in Nemours states where BMC did not have a grantee

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Nemours, BMC, Oklahoma, Florida

Approximate Event Date: Fall 2018

Significance: The Consortium partners at the state and community level developed independent review processes for assessing eligibility for HOPE grants. As a result BMC did not always have a community in states where Nemours was working. Nemours wanted to enhance community efforts in those states and was able to use its contacts to raise some additional funds to enable BMC to work in two additional communities. While HOPE always envisioned having BMC and Nemours collaborate in states where they were both working this is classified as a ripple effect because RWJF’s original plan for the project did not include Consortium partners raising money to fund additional communities in their states. This event creates an opportunity for better state community coordination and will likely have a long-term effect on the communities where BMC would not have been present without Nemours decision to fund additional communities.

Event: Oklahoma put a stronger focus on equity in its Preschool Development Grant (PDG) application than it would have without having a HOPE grant

Individuals, Agencies, Organizations Involved: Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness

Approximate Event Date: Fall 2018

Significance: Oklahoma indicated that because of the work that is being done around its HOPE grant, the state put a stronger emphasis on promoting equity in its PDG application than it otherwise would of. The state’s vision for the grant is to create an “equitable mixed delivery system” and they highlighted their HOPE work in a number of places in the application. This is especially notable because the Funding Opportunity Announcement for the grant does not include the word equity or disparity though it does make multiple references to focusing the grant on underserved or vulnerable populations. HOPE has already raised the profile of the equity issue in Oklahoma and regardless of whether PDG gets funded, equity will likely continue to be of greater importance in system building work in the state.



Ripple Effects Tracker

The purpose of this spreadsheet is to capture "ripple effects." These are events that may potentially shape early childhood partners, systems, policies, or practices but occur outside of the central activities of the project. For example: two partner organizations develop a stronger relationship as a result of work on Project HOPE and then develop an initiative or apply for a grant together; or a participant in Project HOPE may decide to take the lead in enhancing equity, diversity, and inclusion training in his or her agency or organization. Please provide the details requested in the columns. Significance of the event allows you to provide details about either the potential or current significance of a particular event.

State	Your name	Event (please indicate any sources who described the event)	Individuals and Organizations/Agencies Involved (please separate different entities with commas)	Significance