

**Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
February 15, 2013
The Cornhusker Hotel
Lancaster Rooms 1-2-3, Lincoln, Nebraska**

Council Members Present: Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Carol Benson, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Eric Dunning, Barb Esch, Melinda Graham, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Shirley Pickens White, Senator Pete Pirsch, Roger Reikofski, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

Council Members Absent: Rebecca Bimler, Annie Bruns, Lois Butler, J.P. Holys, Heather Krieger, Amy LaPointe, Carol McClain, Julie Rother

Also in attendance: *ECICC Staff:* Holly Erickson, secretary; *Technical Assistants:* NDE – Amy Bornemeier, Pat Frost, Joan Luebbers; NDHHS – Lynne Brehm, Amy Bunnell, Pat Urzedowski; Munroe-Meyer Institute – Mark Smith; First Five Nebraska – Becky Veak.

The Family Leadership Team met in a working session beginning at 8:00 a.m. The Committees then met from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. before the opening of the Council meeting.

A. Welcome

Pam Dobrovolny, chair, convened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council at 11:00 a.m. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted at the front table. Pam welcomed everyone and had all Council members introduce themselves.

B. Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2012 Meeting & Dates for 2014

- * Pam asked for a motion from the Council to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2012 meeting and meeting dates for 2014. Mike Adams made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Melinda Graham seconded the motion.

There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll call vote: yes – 19, no – 0, abstain – 0

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Carol Benson, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melinda Graham, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Shirley Pickens-White, Senator Pete Pirsch, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

The minutes and dates for 2014 were approved as presented. The 2014 meeting dates will be February 14, 2014, May 9, 2014, August 22, 2014 and November 21, 2014.

ii. Committee Report Outs

The ECICC committees each made reports on their work at their committee meetings held on February 15, 2013. A priority was given to each committee to review the draft report to the Governor which was discussed later in the meeting.

Family Leadership Team (FLT):

Mike Adams presented the work the Family Leadership Team discussed during today's meeting. The Family Leadership Team updated the council that a family involvement training sponsored by MMI is scheduled for North Platte in March and Norfolk in April. Some members of the Council may want to attend and they can get this information from Mark Smith. Also, future areas of consideration will be Rule 52 service area gaps, consistency of PRT in terms of addressing gaps and barriers and family involvement. The group made an action item for Rule 11 preschools and the practice of "red shirting". The committee discussed how parents of children with disabilities may have the concern of "sensory overload" in regular education. The team would like the option available for an additional year of preschool instead of an additional year of kindergarten. Some key data, trends, information considered were page 24 of the draft of the Governor's report, reports from other parents, minutes of the last meeting and the family support survey grant. The FLT recommends to the Council that Rule 52 be carefully scrutinized to be certain that the new language does not lead to decreased verifications. The FLT may also want to meet with the Professional Development committee for further discussion on service gaps in rural areas.

Regulations and Standards:

Teri Chasten presented the work the Regulations and Standards committee discussed during today's meeting. The committee reports that the Annual Performance Report (APR) was approved by a Council group representative (Regulations and Standards Committee) and sent to the Council Chair for approval. The committee also reports that the 2013 IDEA Part C application is out on the Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services websites for public comment and review. The application was reviewed by the committee.

Family Action Matter Everyday (FAME):

Salene Ulrich presented the work the FAME committee discussed during today's meeting. The committee discussed their three priority areas: Medicaid, transportation issues and child care regulations. Amy Bornemeier has been trying to reach a Medicaid agency contact to discuss their focused concerns but has not heard back. She will continue to try and reach this contact so they may arrange for guests and experts to inform the Council on this subject. The committee also discussed the issue that finding providers who accept Medicaid and obtaining mileage reimbursement continue to be a challenge.

Professional Development and Workforce:

Dawn Mollenkopf presented the work the Professional Development and Workforce committee discussed during today's meeting. She updated the Council about the Professional Shortages Survey that is being prepared. Currently, the survey is with Holly Erickson who will make a fillable PDF to send out. Terry Rohren is also working on information about gaps and shortages and Dawn plans to follow up upon Terry's return. An issue that may be addressed later is telehealth and how it may provide more options for those in rural populations. The other updates were the changes to University of Nebraska – Kearney and other campus programs on early childhood. One action item the committee discussed was rural versus urban pay rates. The committee would like to investigate why the child care subsidy rates vary throughout the State. The other action item the committee discussed was QRIS. There is an upcoming hearing at the Legislature that would be beneficial to support. The committee recommended that ECICC show formal support at the LB 507 hearing. There was discussion from the Council that ECICC is an advisory Council and cannot support something, however, as individuals members can support a bill if they would like to.

Early Childhood Services & Systems:

Carolyn Thiele presented the work the Early Childhood Services and Systems committee discussed during today's meeting. The committee updated the Council that the assessment tool initiative has moved to Together for Children and Families. They intend to check with Barbara Jackson on the progress of the project. The committee discussed CAPTA referrals, looking to see if social emotional have been assessed. The Committee plans to invite Joan Luebbers and Amy Bunnell to revisit this data and see if it is being used to drive improvements in the system.

C. Action Items

iii. Regulations and Standards Committee Recommendation to Approve Submission of FFY 2011 Annual Performance Report (APR) and State Performance Plan (SPP).

Prior to the ECICC meeting, there was a conference call for clarification and discussion. The Regulations and Standards Committee recommended approval of the reports. The committee stated the state appeared to have met many targets and exceeded targets in many areas. Some targets were met, but the transition target didn't quite meet standards. The transition target requires meeting with the family within 90 days, however, finding the families is quite difficult. State representatives indicated sometimes an appointment is made with the families and upon arrival for the appointment they are not home. A clarification was made that if it is a family driven reason that contact has not been made within the 45 days, it does not yet go into effect and they will not be found out of compliance.

- * Pam asked for a motion from the Council to approve the APR and SPP. Shirley Pickens-White made the motion to approve. Roger Reikofski seconded the motion.

The motion passed by roll call vote: yes – 21, no – 0, abstain - 0

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Carol Benson, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Eric Dunning, Barb Esch, Melinda Graham, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Shirley Pickens-White, Senator Pete Pirsch, Roger Reikofski, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

The APR and SPP were approved as presented.

**Discuss the Proposed Recommendations for the 2012 Report to the Governor
Suggested Changes to the Draft 2012 Report to the Governor
Next Steps for Report – Revisions – Public Hearing**

Pam started by asking for feedback regarding the 2012 Report to the Governor. Members stated the report reflected their awareness of issues in early childhood, and that the report was complete. Next year it might be ideal to shorten the report. The Regulations and Standards Committee could review the report after today's full Council comments for streamlining and simplification of data. The report should be updated based upon comments and then go back to the entities who provided information for review prior to the posting for comment and approval. Council members suggested that a conference call could take place to review the format. Then after simplifying, make sure nothing important had been taken out and then prepare the report for the public hearing. Any changes to the report would need to be done within the next couple of weeks.

Council members were concerned there may be missing information from the report so there may need to be additional information included. Council members cautioned that the report not duplicate any other report to be submitted. A few Council members thought it may be good to add in some data and tell the story behind the data. It was mentioned that adding data would help tell the story and also drive the recommendations. Council members suggested CAPTA data be added to the report.

A comment was made that it may be worth having testimonials from families to show how they are affected by early childhood services. Council members indicated the goals and indicators section did not match. Council members suggested it might be good to add recommendations about data collection.

The Early Childhood Services and Systems committee, suggested a change in Recommendation #10 to promote and implement a quality rating system for early care. They also offered adding a Recommendation #16 of "Improving education of medical providers in Child Find, developmental screening and EPSDT."

Members thought it may be insightful to highlight accomplishments and see trends in the document. Council members suggested that some of the recommendations are vague and perhaps the report could be more specific and/or provide examples.

Pat Urzedowski stated that we could officially remove recommendation #12 because she had been assigned the regulations today. They would go into effect February 20th, however, no license will be held responsible until May 22, 2013 (which she noted was an unofficial date). Between now and then they would be offering training on regulations for all license types across the state. She commented that this effort will be much bigger than the change in 1995. There will be 5 different license types with a new one for school age only centers. The staff will also be offered training at no cost which will provide them with 2 hours of training credit. They will provide the staff with certificates. They will allow time to come into compliance, especially those that have to have a written policy. They will provide samples but the licensees must write them on their own. Pat is elated and grateful for everyone that has helped the last 13 years and please let her know if there are any questions.

Pam asked the Council what the next steps were for the Draft Report to the Governor.

- * Melody Hobson motioned the Regulations and Standards committee meet by conference call to finish the work. Teri Chasten seconded the motion. Sian Jones-Jobst voiced concern that they do not have a representation from all committees. She suggested that having the Steering committee review the report in order to have representation from all committees. Teri Chasten suggested having the Regulations and Standards committee and the Steering committee.

Melody Hobson amended her motion to have the Regulations and Standards committee and the Steering committee meet. Christen Witte offered to add the co-chair of the committees too. There was discussion about too many people being involved and causing a quorum. Melody rescinded her motion.

Sian Jones-Jobst motioned to have the Steering committee review the report. Melody Hobson seconds.

The motion passed by roll call vote: yes – 22, no – 0, abstain - 0

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Carol Benson, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Eric Dunning, Barb Esch, Melinda Graham, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Shirley Pickens-White, Senator Pete Pirsch, Roger Reikofski, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

Family Story

During the working lunch, Christy Pelton and her family, Nye and Evelyn, shared their story.

Action Item

Pam reconvened the Council by opening with another agenda item. She asked how the Council would like to be represented at the public hearing for the Report to the Governor. Discussion was made as to how it was done in the past.

- * Eric Dunning motioned to designate Terry Rohren and Holly Erickson to represent the Council at a public hearing and report back. Mike Adams seconded.

The motion passed by roll call vote: yes – 17, no – 0, abstain - 0

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Carol Benson, Pam Dobrovolny, Eric Dunning, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Shirley Pickens-White, Roger Reikofski, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

Public Comment

Becky Veak passed out a handout from First Five Nebraska. It explained where to find bill statuses for early childhood matters on the First Five website.

<http://firstfivenebraska.org/nebraska-is-taking-action/content/current-legislation/>

Pam Dobrovolny offered to the Council that the technical assistants could be utilized for any committees if they were needed.

Focus of Meeting: Early Childhood Care and Education

iv. State Advisory Council Grant Update

Eleanor Kirkland drew the Councils attention to the Early Childhood Data Summit summary report in the meeting packet. She informed the Council that a formal report will be provided at the May meeting. The project is funded by the ECICC and that these funding obligations must be completed by August 2013. The Federal government will be tracking spending monthly now. In conclusion, Eleanor stated that they were still waiting for feedback from those who were unable to attend the Summit and would like to provide feedback regarding the recommendations.

Amy Bornemeier updated the Council about School Readiness and the Ready for Success booklets. The booklets are now being offered in many additional languages and are being posted to the website for easy access. If printed copies are needed please contact Amy. She has been working diligently on the Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) revisions. They have now added more information to the ELGs making it much thicker. They are also in the process of developing a companion piece for the ELG. Another companion piece they are creating is a calendar. The calendar will be written in the child's voice. They are also working with children's museums to imbed information and help parents understand how children learn through play.

Eleanor thanked the Council for all that participated in the Data Summit and provided a link to the webpage. http://www.education.ne.gov/OEC/data_summit.html

v. Part C 2013 Application Highlights

Carol McClain was out ill so Eleanor directed everyone to the handouts provided in the meeting packet for anyone wanting to provide feedback.

iv. Nebraska Adverse Childhood Experiences

Kristin Yeoman presented a PowerPoint regarding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The presentation reviewed the study about how stressful or traumatic experiences during childhood affect adult health. 63% of the people who participated in the study had experienced at least one category of childhood trauma and over 20% experienced 3 or more categories of trauma which they refer to as ACEs. After the presentation, Kristin asked if there were any questions. Members asked how they get a clear picture and track some adults that are in and out of institutions. Kristin explained that the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is done yearly and even if those individuals are missed one year they may be surveyed the following year if they are available. BRFSS is designed to be representative but it is very hard because some people do not want to participate. It was asked if only landlines were being used and Kristin answered that in previous years it was landlines only, however, in 2011 the (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) CDC started to allow cell phones.

Council members asked how often the ACE is taken with the BRFSS survey. Kristin stated that it depends on the state. Nebraska completed one in 2010 and 2011, however, they did not in 2012 and have no plans to do so in 2013. In the future it could be added again to the survey. Members wondered if Nebraska was comparable to other states. Kristin assured them that yes, Nebraska is very comparable. Of the 5 states that completed in the first year, Nebraska was very similar. One difference between Nebraska and other states is that other states are able to survey more minority groups than Nebraska has been able to. Increasing public education of ACEs may help people realize they may be at risk. A question was asked if joint custody of children was asked when inquiring about divorce in the survey. Kristin stated that no, it is not.

vii. Early Childhood Quality Grants – Trends in Request

Diane Lewis directed the Council to information in the meeting packets regarding child care grant funds and the purpose of the child care grants. DHHS purposefully kept the application packet very simple. DHHS awards these grants every month. The early childhood quality grants have been in place since 2005. Most applicants apply for all \$500 and use it to pay for play items, art supplies, small motor skills items, blocks, large motor, science items or even strollers for little ones so they are included on walks as well. Child care providers may also use the grant to fund training. The grant really

helps more experienced childcare centers afford fresh new toys. If their application is denied, they are sent a letter detailing why.

Discuss Possible Agenda Items for May Meeting

Eleanor Kirkland offered to present the State Advisory Council data recommendations. A theme was discussed of parent education or access to health care. Some members asked if there was a call in/phone conference option available since it will be a long travel. Joan Luebbers mentioned that Cristen Witte and Eleanor Kirkland had a great group for social emotional locally in Cristen's area. Cristen stated that the team is still meeting and she could do an update at the May meeting. Lynne Brehm mentioned there are questions coming from the public regarding the Affordable Health Care Act. Carolyn Thiele thought that a good topic would be challenges for greater Nebraska service providers. Pam Dobrovoly also added a Rule 52 update and teacher certification.

With no other items to be discussed, Carolyn Thiele motioned to adjourn the meeting. Susan Strahm seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: May 10, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Valentine, NE

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- ✓ Proposed 2013 Nebraska IDEA Part C Application
- ✓ Nebraska Early Childhood Inter-and Intra-Agency Transition Agreement
- ✓ System of Payments Policy for Part C Services
- ✓ 2013 Early Childhood Summit Summary Report
- ✓ Preparing Your Quality Improvement Grant Application
- ✓ ECICC 2013 Roster
- ✓ ECICC Draft Strategic Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood
- ✓ ECICC 2012 Recommendations Report to the Governor
- ✓ First Five Nebraska 2013 Nebraska Legislation Affecting Early Childhood