

## **Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council February 19, 2016 Southeast Community College, Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Council Members Present:** Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Teresa Berube, Carol Bowen, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Julie Docter, Jamie Thavenet, Melody Hobson, Sian Jones-Jobst, Stephanie Knust, Joan Luebbers, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy, Julie Rother, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Nicole Vint, Kathy Zadina

**Council Members Absent:** Laura Arp, Carol Benson, JP Holys, Emily Kluver, Senator Kolowski, Cathy Mohnike, Christy Pelton, Salene Ulrich

**Also in attendance:** *Council Staff:* Holly Johnson; *Facilitators:* David Hubbard, Casey Karges; *Technical Assistants:* Amy Bornemeier, Becky Veak, Belle Scheef, Cole Johnson, Connie Shockley, Kaye Bourn, Kim Texel, Pat Frost, Jenny Auman; *Others in attendance:* Brook Peacock, Shannon Mitchell-Boekst, Satish Iyer

### **Welcome**

David Hubbard, Facilitator for ECICC, convened the meeting at 9 AM. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available at the front table. David welcomed everyone and had all Council members, technical assistants, and guests introduce themselves.

### **Approval of November 20 meeting minutes**

The minutes of the November 20, 2015 meeting have been provided to Council members. David asked for a motion from the Council to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2015 meeting as presented.

Tammy Stevenson asked if the Family Leadership Team was a formal committee. Mike Adams and Melody Hobson stated, yes, they believed it was. Tammy then asked if all committees going back to Ad Hoc included the Family Leadership Team. Lois Butler thought there might be a requirement to have the Family Leadership Team. Melody explained that there isn't.

The council asked that Holly Johnson clarify the minutes of the November meeting, bullet two of page 2. "The subcommittees go back to being ad hoc for a specific purpose and have a time limit. Tammy Stevenson asked if that would include the Family Leadership team. Amy explained that it would not as the Leadership Team is not a formal committee."

The clarification is that the Family Leadership Team is a formal committee; however, it will not go back to ad hoc at this time.

Mike Adams motioned to approve the minutes.

Amy Bunnell asked that the Family Leadership Team clarify what their charge is and put in the record so it is clear. She shared a concern that meeting outside of the scheduled ECICC might

violate open meetings act if they are a formal committee, however, someone would need to check with legal. She also stated that the Family Leadership Team would need to report out at each meeting any activity.

Mike stated that the committee had been doing that until recently when the format of the meeting changed.

Sian Jones-Jobst asked if all the committees had been dissolved at the last meeting. It doesn't seem to be clear.

Mike reminded the council there was to be a small group that got together and unfortunately that did not happen.

Amy Bunnell explained that we shouldn't have ongoing subcommittees that never get readdressed. We should redefine each ongoing scope each year since new members are always coming on as well.

Sian suggested that the Family Leadership Team meet sometime before the next meeting and bring their scope to the May meeting for the council to review.

Tammy Stevenson would like the committee to be placed back onto the agenda prior to the meeting.

Amy explained that it was taken off the agenda because it wasn't clear it was a formal subcommittee as there wasn't a clear and specific scope of work. When a committee is on the agenda, it becomes subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Cole Johnson asked what work would be done on the committee that couldn't be regular council business.

Mike explained that they have a call before the meeting and prior to the meeting, to prepare the parents for the agenda topics. As parents, they aren't in the trenches like everyone else.

Tammy added that they may also discuss gaps and barriers on the call or at their meeting before ECICC.

Amy explained that the services mentioned are why they pay Connie Shockley. It's part of her role at PTI that Part C pays for. They came to a conclusion it wasn't a subcommittee, because it is her job duties.

Melody Hobson understands why the parents would want to meet and isn't sure what the best way is to get the most input and inclusivity. If it's a standing committee and meets earlier on a phone call, then we do have to worry about the Open Meetings Act. She voiced that she doesn't want to shut anything down but her concern is Open Meetings Act and how do we really facilitate the inclusiveness.

Sian asked if they are an ad hoc committee, if the team would be subject to Open Meetings Act.

Melody answered yes, if they are doing official business. If they aren't recognized, they would not be subject to the Act.

Holly Johnson will send the team a cheat sheet of Open Meetings Act to help them make their decision.

Connie Shockley and Tammy Stevenson will work on getting information about the Family Leadership Team to present to the council.

Melody seconds the motion.

The motion passed by roll call vote: 21-voted yes, 0-voted no.

*Voting Yes:* Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Teresa Berube, Carol Bowen, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Julie Docter, Jamie Thavenet, Melody Hobson, Sian, Jones-Jobst, Steph Knust, Joan Luebbers, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy, Julie Rother, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Nicole Vint, Kathy Zadina

Holly Johnson introduced new members, Carol Bowen, Jamie Thavenet and Teresa Berube and asked them to explain what they do.

Carol explained that she owns a Speech Language Clinic and is a speech pathologist.

Jamie explained that she is a Service Coordinator at ESU #5. She is also a resource and assistant to the SPED Director and PRT Representative.

Teresa explained that she is an Education Specialist at the Department of Education. She coordinates for Early Childhood preschool, GOLD, inclusion for preschools and is the liaison with many other teams.

Tammy Stevenson voiced her concern about 4 parents leaving the council by this summer.

Melody stated that we need to look at PRTs and try to speak with parents or individuals who work with parents throughout the state.

Tammy asked who would be leading that effort.

Melody explained that all members should be. Amy Bunnell reminded us as council members, it's all of our responsibility to fill the positions. Members can refer names to Holly and she can help them, if needed. Cole, Amy and Julie will send out a mass email to ELCs and PRTs so they can help solicit names as well.

Tammy mentioned there may be a rule about finding parents across the state.

Melody explained there is no geographic requirement.

Joan Luebbers offered to work with Holly Johnson on an email to send out to the council outlining who is leaving, where they are from and what they represent.

Joan Luebbers, Kim Texel and Jenny Auman volunteered to work with Holly to get this information to the council members.

Mike Adams asked if he was able to bring possible candidates to the May ECICC to shadow him.

Sian Jones-Jobst proposed that when a new members is assigned, they are immediately assigned a volunteer mentor.

Amy Bunnell asked what mentorship looks like. She also voiced her concerns about volunteers. People are very busy and worry there will not be enough volunteers. She highly recommends that if they wanted to move this forward, people are just assigned and the council as a whole needs to agree to that.

Julie Mizner proposed the Steering committee discusses the mentoring process and puts a proposal in place for the members to vote on.

Amy Bunnell asked if we still wanted to the Family Story. She elaborated that it wouldn't always have to be a family with a disability; it could be a variety of speakers from across the state.

Sian Jones-Jobst motioned having a family stories at 2 meetings. These families can be from a variety of backgrounds, not just families with disabilities. The other 2 meetings would be panel type presenters. This would include one of the meetings having a service agency from rural Nebraska and the other meeting a presenter on a topic relevant to the council. Dawn Murphy seconded the motion.

The motion passed by roll call vote: 21-voted yes, 0-voted no.

*Voting Yes:* Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Teresa Berube, Carol Bowen, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Julie Docter, Jamie Thavenet, Melody Hobson, Sian, Jones-Jobst, Steph Knust, Joan Luebbers, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy, Julie Rother, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Nicole Vint, Kathy Zadina

### **Report to the Governor**

Amy Bunnell started the discussion about the next Report to the Governor. She proposed the style and formatting stay similar with the overview of programs, data, status reports and recommendations from the council. She suggests first the Steering committee go over items to include and come up with a list of recommendations in May that we can formalize into recommendations. She asked the council to send any ideas to Holly by the end of March.

Between now and August, the Department will seek input from the systems we need to report out to the Governor. In August, we will try and have a draft report available and get final input from members. Holly will send the draft out a week before the August meeting so that everyone can read and be prepared to discuss at the meeting.

Melody Hobson asked all council members to send Holly any recommendations that we need to be focusing on. She suggested going back to the last report and the report before that, to look at areas of previous focus and listen to the things your constituents are saying now. Now is the time to talk with these people and your community.

Becky Veak clarified that First Five Nebraska would be doing the report for the council this year.

Holly will send out a formal timeline so everyone is on the same page.

### **Part C Update**

Amy Bunnell and Julie Docter gave an update on Part C. Amy directed members to their meeting packet to see a public notice. Public Comment is due by March 18 and the application remains out for public review through April 18. It must be submitted to the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, no later than April 21.

### **CCDF Update**

Nicole Vint gave an update on the Child Care Block Grant. They are working on the state plan and had a public hearing last week. This plan is roughly 35 million dollars. In November 2014, President Obama renewed child care development and made changes to what it will look like. All states are looking at interpreting and implementing within each state. It is a great movement that had not been looked at since '96 or '97.

Nicole explained an overview of the state plan.

1. CCDF leadership and coordination - Make sure all licensed providers have a disaster plan but want to take it one step further. How will help when community has a disaster, what will the children do for care?
2. Promoting Family Engagement - Coordination with other parents to give more health screenings, early intervention and IDEA regulations, consumer education, public health licensing inspection. More education on how to find a provider and what quality looks like. DHHS is revamping website that will help with this.
3. Licensing will be required to provide inspection dates and full reports. Currently, they do this unannounced and are available per request.

4. Any child abuse in child care settings will have to be reported publicly now.
5. Financial assistance for child care of those in need. There's a bill that passed to provide transitional child care for up to 24 months for families whose income is at or below 185% FPL. This will help families budget money and still advance, and small raise will not make them ineligible for Subsidy. They are required to look at fluctuation of earnings.
6. Need to improve access to homeless children.
7. Allow families to refer providers.
8. Market rate survey – They will also explore other methodologies.
9. Private pay families look different than what subsidy looks like as subsidy is still needs based. Other states have a waitlist for Subsidy child care. Right now, we do not have a waiting list and can offer Subsidy for all who are determined eligible. They will also now acknowledge holidays for providers to still be paid.
10. Switching billing to hours.
11. Section 5 - Establish standards and monitor focusing on licensing role.
12. Provide monitoring and enforcement
13. Ratios for licensing inspectors.
14. Criminal background – Currently, the lead agency is required to do all background checks in house. (provider completes and licensing checks for completion) Now, DHHS will have to do this including fingerprints.
15. Core Competencies for professionals.
16. Section 7 - Taking quality dollars and putting into quality activities. Currently, they are pushing Step Up to Quality, quality for IT quality services, working with Sixpence, and training for domains
17. Program integrity - meeting internally about internal audits and have systems in place for checking those.

Had public hearing Friday with positive feedback, one written comment and one in person. The biggest concern was increased Subsidy rates. If Subsidy rates increase, and the cost of Subsidy increases, we may not be able to provide Subsidy to all who are eligible now and may become a state who has a waiting list for Subsidy.

### **Getting Ready Grant & The Institute of Education Sciences Research Project**

Lisa Knoche, Director of Early Childhood Research at UNL gave an overview of the grant recently awarded to them.

1. Getting Ready Intervention  
It is parents and providers working together to support children. Currently, they are exploring in preschool school based settings and their first trial was implemented in home based settings. Early Head Start will be the next focus and new programs are now being

funded. The specific focus is on partnerships. Feasibility is a key part of this work. There is a randomized control panel; one who is getting support , one who isn't. The study is very much what is going on in the center based classrooms themselves.

2. Look at Intervention practices in Preschool to Grade 3  
Focus is to take into account all factor to see what most contribute to a child's success from pre-k to grade 3. What is most important to support. There is a deep study of practices and policies at districts. The second study is specifically on classroom practices.
3. Following child from Pre-K thru Grade 3 to study the outcomes of the above information  
This study has very interesting features because of the range of communities in the state (urban to rural). Families will be an important piece of the family school interface because of how big a part the family is in a child's development. Focus is students that were disadvantages. This will be rolling out in June and goes for 5 years.

### **Other Business**

Becky Veak brought packets regarding the Early Childhood legislation First Five Nebraska tracks.

The meeting of the ECICC adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

#### *Handouts:*

- February 19, 2016 Agenda
- November 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Nebraska Part C Public Notice
- Getting Ready Grant handouts
- First Five Nebraska legislation packet (handed out separately)