

No Child Home Alone Summit - Notes Summary

Presented by the Montana VOAD Child Care Sub-Committee July 21, 2020

1. How do you see (yourself/your organization/your business) connected with the problem and the solution?
 - ✓ School partnerships are critical. Family and program planning hinge on school decisions about fall.
 - ✓ Parents are doing their best to manage multiple priorities and struggling to weigh risks.
 - ✓ There is a dramatic downward shift in staffing and programs and/or their core organizations are at risk of closing.
 - ✓ Grant funding has helped, many have accessed it, yet workers need hazard pay and programs are still losing money.
 - ✓ Data driven decision-making is best, yet programs need support to come faster.
 - ✓ New resources emerging but is it getting to families and rural communities?
 - ✓ Licensing requirements are difficult to navigate.
 - ✓ Safety guidelines have been manageable.

2. Further define/fill in the gaps on the challenges.
 - ✓ Fatigue in parents, providers, leadership. The unknowns create anxiety and increase trauma responses.
 - ✓ Increased risk of abuse, neglect, and family violence.
 - ✓ Inequity: parents with the means are pulling kids out of programs and making their own plans for fall, while those who do not have the means are unable to plan, let alone afford an alternative option than in-person schooling.
 - ✓ Inadequate communication channels between state, local levels, and parents.
 - ✓ Program capacity vs. enrollment data needed.
 - ✓ Many out of school time programs are not able to access state supports due to licensing restrictions.
 - ✓ Formula funding was too restrictive. Communities need more flexible funding.

3. Further identify solutions/ideas or supportive roles.
 - ✓ Continue to build the workforce, including the substitute pool
 - ✓ Assume best intentions at all levels, no one has the right answers or solutions. Test innovative strategies, learn, adapt, and try again.
 - ✓ Monitor and pilot emerging community-based strategies
 - ✓ Increase access to free mental health and respite resources.
 - ✓ Connect more with healthcare and public health.
 - ✓ Create pathways to pay for un-used slots, model after PPP.
 - ✓ Increased employer access to HR policies and training specific to challenges brought on by pandemic.

