

Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council February 13, 2015 Cornhusker Hotel Lincoln, Nebraska

Council Members Present: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Cole Johnson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Emily Kluver, Stephanie Knust, Joan Luebbers, Dawn Mollenkopf, Cathy Mohnike, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Salene Ulrich, Nicole Vint

Council Members Absent: Jennie Cole-Mossman, Melinda Graham, Julie Mizner, Dawn Murphy, Tammi Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Kathleen Zadina

Also in attendance: *Council Staff:* Holly Johnson; *Technical Assistants:* Amy Bornemeier, Lynne Brehm, Mary Finney-Afrank, Pat Frost, Tiffany Mullison, Connie Shockley, Mark Smith, Jan Thelen, Pat Urzedowski, Becky Veak, Eleanor Shirley, Kim Texel, Abby Ayodele

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 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 November 21, 2014 Meeting

The minutes of the November 21, 2014 meeting have been provided to Council members. Pam asked for a motion from the Council to accept the minutes of the November 21, 2014 meeting as presented. J.P. Holys moved to approve the minutes and Mike Adams seconded.

There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll call vote: 15-voted yes, 0-voted no, 3-abstained.

Voting Yes: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Cole Johnson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Salene Ulrich, Nicole Vint

Voting Abstain: Sue Adams, Carol Benson, Emily Kluver

ii Committee Report Outs

Family Leadership Team

Mike Adams reported for the Family Leadership Team. The committee had invited Holly Johnson, Melody Hobson and Amy Bunnell to their meeting to discuss reimbursements. That discussion took up the majority of the time. They did discuss the PTI workshops and getting parents on those committees. They also continued some conversation regarding the First 100 Days.

Regulation and Standards

Christy Pelton reported for the Regulations and Standards committee. New language in the regulations was discussed. They discussed the First Five Nebraska website that launched. J.P. Holys talked about the early childhood programs that have grant money right now and what kind of impact to the programs it will have when the funding ends. The committee spoke about mental health care and Medicaid insurance. They discussed the lack of providers in Nebraska. The committee talked more in depth about the Circle of Security training that took place last fall. Circle of Security is trying to establish reflective supervision. The committee discussed a new pediatrician screening tool that goes beyond developmental milestones. The committee requested some help on the agendas for the different committee meetings.

Christy Pelton made a motion to have the steering committee discuss a plan for committee agendas. Melody Hobson seconded the motion. There was no other discussion.

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

Voting Yes: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Cole Johnson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Emily Kluver, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Salene Ulrich, Nicole Vint

Early Childhood Services and Systems

Sian Jones-Jobst reported for the Early Childhood Services and Systems committee. The committee spent the majority of their time discussing a letter they are requesting to be an action item. The letter is regarding a recommendation in the Governor's Report that highlights the need for information on the Answers4Families website. The committee finalized the letter and would like to go forward with sending it to the Governor, DHHS, NDE and chairs of Education and Health and Human Services legislative committees. The committee would ~~also like~~ wanted to send it to various public and private early childhood stakeholders. The letter reiterates what is in the Governor's Report, highlighting the need to coordinate public and private resources.

Sian Jones-Jobst made a motion to send the letter out after ECICC representatives meet with the Governor. Mike Adams seconded the motion.

The motion passed by roll call vote: 11-voted yes, 7-voted no, 0-abstained.

Voting Yes: Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Laura Arp, Carol Benson, Lois Butler, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Salene Ulrich

Voting No: Amy Bunnell, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Cole Johnson, Emily Kluver, Dawn Mollenkopf, Nicole Vint

There was more discussion about the action item after the motion passed. Melody Hobson voiced concern that pulling this specific recommendation out and sending an additional letter to the Governor may be circumventing the process of the Governor's Report. She suggested highlighting the subject when the ECICC President and Vice President choose to meet with the Governor but noted having a 2nd letter may send a mixed message about the report. Becky Veak mentioned it may be better to have members as individuals support the recommendation rather than as the council as a whole supporting again. Sian Jones-Jobst noted that her idea of the council was to advise and give consent. If the advising was only conveyed through the Governor's report, it would only happen every other year. Pam Dobrovolny suggested the letter may be better if focused more towards the agencies.

Sian Jones-Jobst then reads the letter to the entire council to clear up any confusion. The idea was to get the letter to the organizations that support the website or may duplicate services.

Cole Johnson explained that he can't imagine that putting more information on the A4F website would be helpful. Sometimes it may not be as helpful or user-friendly when there is so much information on one site alone. Amy Bunnell explained that EDN puts in funding to the A4F website to meet the needs of their program. She advised that this information be brought to the funders and let them work through the issues. Amy also informed the council that not all agencies are required to post information and would not need the A4F service. Some agencies will continue having other sites that aren't on the A4F website because it is a federal requirement. Melody Hobson explained that to increase transparency within state agencies, anything above a certain dollar amount must be bid out and agencies are not allowed to spend their funding without this process. Becky Veak again advised the council that it may be best to stand behind this recommendation as individuals instead of the full council.

Amy Bornemeier suggested the subcommittees each adopt a recommendation and throughout the 2 years in between reports, check the status, issues, and barriers. If we aren't tracking progress on the recommendations we are part of the issue as well. Sue Adams agreed it would be good to check up on the barriers and gaps.

Laura Arp suggested taking another approach with the letter. Offer the recommendation and explain the barriers we are aware of. Explain to the stakeholders, here's what we know but ask for their advice on how to fix. Ask for advice on our next steps.

Sian Jones-Jobst then made a motion to send the letter on behalf of ECICC.

Amy Bunnell voiced her concern and asked if there was a way to pull EDN and NDE out so that the letter isn't from them. Amy and Melody stated that state agencies could not be a part of a letter that would direct public and private funds to one entity. Becky Veak again suggested individuals make this recommendation instead of the full council. Since it is already in the Governor's report, it may not be appropriate to highlight. There was also concern that there was not legal counsel at the meeting to help guide the full council through this decision. Christy Pelton asked if we would be able to look into the legal aspect first before moving forward.

Sue Adams wanted to clarify that the recommendation was not specified towards A4F, but rather the system and what the public needs. Sian Jones-Jobst didn't take any issue with leaving out A4F but reiterated that this issue has come up multiple times that it's a priority and needs to be addressed. Sian asked if it would be better to send to the agencies first. Melody Hobson answers yes, that it would be more appropriate to send to the agencies first. Sian asked which agencies and who it should be sent to. It was then advised to send the letter to Holly Johnson and she would forward out to the appropriate agencies.

Melody Hobson then modified the previous action that the letter go to the steering committee for input and modification. It will also be reviewed for legal advice and finalized at the May meeting. Amy Bunnell seconded the motion.

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

Voting Yes: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Cole Johnson, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Emily Kluver, Dawn Mollenkopf, Cathy Mohnike, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Salene Ulrich, Nicole Vint

Voting No: Sue Adams

Sue Adams emphasized the need to decide on the purpose of the letter. Laura Arp suggested our approach be to identify the barriers. If this is a clearing house that allows keeping the existing contracts or not, then one issue is many different vendors and one system which may cause a legality issue. Sue Adams stated that the problem is that it's hard for families to use and see what's going on. Bottom line is the system is currently not user friendly. Amy Bunnell stated that we need to get legal advice and see whether or not we can cross the hierarchy. The state agency representatives can't be part of something illegal. There is a process in place to highlight priorities and the council has done so. Sian Jones-Jobst stated if the state agency reps need to go to the department heads first, now is the time.

The overview was that the letter was to support the need for a clearing house and a place where citizens can go easily. Currently, A4F is being used because it is already in place. Connie

Shockley asked if it may be beneficial to form an ad hoc committee. Sian Jones-Jobst stated their committee was trying to avoid ECICC doing the work and just wants to highlight to the proper people the need for and also the gaps and barriers.

Professional Development and Workforce

Dawn Mollenkopf reported for the committee. They are figuring out what work the Buffett Institute is doing and comparing it to what their committee is doing. They don't want to duplicate any work being done. Berkley is doing a survey to find course offerings, knowledge base, certification, capacity and gaps and barriers. This data will be complete in August. In August the committee hopes to speak with Susan Sarver or UNO.

Family Actions Matter Everyday

Salene Ulrich reported for the committee. They discussed PTI workshops and how to recruit and retain parent representatives. They discussed their concern with early childhood mental health resources and how parents access services. They also continued their discussion about the First 100 Days website. The committee also mentioned talking with RDA about making an RBI video.

Amy Bunnell reminded the parents to work with the co-leads about RBI and see if there is funding for the things they are requesting.

Working Lunch

The council listened to a family story provided by Kendra Bryant over their lunch.

Public Comment

Holly Johnson reminded the council about the Step Up to Quality Facebook page. She also announced that Step Up to Quality now has an online orientation on their website that costs \$5 and provides 1.5 in-service hours.

Part C Update

Amy Bunnell and Cole Johnson gave an update on Part C. The APR was submitted on February 2nd. The co-leads will probably hear from OSEP in June. They will have Holly Johnson send out a link for the council to review. The co-leads are required to submit the state systematic report plan, which will run through 2019, by April. They already completed a draft in January and will reach out within the next week to get comments. Once they receive an answer, the plan will be posted publically as approved.

The co-leads are also in the process of writing their application for funds. It is posted on the website and open for review from February 19th through April 20th. Public comment will be accepted from February 19^h through March 21st. The application must inform how the co-leads plan to spend funds. Every year the co-leads typically fund training for professional

development, Child Find, PRTs, special projects to improve results for infants and toddlers, respite care, assistance for parent training and support from the medical center for parents with disabilities, to name some. This application requires two new policies. One is a system of payments for Early Intervention services. There are already many policies regarding this, so nothing had to be created. The public hearing will be held February 19th & 20th.

Amy Bunnell made a motion to have the council write a letter of support to be presented at the public hearing. Barb Esch seconded the motion.

The motion passed by roll call vote: 14-voted yes, 0-voted no, 2-abstained.

Voting Yes: Laura Arp, Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Lois Butler, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Dawn Mollenkopf, Cathy Mohnike, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Nicole Vint

Abstaining: Amy Bunnell, Cole Johnson

Amy Bunnell also informed the council there is a new planning region team in Elkhorn. The request was submitted to the State Board early January and approved and become effective August 1st. The next steps are to put out the RFP for services and make sure they have all funding and infrastructure in place. The PRT maps will be revised to reflect the now 29 regions.

Schedule Dates for 2016 ECICC Meetings

Pam Dobrovolny proposed the following dates for the 2016 meetings:

- February 19
- May 6
- August 19
- November 18

Melody Hobson made a motion to accept the dates. Salene Ulrich seconded the motion.

Some members voiced concerns about the rooms being extremely cold or extremely warm. Melody Hobson advised the council that NDE is looking at different venues other than the Cornhusker for many different reasons and will keep everyone notified of the next location.

Focus Area: Social Emotional and Mental Health

Rooted in Relationships & Nurturing Healthy Behaviors

Lynne Brehm presented first since she needed to leave shortly for another meeting. Lynne went over some handouts that were included in the meeting packet. The handouts showed data from the 3 communities they are currently in. The next communities to participate will be those with

the highest needs. They are also considering community readiness and child care capacity. Lynne then presented a powerpoint overview as well.

Nebraska Early Childhood Pyramid Model

Jan Thelen presented a video to the council about the Pyramid Model. She reviewed the brochure that was included in the meeting packet and updated the council about the Pyramid Academy.

Legislative Update

Becky Veak presented the council with a packet of information about Early Childhood bills currently being discussed at the legislature. She also showed the council the newly launched First Five Nebraska website.

Because of time the Nebraska Loves Public Schools Video was skipped this meeting.

Items for next meeting

- Talk about committee structure (first discuss at Steering committee call)
- Finalize the letter from Systems and Standards committee
- Review different priorities in Governor's report
- A panel and family story
- Report out from Pam Dobrovolny and Mike Adams after meeting with the Governor to discuss the Governor's report.

The council asked Melody Hobson to give a brief update on hiring for the facilitator position. NDE plans to look at funding and possibly do more interviews in the spring.

Pat Urzedowski informed the council that she will be retiring as of May 1.

The meeting of the ECICC adjourned at 3:30 PM

Handouts:

Meeting Agenda

November 21, 2014 Meeting minutes

January 26, 2015 Steering call minutes

2015 Membership Roster

2015 Information Roster

RDA Update

Pyramid Model brochure

Rooted in Relationships handouts

2015 Nebraska Legislation Affecting Early Childhood from First Five Nebraska