

**Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
February 14, 2014
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Council Members Present: Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melinda Graham, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Joan Luebbers, Carol McClain, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Kathleen Zadina

Council Members Absent: Sue Adams, Teri Chasten, Emily Kluver, Amy LaPointe, Julie Mizner, Cathy Mohnike, Julie Rother

Also in attendance: *ECICC Staff:* Terry Rohren, facilitator, Holly Johnson, secretary; *Technical Assistants:* NDE-Pat Frost, Jan Thelen; DHHS-Diane Lewis, Tiffany Mullison, DHHS-Nicole Vint; ICFI-Mary Finney-Afrank; PTI Nebraska-Connie Shockley; First Five Nebraska-Becky Veak; NCFE-Lynne Brehm

i. Committee Meetings

The Family Leadership Team met in a working session beginning at 8:30 A.M. All other committees met in working sessions from 9:30 AM-10:45 AM before opening the Council meeting. The Full Council meeting convened at 11:00 AM.

Welcome

Pam Dobrovolny, chairperson of the ECICC, convened the meeting at 11:00 AM. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available at the front table. Pam welcomed everyone and had all Council members, technical assistants and Council staff introduce themselves.

A. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2013 Meeting

The minutes of the November 15, 2013 meeting had been provided to Council members prior to the meeting. Pam asked for a motion from the Council to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2013 meeting. Cristen Witte made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Barb Esch provided the second to the motion.

There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll call vote: 20 voted yes, 0-voted no, 0-abstained.

Voting Yes: Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melinda Graham, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Carol McClain, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Kathleen Zadina

ii. Committee Report Outs

Family Leadership Team

Mike Adams reported for the Family Leadership Team. The team discussed the Power Play Conference that took place. They are hoping to bring it back to the area so that more people could attend. Mike spoke with a contact from North Dakota looking for board members. Mike will distribute OSEP information once he receives it.

Early Childhood Services and Systems

Sian Jones-Jobst reported for the Early Childhood Services and Systems committee. The committee discussed having easier access to resources for parents, consumers and those who make referrals. Answers 4 Families is a wonderful resource but is not always as user friendly as some would like. The committee is discussing how they could help address that with Answers 4Families, possibly giving them a strategic plan or encouraging them to create their own. The committee reported that their contact in Kentucky has left, so they will not be able to have the interim meeting as hoped.

Family Actions Matters Everyday (FAME)

Salene Ulrich reported for the Family Action Matters Everyday committee. A Facebook page has been set up for the PRTs. It was noted that the PRT membership list has recently been updated. The Right Place booklets have been handed out and have been found to be excellent resource. The committee briefly discussed Access Nebraska. The committee is trying to get AMR to discuss transportation services. DHHS indicated that transportation services contracts are in the process of being reviewed and so it might be better to wait until another meeting to discuss transportation. ESU 15 developed a community map which provides information about where providers for services are.

Regulations and Standards Committee

Christy Pelton reported for the Regulations and Standards committee. The committee discussed that some things were changed and added to Rule 11. Melody Hobson stated the Office of Early Childhood plans to go out and hold input sessions on the Rule 11 draft before taking it to the State Board. Amy Bunnell brought the IDEA Part C proposed policies to the committee. The committee decided to ask the full council to approve a letter to be read at the public hearing. The public hearing will cover policies that support Rule 52. The 3 policies are:

1. Transition - IDEA Part C into Preschool Part B. This will help kids from getting “lost” in the system.
2. System Policy – How we pay for early intervention
3. Child Find policy –how NDE and the Early Development Network conducts public awareness and locates at risk children

Christy Pelton made the motion to produce a letter from ECICC to be presented at the public hearing for Rule 52. J.P. Holys provided the second to the motion.

Mike Adams asked that this be included in the May meeting packet. The motion passed by roll call vote: 17 voted yes, 0-voted no, 1-abstained.

Voting Yes: Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melinda Graham, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Kathleen Zadina;
Abstaining: Carol McClain

Professional Development and Workforce Committee

Dawn Mollenkopf reported for the Professional Development and Workforce committee. The committee continued their work on the survey regarding professionals out in the field, related services and their access. The general pattern is that the mental health areas are low. The committee will look closer at some of those areas and get back to the council with the results. The committee also plans to break down the survey by areas or regions to determine if the needs are greater in rural areas of the state rather than in urban areas.. The committee will examine college coursework for those allied health professions such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, mental health, etc. to see what early childhood development course content is being offered. The committee would next like to take a look at turnover rates by comparing childcare turnover versus public schools turnover.

Legislative Information

Becky Veak gave an overview of the current legislative information. Becky provided a handout First Five Nebraska produced and also guided us through the website for more information. Terry Rohren reminded the council that it serves as an advisory body to the state agencies. Any testifying by Council members should be as individual citizens and not on behalf of the Council. Becky Veak explained they start loading information on the introduced bills to the website on day 1 of the session and track throughout. At the end of the session, First Five Nebraska puts together highlights and a comprehensive summary of what was accomplished during the session related to early childhood care and education bills.

Working Lunch

Tammy Stevenson gave her family story during our lunch.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Pyramid Model Leadership Academy

Jan Thelen presented information regarding the Pyramid Model Leadership Academy held in July 2013. Teams made up of representatives from local school districts are selected from applications. Teams are approved for participation in the Pyramid Model Leadership Academy. The Pyramid Leadership Academy is a 3 day intensive training. Teams then commit to a 2 year

process of implementation in the local school district. . It requires commitment of the entire team, including administrators. Implementation with fidelity to the Pyramid Model is key to successful implementation. There are 3 training modules teams must complete working with an external coach. Coaches come on site and work with the teams twice a month. At the end of the 1st year, each team will select an internal coach. Throughout the 2nd year, they will phase out the external coach.

There will not be a Pyramid Model Leadership Academy during 2014. After working through the first two years to make sure everything is working great, hope to offer the next Pyramid Model Leadership Academy in the Summer of 2015. Mike Adams asked if all of the coaches get together to discuss progress. Jan did indicate that the coaches meet by conference calls monthly, but that they do not get together face to face. After the first year, they get together for one day to refresh skills and share challenges and successes.

Rooted in Relationships/Circle of Security

Lynne Brehm explained that Rooted in Relationships is a 3 year project and they are currently in their 2nd year. The three communities are currently Dawson, Saline and Dakota counties. The initiative targets specific service systems and partners within communities to assist in the development of long range plans to support the social-emotional development of children, birth through age 8.

Lynne Brehm and Amy Bunnell spoke to the council about Circle of Security Parents Training. They explained that it is a 4 day parenting training. The training is expensive and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is encouraging communities to work together to send people to the training. Only those who complete the training can offer the Circle of Security Training for Parents. However, there is a 10 day training session for therapists or professionals in a related field. The training is a direct training and not a train the trainer type of program. With both private and state funds helping, 50% of the training registration can be paid for those people attending as part of a community initiative. Those that have gone through the training say it is one of the best social emotional intervention trainings for parents out there.

Together for Kids and Families Mitigation of Toxic Stress

Tiffany Mullison spoke to the council about toxic stress and presented a slide show. The new Early Childhood Comprehensive System Grant has added an additional focus to the Together for Kids and Families work. Together for Kids and Families (TFKF) is adding the mitigation of toxic stress to its work in the existing TFKF workgroups. Tiffany explained the types of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the percentage that Nebraska families are affected by them. There is research that indicates that adults overall health can be seriously impacted by exposure to many ACEs over their lifetimes. Protective factors are critical to reducing the impact of children's exposure to adverse childhood experiences.

Public health is working to identifying how to best educate the early childhood care and education world about ACEs and their critical role in helping build protective factors for young children.

Agenda Items for May 2014 Meeting

- Local Early Childhood Care and Education Panel

The meeting of the ECICC adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Handouts:

February 14, 2014 ECICC Meeting Agenda

Overview of the February 14, 2014 ECICC Meeting Agenda

2013 – 2014 ECICC Membership Roster

Minutes of the January 13, 2014 ECICC Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes of the November 15, 2013 ECICC Meeting

Rooted in Relationships (provided by Lynne Brehm)

Circle of Security (provided by Lynne Brehm)

Statewide Investments and Initiatives NCFE (provided by Lynne Brehm)

Pyramid Model Information flyer (provided by Jan Thelen)

Pyramid Implementation Academy (provided by Jan Thelen)

Love & ACEs: Defining Toxic Stress (provided by Tiffany Mullison)

2014 Nebraska Legislation Affection Early Childhood (provided by Becky Veak)