

Shante Brown hit a few home runs by sharing the significant changes that the Pennsylvania Office for Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) created in support of families and children experiencing homelessness. She provided five specific recommendations for how OCDEL is moving into 2023. Those recommendations are:

- i. Recommendation #1 – Training and Technical Assistance: Assure working knowledge of the federal McKinney-Vento definition of homeless for children and youth, as reflected in refined protocol and ongoing practice.
- ii. Recommendation #2 – Partnership and Collaboration: Direct and facilitate systemic infrastructures that sustain communication of providers and key leaders at both state and community levels. This work cannot be done alone or in small silos. It will take a coordinated approach.
- iii. Recommendation #3 – Policy Transformation: Update and align policies related to equitable early learning access for young children experiencing homelessness and ensure full implementation of stated policies.
- iv. Recommendation #4 – Data Integrity: Update and align data systems across sectors to create robust capacity and assure accurate data entry, reporting, and monitoring of trends.
- v. Recommendation #5 – Research and Evaluation: Continue to engage academic and research partners in measuring and reporting on progress.