



A Chesapeake Thrives Conference

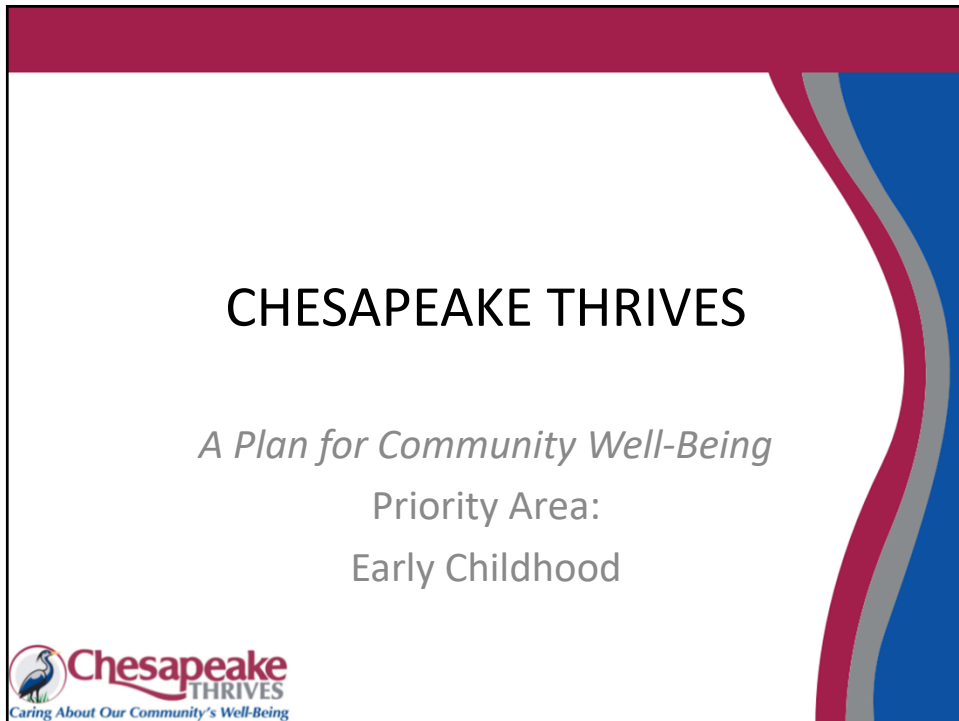
# The Power of Partnerships

Building community connections to improve resident outcomes

Breakout Session:  
Early Childhood




**Chesapeake**  
THRIVES  
*Caring About Our Community's Well-Being*



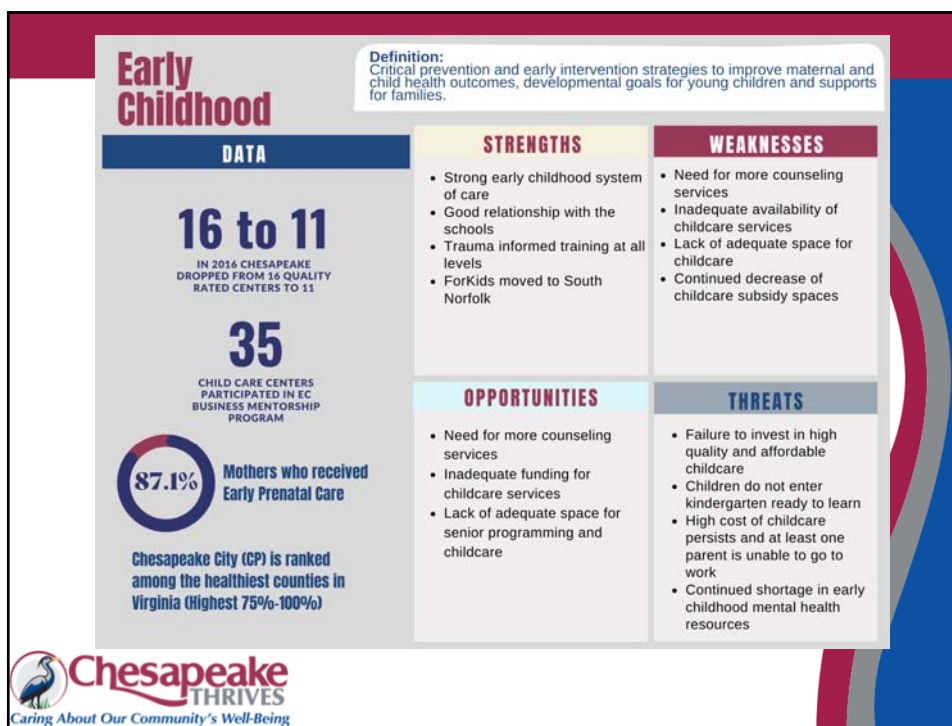
# CHESAPEAKE THRIVES

*A Plan for Community Well-Being*

Priority Area:  
Early Childhood



**Chesapeake**  
THRIVES  
*Caring About Our Community's Well-Being*



## EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Objective: Support success of prenatal and parenting families
- Strategies:
  - Identify gaps in services in the community
  - Provide universal screening to all prenatal and postnatal families
  - Increase referrals to home visiting programs via Chesapeake Regional Health Center
  - Provide prenatal and parenting education

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Objective: Improve early care and educational supports
- Strategies:
  - Expand quality affordable care
  - Expand capacity for providers to accept childcare assistance



## EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Objective: Increase knowledge of and access to early childhood behavioral health care
- Strategies:
  - Incorporate developmentally appropriate behavioral health practices in all childcare settings
  - Increase resources and partners to provide behavioral health supports in childcare settings
  - Expand capacity for administering consistent universal screenings (ASQ) for all 0-6 settings



## Discussion

### GOAL of the Discussion:

\*These are selected Objectives and Strategies from the Early Childhood dashboard. These are offered to introduce you to Chesapeake Thrives and to begin the conversation about the role all of us have in helping families and individuals in Chesapeake.

How do these goals and objectives connect with the work you're doing now?

How do you see connecting with these in the future?



## NEXT STEPS?



## Participant Discussion

**Childcare throughout the City:** Limited capacity for low income families. Currently, the City has 70 licensed centers and 50 that accept subsidy; 8 out of 43 Religious Exempt centers accept subsidy; 9 out of 12 Family Day Homes accept subsidy

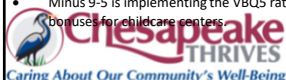
**Programs to strengthen childcare:** Leadership Training Academy; Small business assistance; Child care subsidy; Strong relationship/partner and programs with Chesapeake Public Schools/FACE; Professional Development; ForKids in Chesapeake.

### Trends:

- Increased need for behavioral health supports and services for children and families
- Pre-pandemic numbers showed that 87.1% of mother's received early prenatal care.
- In Early Childhood there are gaps in developmental supports, children birth to 3 years old can get early intervention aged 4-5 do not have the same availability of services until they go to public school
- Inadequate availability for childcare services
- Lack small business support/regulations for childcare
- Failure to invest in high-quality Child Care
- High cost of childcare
- Chesapeake is ranked among the healthiest counties in Virginia which is also a pre-pandemic number.
- Babies with low birth weight overall 9.6% in Chesapeake –impacted communities are African American. Data is from 2020 and does not look as though 2022 data will improve.
- Mortality rates are much higher for African American population, higher than the state average. We dropped down, but have gone back up in 2020.
- Infant mortality by ethnicity; most impacted are African American populations
- Maternal mortality is a huge cause across the United States. Has been increasing over the years. We have gone up in every demographic.

### Opportunities/Strengths

- Increased in childcare subsidy reimbursement rates effective October 1, 2022.
- Partnering with ForKids to provide housing supports for families.
- Library has a lot of family programming: conversation club, tutoring, Cuffee Innovation Lab, etc. Take the programs to where the families are.
- Ready Regions resources: website for different resources and school information; coordinated school enrollment with CPI/Subsidy/Head Start; Readysetregister.org
- ChildCareVA.com – parents can search for centers, religious exempt, family day homes, etc. Can also find out which centers receive subsidy.
- Minus 9-5 is implementing the VBQ5 rating system for any vendors accepting public funding. This bring incentives such as new hire bonuses for childcare centers.



### Gaps/Barriers

- Lack of parent education and prenatal classes
- Weak childcare business system
- Inadequate funding for childcare services
- Increase support for career track into early education
- Complicated system and process to find quality childcare
- State regulations impact local childcare businesses. New policies and procedures make it effectively managing a child care center more difficult
- Once a child turns 3, behavioral health services are very difficult to receive until enter public school.

### Strategies

- Provide universal screening to all prenatal and postnatal families.
- Prenatal to postnatal experience – identify gaps in services in the community
- Increase access to Ages and Stages Questionnaire – Developmental screening for all children
- Increase access to Spanish-speaking childcare and enrollment resources.
- Community awareness-meet families where they are, get resource information to them earlier. For example, a lot of them are unaware that Head Start/CPI exists.
- Strengthen parent education on parenting, finance, employment supports
- Increase referrals to home visiting programs via Chesapeake Regional Health Center
- Provide prenatal and parenting education
- Improve early care and educational supports.
- Support and provide business technical assistance to small business childcare centers
- Communicate the benefits for childcare centers to receive childcare subsidy
- Increase resources and partners to provide behavioral health support in childcare settings such as Infant & Toddler specialist
- Integrate seniors that are able and willing to volunteer to assist with facilities such as CPI/Head Start/CPS, etc.

