AGENDA FOR ROUNDATABLE ON FOUR YEAR OLDS
September 23, 2013

What do we know about how Cambridge 4 year olds are currently being served

Number of 4 year olds in the City

Number of 4 years in Cambridge Public Schools/City/Community/Other Programs

Range of hours and cost for programs

Number of 4 year olds possibly unserved

What are potential Goals for School/City for serving 4 year olds?

- Ensuring that all children enter Kindergarten optimally ready to succeed in kindergarten
- Ensuring that all 4 year olds are educated by the Cambridge Public Schools
- Ensuring equity of access for all 4 year olds
- Ensuring that all 4 year olds are educated in quality programs
- Ensuring that parents of 4 year olds are able to access programs that meet their financial needs and work needs

What are alternate ways that School/City could meet goal of providing access to quality programs for all 4 year olds?

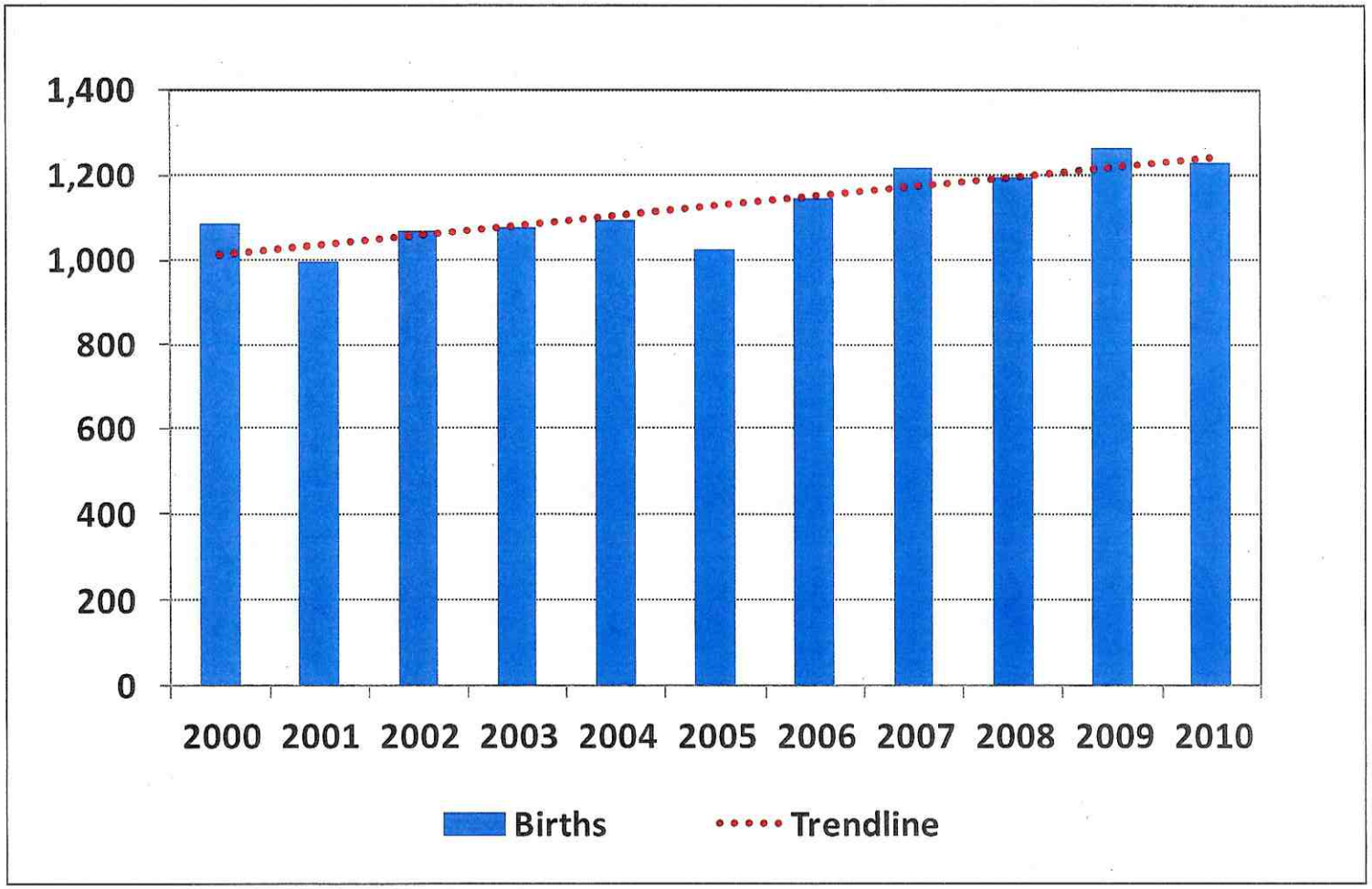
- School Department could expand JK classrooms to serve all 4 year olds
  - Questions of space, budget, demand
- School Department could provide support to existing programs to ensure quality
- Schools/City could expand program capacity of city/community programs
  - Questions of demand/ cost/space

- What are the characteristics of the current programs operated by the City
  - Description of Program Demographics and Operations
  - Brief Description of State Early Education and Care system
  - Program curriculum standards
  - Program assessment requirements

- School Department could provide support to existing programs to ensure that children leaving programs are meeting Kindergarten readiness standards
  - Questions of budget
  - Questions of capacity of staff
  - Questions of willingness of programs
  - Models other communities use= Boston
  - Issue of creating slots for children most in need

Next Steps?

Cambridge Births: 2000 - 2010

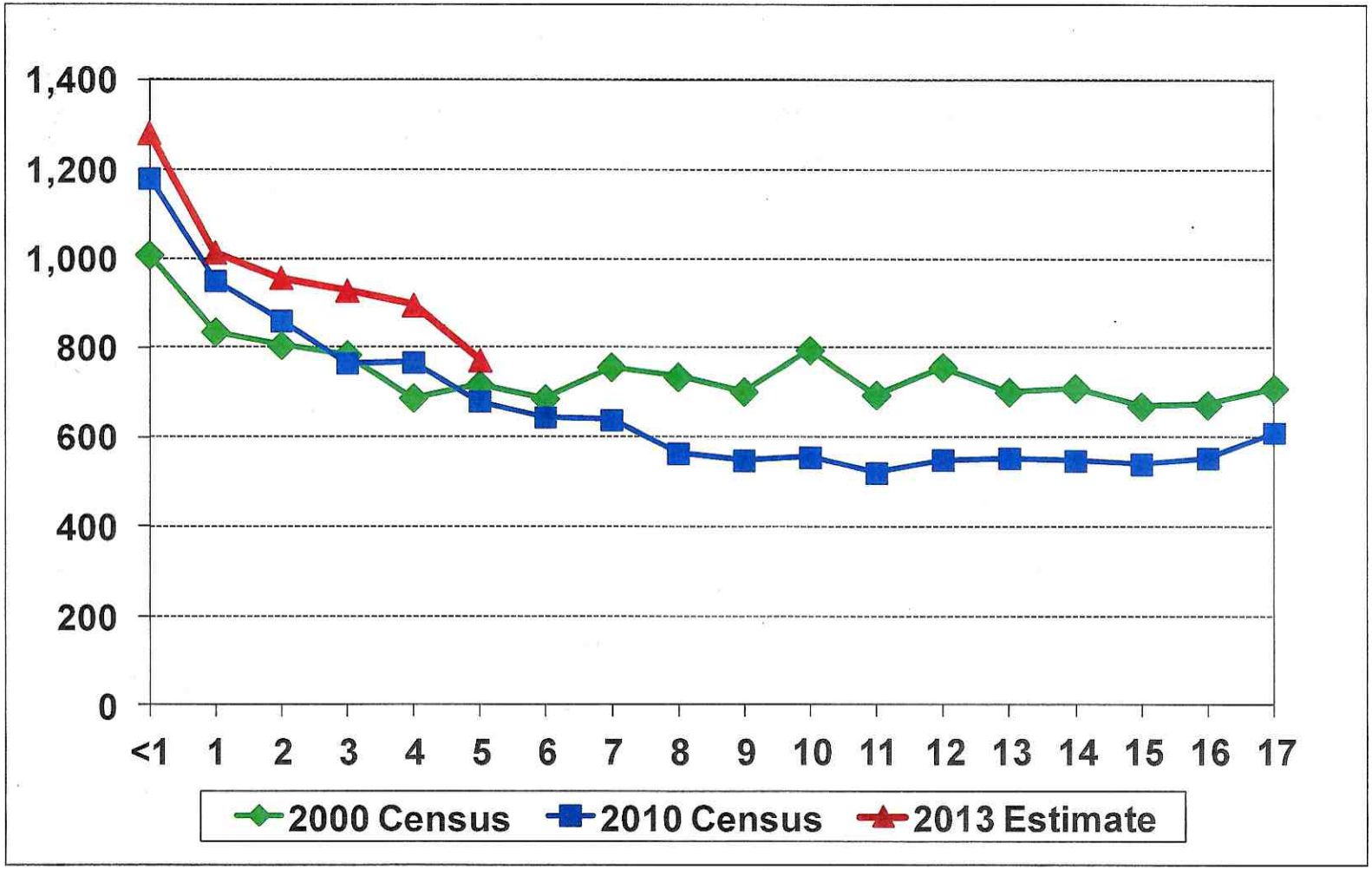


Counted and Estimated Population of 0 to 5 Year Olds: 2010 and 2013

Current Age	2010 Census Results	Estimated Cohort Size as of End of 2013	2013 Estimated as % 2010
Less Than 1	1,181	1,284	109%
1	950	1,015	107%
2	861	958	111%
3	766	930	121%
4	768	897	117%
5	681	774	114%
Total 1 to 4	4,526	5,084	112%
Total 1 to 5	5,207	5,858	113%

Source: SF1 Data File, Decennial Census, U. S. Census Bureau; MassCHIP database, MA DPH, Cambridge Community Development Dept..

Age by Year 2000, 2010 and 2013 (Estimate)



Source: SF1 Data File, Decennial Census, U. S. Census Bureau; Cambridge Community Development Dept.

Where are Cambridge 4 year olds being educated?

- At least 790 Cambridge 4 year olds are in programs in Cambridge
  - Approximately 445 are being served in city, community and for profit programs
  - School Department is serving 329 with 283 in JK and 46 in Special Start
  - At least 16 are being served in licensed family childcare

- Significant numbers may be served in other programs
  - JK programs in Cambridge Independent, Parochial and Charter schools
  - Childcare Programs in other communities where their parents work
  - Some children in family day care or programs that did not respond

- Number of Cambridge 4 year olds not being served is relatively small

- Parental choice of program may be limited by hours, cost and location
  - Approximately 2/3 of programs operate until 5:30 or 6:00 p.m.
  - Costs vary from free to over $1800 per month
  - State funded slots and scholarship assistance vary by program

- Mental health providers working to support at risk children in programs

DHSP PRESCHOOL PROFILE

- Serve 117 children ages 2.9 to Kindergarten entry

- Located in 6 Cambridge Public Schools
    - Haggerty
    - Kennedy-Longfellow
    - King Open
    - Dr. M. L. King, Jr.
    - Morse
    - Peabody

- Preschools operate 10 hours/day year-round

DHSP PRESCHOOL PROFILE

- 40-45% of families receive financial aid (based on state guidelines)
- Diversity – 49% White, 27% Black, 7% Latino, 15% Asian, 2% Other
- Child-Teacher Ratio is 4.25:1 (i.e., 17 children to 4 teachers)
- Teacher Qualifications: 76% Masters or Bachelors, 23% Enrolled in College Degree Granting Program

DHSP PRESCHOOL PROFILE

- 83-85% of eligible children enter CPS
    - Those that do not enter CPS live outside the city, return to their home countries, or go to private/charter schools

- Most DHSP preschool children seek to enter the elementary school in which their preschool is located

DHSP PRESCHOOL PROFILE

- Department of Early Education and Care
  - Licensed Programs
  - Participate in Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)
- Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Curriculum adheres to the Pre-K to K Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks:
  - English Language Arts (20 standards)
  - Mathematics (15 standards)
  - Science and Technology/Engineering (26 standards)
  - History and Social Science (13 standards)
  - Health Education (29 standards)
  - Arts (27 standards)

Curriculum Frameworks - English Language Arts

#6. Communicate personal experiences of interests

#7. Develop familiarity with forms of alphabet letters, awareness of print and letter forms

#9. Link letters and sounds in play activities

#12. Dramatize age-appropriate literature

Work Sampling Standards

- Demonstrates phonological awareness
- Uses expanded vocabulary and language for a variety of purposes
- Shows beginning understanding of concepts of print
- Begins to develop knowledge about letters
- Represents ideas and stories through pictures, dictation, and play
- Uses letter-like shapes, symbols, and letters to convey meaning
- Understands purpose for writing

Books read in class go home each week with the children.

Books have a parent guide which is aligned with the Title I Program parent handouts.