

Provider Input Sessions:

The MDHS DECCD funded system of support services for child care providers and the families they serve recently reached out to communities coordinated with partners included in the Early Years Network to hold twelve meetings around the state aimed at education and input for the Early Years Network (EYN). EYN partners provided an overview of Network goals and service areas. Time at each of the meetings was spent in dialogue with attendees gathering input for building a Network that will meet the needs of clients. The Alliance for Early Success supplied early childhood education expert Karen Ponder to participate in dialogue with attendees in order to support rich discussion and facilitate input.

There were over 180 attendees at the meetings including parents, providers, early interventionists, school district representatives, juvenile judges, finance officers, and Network representatives. Input was noted at each meeting and used to create a visual summary of the topics presented by attendees. This visual summary was added to at each meeting and used to identify major themes discussed. Themes seen in the image below grew larger when repeated by attendees. The largest words are the most commonly reported areas of need.

Summary of Input from Attendees:



Next Steps:

- Use of attendee input. Attendees clearly identified their needs to the Early Years Network. EYN partners will be using this information to help design a system of service delivery that meets the needs of all families and early childhood professionals in communities throughout Mississippi.
- Continue input process. These meetings are not the only opportunity for input with the Early Years Network. In order to stay responsive to changing and emerging needs EYN staff will engage in ongoing strategies to gain input.
- Respond to questions. At these meetings, attendees posed questions to EYN staff. These questions will be compiled into a list of Frequently Asked Questions and posted on the EYN website.

Contacting the Early Years Network:

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