

Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council November 21, 2014 Cornhusker Hotel Lincoln, Nebraska

Council Members Present: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Amy Bunnell, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, Cole Johnson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Joan Luebbers, Dawn Mollenkopf, Cathy Mohnike, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Tammi Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Kathleen Zadina

Council Members Absent: Sue Adams, Carol Benson, Lois Butler, Melinda Graham, J.P. Holys, Emily Kluver, Amy LaPointe, Julie Mizner, Nicole Vint

Also in attendance: *Technical Assistants:* Pat Frost, Ann Adams, Eleanor Shirley, Kim Texel, Diane Lewis, Sharon Johnson, Mary Finney-Afrank, Becky Veak, Lynne Brehm, Amy Bornemeier, Betty Medinger, Mark Smith, Charlie Lewis, Connie Shockley, Tiffany Mullison

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-10:30 AM before opening the Council meeting. The Full Council meeting convened at 11:00 AM.

Welcome

Pam Dobrovolny, chairperson of 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 guests introduce themselves.

A. Approval of Minutes of August 22, 2014 Meeting

The minutes of the August 22, 2014 meeting have been provided to Council members. Pam asked for a motion from the Council to accept the minutes of the August 22, 2014 meeting as presented. Melody moved to approve the minutes, Mike Adams seconded. Melody amended the motion so that the minutes will be approved as amended. Barb Esch seconded.

There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll call vote: 18-voted yes, 0-voted no, 1-abstained.

Voting Yes: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Amy Bunnell, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, Cole Johnson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Joan Luebbers, Dawn Mollenkopf, Cathy Mohnike, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Tammi Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Kathleen Zadina

Voting Abstain: Julie Rother

Pam then announced that the February 13, 2015 meeting would be held in Lincoln, Nebraska

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Family Leadership Team

Salene Ulrich reported that the committee discussed the first 100 days and focused on creating a website for families with diagnosis to find resources. They would like to either add to an existing website or create a new one with an app similar to parentcompanion.org, understood.org, and caregivers ladder. The committee wants the site to be short, simple, and concise with helpful links for parents to help with diagnosis. They want to develop something that is sustainable and can be updated with helpful links for families as their kids transition and progress in school. The committee consulted with Charlie Lewis and she will create a proposal. The committee will ask co-leads for funding.

Regulation and Standards

Christy Pelton reported that the committee discussed the need for more Spanish language documents and forms for immunizations and other brochures across agencies. They would like to speed up the process in getting these developed and handed out.

The committee elected Kathleen Zadina and Christy Pelton as new co-chairs of committee. The purpose and the focus of the Regulation and Standards committee will be to assess the need for regulation and standards, the implementation of new and existing regulations and standards, and required reporting.

The Part C Annual Performance Report must be submitted by February 1st. The committee would like for it to be finished by mid-December and request volunteers from each committee who would be willing to review the report before it is submitted to the council chair for review and approval.

The committee would like to have NET video on the economic impact of Part C put on the agenda for next meeting.

Early Childhood Services and Systems

Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst reported that Mike Adams is the committee's new co-chair. They are composing a letter regarding state support for Answers 4 Families to help rebuild and update the website making it more user friendly. The committee would like ECICC support in the distribution of the letter to early childhood and family stakeholders requesting movement toward a collaborative, centralized website to serve as a resource for families across the state. The letter will be drafted by the EC Services and Systems Committee and finalized through the Steering Committee. This letter is to be sent out after the next ECICC meeting. An action item will be requested at the next meeting.

Professional Development and Workforce

Dawn Mollenkopf reported that the committee sent out a survey to analyze the gaps for kids and families in Part C. The data was collected from the PRT's and presented at the Buffett meeting. Nebraska's data looks like other national data. The biggest challenge is in area of mental health for kids and families, a lot of medical generalists, but inexperienced with children. There are some issues of not having access. There is a need for more professional development in those areas. The data showed there are many service options, but there are still some gaps. Parents are either driving 4+ hours to the provider, or the providers are traveling the distance to provide these services. It was noted that qualified providers are overworked and underpaid. The committee, along with Terry Rohren's help, had planned to research websites of colleges for information about which colleges provide EC development. However, since Terry retired and Buffett starting this work, the committee is not planning to do this anymore to avoid duplication of efforts.

Dawn asks for a motion to have ECICC draft a letter to go out to the planning region teams as a thank you, to share data, and to clarify that it is coming from ECICC. Susan Strahm seconded.

The motion passed by roll call vote: 19-voted yes, 0-voted no, 0-abstained.

Voting Yes: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Amy Bunnell, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, Cole Johnson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Joan Luebbers, Dawn Mollenkopf, Cathy Mohnike, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Tammi Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Kathleen Zadina

Family Actions Matter Everyday

Tammy Stevenson reported that the committee has set new goals since the original goals have been met. The committee discussed many issues that families are facing and came up with the Routines Based Interview (RBI) process. Unfortunately, a parent may feel defensive during interviews. Salene Ulrich had the idea to do a parent rights video featuring parents who have been through the process speaking to other parents about the process. Providers could share the video prior to the RBI to ease any concerns. The committee wants to know more about parent to parent peer support providers, especially to support CAPTA referrals through the RBI process. At the next meeting, the committee would like to discuss what resources are being promoted to support the parent's role. The committee would like an overview of ECMH resources available to parents and how to access them.

Approval of 2014 Report to the Governor

Pam Dobrovolny led the discussion on the Council's next steps for the Governor's report. The revisions have been made and a public hearing was held. Pam noted that the current draft is the same draft the council has seen in previous versions, with a few typographical corrections. On

Page 14 are the priorities that ECICC will forward to the new Governor and Legislature. This will be valuable for new members. The five priorities illustrate that the issue of quality touches on all of these priorities.

1. Professional Development
2. Step Up to Quality
3. Nebraska P-16 Initiative
4. Parent and Public Engagement
5. Focus on Infants and Toddlers

Mike Medwick from First Five Nebraska drafted the report and it will be tool to provide a clear message to the Governor of known issues and what the new administration has on their plate.

Christy Pelton made a motion for approval, Joan Luebbers seconded.

There was discussion around the P-16 Initiative. The motion passed by roll call vote: 18-voted yes, 0-voted no, 0-abstained.

Voting Yes: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Amy Bunnell, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, Cole Johnson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Joan Luebbers, Dawn Mollenkopf, Cathy Mohnike, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Kathleen Zadina

Working Lunch

Public Comment

Eleanor Shirley gave an update on the President's signing of reauthorization of the child care and development block grant program.

Melody Hobson informed the Council that Nebraska chose not to apply for the pre-K expansion grant for funds from the U.S. Department of Education. The Department did not feel Nebraska could compete with states that had received Race to the Top funds.

Eleanor Shirley reported on the school readiness and Early Childhood Unified Data System. Federal offices are closing up their final report to congress. If the Council would like to see the report, Eleanor is serving as a liaison. Melody Hobson recommended Joan Luebbers also help serve. The Council would like to see the final report.

Amy Bornemeier mentioned that the RFP for Sixpence expansion, if approved, will be available in mid-January.

Focus Area: Parent Education and Family Support

Part C Annual Performance Report and State Performance Plan

Amy Bunnell and Cole Johnson presented information about the Nebraska Annual Performance Report IDEA Part C Indicators. Some targets are set by the federal office and others are set by the states. The report must be filed by February 1st to the federal office and Nebraska will receive a grade in the spring. Nebraska has received an A for the past 7 years. Currently, the Department must set targets through 2018-19 and submit what those targets are. In preparation for identifying these targets, the co-leads have compiled trend and longitudinal data to project what the targets should be.

The indicators will be sent in to the federal office with the proposed targets for next 5 years. The co-leads are currently drafting them and will be done in December. They would like to have someone from Regulation and Standards Committee volunteer to review it. The ECICC Chair must approve before it can be sent to federal office by February 1st. When the final draft is done, it will be emailed to all Council members and posted on websites.

Amy Bunnell made a motion to have the Steering Committee review the report. Barb Esch seconded to have sign-off by Council after the Steering Committee reviews the report.

There was discussion around the indicators. The motion passed by roll call vote: 16-voted yes, 0-voted no, 2-abstained.

Voting Yes: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Joan Luebbers, Dawn Mollenkopf, Cathy Mohnike, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Tammi Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Kathleen Zadina

Abstain: Amy Bunnell, Cole Johnson

Amy Bunnell made a motion to approve the targets through 2018-19. Kathleen Zadina seconded the motion.

The motion passed by roll call vote: 15-voted yes, 0-voted no, 2-abstained.

Voting Yes: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Joan Luebbers, Dawn Mollenkopf, Cathy Mohnike, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Kathleen Zadina

Abstain: Amy Bunnell, Cole Johnson

Parent Café

Betty Medinger from Nebraska Children and Families Foundation updated the Council about Parent Cafés. Their focus is peer engagement and having people at the table talking about what

they would like to see happening in the community. Parent Cafés use a unique model that stands out because of the focus on protective factors of families to better buffer children. Parents were saying “don’t dumb this down for us”. If the protective factors are evidence-based, tell parents what the info says. Parent Cafés are a positive approach to community development. Policies have changed at the state level because of Parent Cafés. Nebraska’s QRIS system has been developed and Nebraska child abuse fund is working with national alliance to bring consultant to Nebraska. Fremont and Lincoln hope to have cafés launched in February 2015 but would like to implement across the state. There is a possibility of future trainings for interested areas across the state. These cafés are parent lead, formed, and sustained. They would like to find two or three organizations that would have staff directly involved in hosting and facilitating. Let Betty Medinger know if you are interested in the December 5th webinar. This is a unique approach that focuses on the strengths and dreams of a community, and works on finding ways that communities can build on the positive aspects of a community.

Circle of Security Update

Lynne Brehm and Amy Bunnell updated the Council on Circle of Security scholarships. The map (handout) shows how many people are trained across the state. There are currently 114 people who have been trained. Lynne and Amy are still trying to identify those who had been previously trained across the state. This is not a train the trainer model. The trainers are certified and cannot train others. This is only for parents. There are some trainers that are doing short informational classes for professionals so they can inform families. The training is based on attachment theory, and made simple for parents to understand. It is a self-reflective model that seeks to identify what triggers cause them to behave in a certain way toward their children. If we can get parents to start coming, it spreads by word of mouth and forms support among the community. It is an 8 week program, with 1-hour sessions each week. Many communities are working together to support it in different venues.

Part C funding is provided to support attendance through a scholarship. On the scholarship applications, applicants need a community implementation plan. Part C wants to make sure they will be going and using what they learn in their community. Eighty people were sponsored through these scholarships which provided 50% of the training fees. Community organizations have to provide the other 50% of the fees. This brought communities to the table in the planning phase. Some attendees do pay their own way. There are some mental health professionals who provide private pay.

Jennie Cole-Mossman had practitioners in from Lancaster County participate in training. If children are removed due to substance abuse, DHHS will pay for those parents to go through Circle of Security while on the waiting list for other therapy services. The court and DHHS recognize the importance of attachment. They have asked judges to order an attachment based parenting class. Circle of Security is the only one available in Nebraska at this time.

The Council discussed experiences helping families get the funding they need for Circle of Security.

Amy Bunnell is developing a reflective supervision component.

Parent Education/Family Support

Charlie Lewis and Kelly Medwick spoke with the Council about parent education and family support. Many organizations that interact with families want to be all inclusive. The list keeps growing and changing. Charlie and Kelly have noticed that the meeting structure was getting dry and feeling disjointed. They have decided to restructure and start out the meeting with “Schooling”, 2-3 members share updates, big events, and any new resources then strategize the work plan.

- Strategy 3-Promote and support evidence based home visitation for families with young children.
- Strategy 4-Promote integration, identify best practices, literature review, and definition of peer to peer support.
- Strategy 6-Develop a statewide system for coordinating with families and figure out what networks should be shared with families. Answers4Families is the hub for this. Assemble key stakeholders and resources for required planning. ECCLink.org is live now and is a strong start to a website that categorizes Early Childhood topics for support of families. There are over 400 records on the site, lots of information and details about providers.

The council discussed the intent of ECCLink site.

Respite Program

Sharon Johnson presented the survey that was sent to WIC offices and managers. Several were not aware of the survey. Families have a lack of awareness on what is available for respite services. When the written document was finalized, respite was accurately portrayed. This document is available statewide with coordinators in the six regions. In 2014, crisis respite was introduced with services to subsidy approved individuals. Crisis respite had been a priority. With the support of respite coordinators criteria has been drafted and the respite program is able to determine what worked and successfully incorporate it into an existing state funded program. The respite program is currently in the process of meeting with other state entities to urge them to incorporate respite into their programs to meet the need. There is still a need for improved awareness of respite services.

Coordinators and agencies have been recruiting providers since 1999. They are still contracting with the same organizations and the challenge is to not rest on laurels. They are now pushing contractors to identify new target groups that may not have thought of themselves as caregivers, underserved, and/or unidentified groups. They have providers that are able to meet clients’

unique needs. Part of that happens through public presentations, meetings with employers who have employees who are also caregivers and explaining how this impacts their business. This gives the opportunity to recruit volunteers from a business setting. Information is sent out through Answers4Families to Human Resources departments in local chapters and also meeting with them to help understand what is available through respite. There is a process of approving providers through a designated application for individual providers and agency providers. This includes background and reference checks. Providers in many cases are family members of the individual needing services. If people are doing this for income, it is important for them to serve as many people as possible. CCFE created a system for cataloguing this called Lifespan Respite. This is where coordinators and partners record information; it is a data collection system. Coordinators and partners are able to upload documents, background checks, and communications between themselves. Accurate information is gathered to match those in need with a skilled provider. Families are able to choose from an available list of providers. Each night that information goes in the NRRS system. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. NRRS contains self-reporting information by providers. Pink hearts show which providers are network approved.

The meeting of the ECICC adjourned at 3:30 PM

Pam Dobrovolny reminded everyone that the May 1st meeting will be in McCook, Nebraska.

Handouts:

Highlights from the ECICC Survey

2014 Report to the Governor

Nebraska Annual Performance Report IDEA Part C Indicators

Community Café

Circle of Security Parent Educators Map

Lifespan Respite Subsidy Program Fact Sheet

Nebraska Lifespan Respite Slides