Building a Strong Sustainable Early Childhood System
Strong Relationships and Partnerships

- Collaboration with Maryland State Department of Education
- Partners include families, advocacy organizations, providers, local and state agencies, universities, Governor, Legislators
Champions

- Child Mental Health Director and Assistant Superintendents for Special Education and Early Childhood
Governance

- Maryland Early Childhood Mental Health Steering Committee
- Established in 2000 after stakeholder Search Conference
- All stakeholder groups are represented on committee
- Develops and monitors strategic plan for Maryland’s early childhood mental health system of care.
Strategic Plan

- Focus on mental health consultation to child care centers
- Early childhood mental health workforce development (University of Maryland Certificate Program, CSEFEL)
- Integrating mental health into existing systems
Mental Health Services Integrated

- Mental health services integrated into existing early childhood programs
- Child Care settings, Infants and Toddlers programs, Head Start, Early Head Start, Pre-K, Home Visiting
Do you have a strategic plan?

- Is it a useful document that you can work from?
- Are the critical partners there?
- What are the obstacles that keep partners from joining?
Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention

- CSEFEL (Center for Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning)
- CSEFEL being used in child care settings, preschool, pre-K classrooms in public schools
- CSEFEL books being used in young child / parent reading hours