

DRAFT Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)

May 5, 2017, 9:00a.m.

Southeast Community College Lincoln Campus, 8800 "O" Street, Rooms V103 & 104, Lincoln, Nebraska

The Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council was established to advise and assist collaborating agencies in carrying out the provisions of state and federal statutes pertaining to early childhood care and education initiatives under state supervision. Publicized notice of the Council meeting was given by posting notice on the NDE Master Calendar, which links to the ECICC website and agenda, and noted the date, time, and location of the meeting.

Council Members Present: Laura Arp, Teresa Berube, Carol Bowen, Amy Bunnell, Julie Docter, Gwen Easter, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Stephanie Knust, Joan Luebbers, Cathy Mohnike, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Nicole Vint, Kathy Zadina

Council Members Absent: Susan Adams, J.D. Flynn, J.P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Sen. Kolowski, Dawn Mollenkopf, Julie Rother, Jamie Thavenet, Salene Ulrich

Also in attendance: Council Staff: Karen Hoffman; Facilitator: Eleanor Shirley; Technical Assistants: Jennifer Auman, Amy Bornemeier, Lynne Brehm, Lauri Cimino, Stacy Frank, Pat Frost, Cole Johnson, Kim Texel, Becky Veak, Staci Zuerlein; Presenters: Ann Adams, Tammi Hicken, Sarah Ann Kotchian, Janine Theiler

ECICC Facilitator, Eleanor Shirley, convened the meeting at 9:10a.m. Introductions were made and Technical Assistants shared specifically what they bring to the Council.

Change in Agenda – Council Vote

It was known that some voting members would need to leave early and, therefore, recommended to move the Part C report forward in the agenda so more Council members could be present for it. Bunnell made a motion and Berube seconded switching the Step Up To Quality report with the Part C report. Motion passed by roll-call vote: yes-16, no-0, abstain-0.

Voting yes: Berube, Bowen, Bunnell, Docter, Easter, Hobson, Kluver, Knust, Luebbers, Mohnike, Murphy, Pelton, Stevenson, Strahm, Vint, Zadina

Approved TA members for 2017-18

It was moved by Strahm and seconded by Vint to approve the slate of technical assistants for 2017-18. Motion passed by roll-call vote: yes-16, no-0, abstain, 0

Voting yes: Berube, Bowen, Bunnell, Docter, Easter, Hobson, Kluver, Knust, Luebbers, Mohnike, Murphy, Pelton, Stevenson, Strahm, Vint, Zadina

Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2017 Meeting

Motion was made by Hobson and seconded by Knust to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2016, meeting as presented. The motion passed by roll-call vote: yes-12, no-0, abstain-4

Voting yes: Berube, Bowen, Bunnell, Docter, Hobson, Kluver, Knust, Murphy, Stevenson, Strahm, Vint, Zadina
Abstain – Easter, Luebbers, Mohnike, Pelton

Report on Public Hearing of the Biennial Report to the Governor

Melody recapped the Biennial Report to the Governor was finalized at the November 18, 2016 meeting. A Public Hearing was held January 19, 2017, in the State Board Room at the NSOB, at which Melody gave a brief statement for the record. No testimony was given. The report is now final and a Council vote of approval is needed.

Motion made by Hobson and seconded by Bunnell to approve the 2016 Biennial Report to the Governor for presenting to the Governor. Discussion included some background about the report's creation and process, and steps for presenting to the Governor, including what Council representation would be appropriate. It was agreed that those involved writing the report, parents and community members be represented. Christy Pelton, Joan Luebbers and Gwen Easter volunteered to attend. The motion was amended to include "Selected members of the Council will present the Report to the Governor." It was noted to expect about 15 minutes for the meeting. Becky Veck offered to provide some talking points for the meeting, as First Five Nebraska was instrumental in the creation of this report. The Council noted its appreciation for this good work. The motion passed by roll-call vote: yes-17, no-0, abstain-0.

Voting yes: Arp, Berube, Bowen, Bunnell, Docter, Easter, Hobson, Kluver, Knust, Luebbers, Mohnike, Murphy, Pelton, Stevenson, Strahm, Vint, Zadina.

Eleanor, Karen & NDE/HHS will meet and get a date set for meeting with the governor.

Task Force Report 1: ECICC Bylaws and Operating Procedures – recommended revisions, Council vote needed

Eleanor shared that a sub-group met [Jan. 5] to discuss updating both documents. Those who were present and participated in that work raised their hands. The Bylaws and Operating Procedures that were updated to reflect those changes were to have been approved at the February meeting, which was cancelled due to lack of quorum. Since February, the NDE Legal department recommended that "quorum" be better clarified in the documents, stating that majority is half plus one voting member. This was updated in both documents and reviewed by the Steering Committee at an April 10th conference call. Motion was made by Berube and seconded by Docter to approve the two updated documents. The motion passed by roll-call vote: yes-17, no-0, abstain-0.

Voting yes: Arp, Berube, Bowen, Bunnell, Docter, Easter, Hobson, Kluver, Knust, Luebbers, Mohnike, Murphy, Pelton, Stevenson, Strahm, Vint, Zadina.

Task Force Report 2: Family Story Update

Melody shared that since the last meeting there had been discussion about whether to continue the family story and in what capacity. It was agreed it remained important, however, resources have changed, and it is challenging for the Council to coordinate this. Mel and Tammy had discussed having a family story at two meetings a year, with a variety of people and circumstances. Could participate via Zoom or in person. Was agreed that a framework was needed around the Family Story, including what reimbursements would be appropriate, and that two defining factors when considering a family would be: impact of a recommendation within the Biennial Report, and by topics submitted by Council members. Was agreed that a dedicated task force was required, and since appointments are not yet complete and the Council lacks a full slate of parent members, the Council needed to wait for this to occur. A family story task force could be designated now or wait until the August meeting, and would include Connie Shockley as TA. Tammy Stevenson, Jen Auman, and Stacy Frank volunteered; Eleanor could help facilitate.

Tammy Stevenson inquired about the definition of "task force" and "ad hoc committee", and the status of the Family Leadership Team Charter and activities. Tammy asked if the Family Leadership Team is affected by the just-approved, updated By-Laws and Operating Procedures, which now state there are no standing committees. Discussion included clarification of the By-Laws and Operating Procedures that a current Council member must chair a task force and provide updates of activities at each meeting. A Task Force would also be time-limited. Tammy shared some history about the Family Leadership Team, saying the group would typically have a conference call ahead of the ECICC meeting, and then meet an hour prior to the meeting.

Eleanor affirmed that time will be spent by the Steering Committee to review past minutes of the Family Leadership Team charter and determine where things stand. Tammy also volunteered to go back and uncover previous notes and provide documentation to Karen, in order to clarify and move forward.

Melody's report was regarding the family story. If the family leadership group must now be an hoc group, with the role to inform the family story for the Council, then a motion is needed for this. Tammy, Christy, Joan and Jen volunteer, and Tammy would be willing to chair. Motion was made by Murphy and seconded by Hobson to establish an ad hoc committee to address the family story. The motion passed by roll-call vote: yes-17, no-0, abstain-0.

Voting yes: Arp, Berube, Bowen, Bunnell, Docter, Easter, Hobson, Kluver, Knust, Luebbers, Mohnike, Murphy, Pelton, Stevenson, Strahm, Vint, Zadina.

Part C Updates

Cole Johnson gave an update about the B-5 Statewide Notification letter sent by DHHS to District Superintendents via the NDE Portal.

Julie Docter gave some updates about Early Development Network Services Coordination and EDN contracts with services providers. There are currently 24 contracts in place to cover the 29 state Planning Region Teams (PRTs) across the state which expire in September. Julie is developing a draft contract for upcoming renewals, and an RFP is out to replace the CHI Health contractor for PRT 10, 26 and 28, who has been a longstanding provider, and submitted its resignation following some internal reorganization and the decision to not continue offering community-based health services. Once a new contractor is selected, services coordinators will also be hired and trained, and the families will notified. Updates will be provided at the August meeting.

Another update included changes to the qualifications for SC personnel that includes an upgrade to minimum standards of two years of education or experience in the human service field. Have hosted two conference calls with SC contracting agencies for comment without any negative feedback, so this proposal will now be included in the RFP. Current SCs will be grandfathered in.

Julie and Amy Bunnell shared a power point with updates about the Part C Results Driven Accountability (RDA) initiative, which is a multi-phase, multi-year process. Shared the three phases and related strategies for improvement, and discussed the infrastructure for overseeing and directing the entire process. Implementation has been happening across the state, via seven Planning Teams, who identified their Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) to include the RBI (Routines Based Interview), functional outcomes, or quality home visits. Between Phases I & III there has been an increase in all categories. Progress is being made and the data is showing the benefits to children and families in Nebraska. Regarding assessment, IFSP development has occurred, and now need to make sure that the home visits are happening that will round out this process. Lisa Knoche from UNL is already doing this work, and is helping train providers. A "Getting Ready" two-day training for Routines-Based Home Visits is occurring in June and Lisa will participate.

Nebraska must submit data to OSEP and Julie shared data from the first three pilots' outcomes, which affirmed the process and how it impacts children and families. Discussed Part C Federal Indicator and that the targets Nebraska was trying to achieve have been reached and exceeded.

Another indicator around family outcomes is obtained through an annual survey that parents submit. Nebraska has one of the highest return rates in the nation so the feeling is that the strategies being implemented are really impacting families. Will keep collecting data for other pilots, and will have more data a year from now around the home visiting strategy.

Child Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization & Legislative update

Nicole gave an update about this grant. Some regulations to help Nebraska comply with reauthorization were approved January 4 and went into effect upon the Governor's signing January 9, 2017. Updates affect health and safety

requirements, monitoring and inspections, consumer education, disaster preparedness and response planning, homeless training/outreach, and subsidy eligibility factors and better billing practices. Nebraska is on target and exceeding in some areas, and continuing to work on others. Currently additional draft regulations are in process, to be following by an eventual public hearing, after which they will go to Governor's office. Nicole handed out a list of the updates.

Regarding the Market Rate Survey (MRS) and LB335

Nicole reminded the group that at the November 2016 ECICC meeting, Lisa Knoche (UNL – Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools), presented on the MRS they were conducting for 2017. The reauthorization provides more guidance and new requirements for the MRS and/or the new option of using an alternative methodology, including how often state conduct the MRS.

Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Registry System (NECPRS)

Tammi Hicken and Ann Adams, from the NDE Office of Early Childhood, provided a power point presentation about the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System that is in development and houses the Early Childhood training calendar. Tammi is the early childhood data manager for NDE and the Project Lead for the development of the Record System. Ann is a Program Coordinator for Nebraska Step Up to Quality, and assists with creating, developing and implementation of the Record System. NECPRS was launched in July of 2014 and houses the application process where licensed child care programs, public school districts, and Head Starts apply for Step Up to Quality, Nebraska's program to help early childhood education and care providers recognize and improve quality.

New features have been added and users with accounts and a user ID have access to NECPRS. Users are able to manage and track professional development, employment, credentials, trainings information and customize it to meet their needs. Two customizable, updatable forms are a resume and professional history. A Tool Kit is in development, as is the ability to track trainings completed for reporting requirements. Creating an account takes about 15 minutes. Melody commented on the benefit of being able to more accurately track when someone has had a training, and for staff to be able to provide documentation for it, giving training record ownership to the trainee.

Head Start Performance Standards/Early Head Start Childcare Partnership Update

Joan Luebbers and Steph Knust shared a power point presentation that detailed the changes in Federal regulations as they relate to Head Start services. This is the first comprehensive revision of the Head Start Program Performance Standards since they were first published in 1975, and comes alongside the landmark expansion of Head Start and improvement to the program in the former Administration. The Performance Standards are the road map for the Head Start education program, and promote school readiness and healthy development of children from low-income families.

Legislation/Budget – First Five

During the working lunch Becky Veak, from First Five Nebraska, took the Council to the First Five Nebraska website to show how to access information about current Early Childhood legislation, all of which falls between birth to age 8. Information is updated daily and viewers can search by multiple categories.

The Legislature is planning to adjourn on day 89, which is a week before the 90th day, on May 26th. This is a full week earlier than usual and will happen if things go as planned and are wrapped up. A 8:15 a.m. briefing that morning revealed some results of the market rate survey, bill LB335, which freezes provider rates for 2017-18; is on select file for debate on 5/8. Early Childhood for the most part has fared well, and the group was reminded about eligibility criteria for childcare subsidies. Nicole Vint pointed out that viewers can subscribe to the First Five Nebraska website for ongoing updates.

In response to a question about the School Readiness Tax Credit Act, Sarah Ann Kochian stepped in and shared an update. LB889 was approved by the Governor in April of 2016. Tax credits will be available in 2018 when people are preparing their 2017 taxes.

2014 Governor's Report Progress Report

Recommendation #3 – Nebraska's P-16 Initiative; ECIDS – Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems

Sarah Ann Kotchian, Director of Early Childhood Policy and Public Relations, Holland Children's Movement, gave an update about Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS), the focus of which is on integrating information specific to Early Childhood more effectively into P-16s (a multi-state effort to improve success for students from preschool through college). A workforce round table was created by Gov. Ricketts in 2016 to respond to Early Childhood work shifting to include looking at data and brings together important partners in ways unlike any other effort in the state. All members volunteer their time and Sarah Ann is a co-chair with Dr. Greg Welch of the Buffett EC Institute. She shared the history of this group and that a small core team formed in January of 2015 and continues to meet today. The Nebraska State of the Young Children: Preliminary Data & Program Report will tentatively be released in June 2017 and is due to the efforts of the data coalition and subcommittee pulling the pieces of it together. Is a robust and rich report, and Lynne Brehm remembered back to having first created data indicators in 2003, and commented positively on how things have developed since then.

2014 Governor's Report Progress Report

Recommendation #2 – Step Up to Quality (SUTQ)

Lauri Cimino shared an update about Step Up to Quality in Nebraska, which is a partnership between HHS and NDE, and was launched in July 2013. A recent Gallup survey indicates that most families understand the importance of early childcare and how it affects preparedness for school. She referenced page 14 of the Governor's report which shows how SUTQ has grown since inception.

There are 22 coaches across the state and 400 programs in the system. The program is well-received and coaching is appreciated. Programs that reach a yearly total of \$250,000 income from childcare subsidies are to meet the requirements of step 1, or they will be found out of licensing compliance. Programs that choose not to voluntarily participate will not be listed. Melody commented that with SUTQ, Nebraska has taken a different tact in creating a rating system as a path to improve quality. Wherever a program is in the process, the goal is participation and improvement over the long haul. Programs deal with staff turnover and training, so it's a commitment to a "marathon" rather than a "sprint." Question was asked about when a program can request coaching. The answer is once they complete Step 2 and complete an online training, after which information is given about the coaching options, etc.

***Public Comment**

Amy Bornemeier asked if the Council would like to have an update about progress of EC workforce groups, such as those who serve on the Buffett Early Childhood Institute Workforce Commission, and the Workforce Compensation Group, saying there are resources who could come and provide those updates. There was positive response to this offer.

Eleanor shared an announcement about Kathleen Zadina's upcoming retirement and decision to resign from the Council. Eleanor and the group acknowledged Kathleen's commitment and strong advocacy for young children. While she was recently reappointed by the Governor, Kathleen will remain on the Council until she is replaced.

Brief comments about 24 hour notice needing to be given regarding Agenda.

Eleanor made announcement that the Public meeting notice is posted by the door.

Update on Council appointments

Eleanor shared that appointments are still being considered and under review by the Governor. The deadline for judge appointments has now passed, and there is optimism that the balance of ECICC appointments will be completed before the August 18th meeting.

August Meeting Components

-Since the June 2017 Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems report is about to be released, this would be a good item to review.

-Workforce Groups update

-Steering Committee will look at recommendations from the 2016 Governor's report for the agenda.

- July 2017 SUTQ recommendations and School Readiness Tax Credit (SUTQ may be at November meeting due to timing.)
- Tammy asked that specific requests for a family story be sent to her. The Steering Committee will meet 4-6 weeks out, and Tammy could join on the phone to a SC meeting.
- Child Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization update and review of market rate survey report from UNL – Nicole Vint.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan Update

Janine Theiler, Educator Effectiveness Program Specialist for Adult Program Services at NDE, attended and shared some handouts including the NDE Strategic plan and information about AQuESTT. Janine gave an overview and history of ESSA, which is the reauthorized form of what was originally known as ESEA (Elementary & Secondary Education Act). AQuESTT is the system of accountability in Nebraska. Janine gave the Council some time for discussion points around priorities for determining educator effectiveness related to the six tenants of AQuESTT. She talked about qualities of effective educators, and asked the group how state-level funds should be focused to ensure maximum impact. This input will be added to a list being compiled with input from across the state.

Janine welcomes input and questions at any time and can be emailed at janine.theiler@nebraska.gov.

Eleanor asked if there were any other comments for the good of the Council. There were not and the meeting adjourned at 2:30p.m.

Next meeting: August 18th at 9:00a.m. at the Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center, Southeast Community College, 301 South 68th Street Place, Lincoln.

**Upcoming Scheduled ECICC meeting dates:
(Note: will all be at 68th & “O” Street location)**

- August 18, 2017
- November 16, 2017 (Orientation)
- November 17, 2017

**Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
Technical Assistance Members for 2017-2018**

- Jennifer Auman, DHHS, Health Program Manager
- Amy Bornemeier, Sixpence Program, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- Lynne Brehm, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- Stacy Frank, DHHS Program Specialist
- Pat Frost, Title I, NDE
- Cole Johnson, NDE, Special Education
- Connie Shockley, Parent TA, PTI Nebraska
- Kim Texel, NDE, Office of Early Childhood
- Becky Veak, First Five Nebraska
- Staci Zuerlein, DHHS Program Coordinator