

Early Childhood Education Cabinet Meeting

June 30, 2011 • 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

State Department of Education

Room MCR 3

25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown

ATTENDANCE

John Rathgeber Chairperson, CBIA	Chair, Representative of Business or Philanthropic Community	X	Elaine Flynn-York (for Patricia Rehmner) Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Designee	X
Catherine Abercrombie Representative	Member of the House of Representatives		Kevin Sullivan Dept. of Public Health	Representative of State Agency responsible for Health or Mental Health Care	X
Peter Palermino Dept. of Social Services	Representative from State Agency Responsible for Child Care	X	Senator Andrea Stillman State Senator	Member of the State Senate	
Marisol Estrada-Soto Parent	Parent of child attending school in Priority District		David Title Superintendent, Fairfield Public Schools	Representative of the Local Education Agency	X
Harriet Feldlaufer Dept. of Education	Representative of the State Education Agency	X	Maria Synodi (for Anne Louise Thompson) Dept. of Education	Representative of the State Agency Responsible for Programs under 619 or Part C of the IDEA	X
Linda Goodman Dept. of Developmental Services	Representative of Entity Determined Relevant by the Governor	X	Eileen Ward Director, Children's Community Development Center	Representative of Local Providers of Early Childhood Education	X
Kathy Guay Director, Office of Policy & Management	Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management Designee		Grace Whitney Head Start Collaboration Officer	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	X
Joan Parris Director, Early Childhood Education, Norwalk CC	Representative of Institutions of Higher Education	X	Elaine Zimmerman Executive Director, Commission on Children	Executive Director of the Commission on Children	X
Vacant	Representative from Head Start Agency				

Documents Received:

The following documents were distributed:

- Minutes from the May 26, 2011 meeting
- "Right from the Start" – Informational handout from David Nee regarding an early education and child development system
- Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) Plan Reporting
- Letter to Chief State School Officers regarding RTTT-Early Learning Challenge Grant
- Snapshot of CT Charts-a-Course Workforce Data (June 2011)

A. Welcome and Introductions

John Rathgeber opened the meeting at 9:35 A.M.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 26, 2011 meeting were approved with no revisions.

C. Work Group Updates

Sherry Linton-Massiah reported that the Quality Data Systems and Early Learning Standards groups have met. Workforce and Family Engagement/Home Visitation groups will be meeting in July. Members for all of the four work groups have been selected.

Harriet Feldlaufer reported that the Early Learning Standards group has five meetings scheduled throughout the summer. The group has modified their work plan and hopes to have Actions 1 and 2 completed by the end of September. The minutes from their June 22 meeting will be posted on the Cabinet's website.

Linda Goodman reported that the Quality Data Systems work group reviewed their work plan and is moving forward on the work regarding unique identifiers. An MOU will be drafted among participating agencies that collect and control data. The work group will look at other longitudinal data systems for recommendations, including a system that will be used by the P-20 Council. As part of the P-20 Council's state longitudinal grant, national technical assistance will be offered. The workgroup will look for a way to be included into whichever system P-20 selects, understanding that as early childhood is not part of that package, funds may be needed in order to do so.

Joan Parris reported that the Workforce work group has selected 12 members and is in the process of developing its charge. Several members of the committee attended the PDI conference in Rhode Island which will help inform the work of the committee. Work plan goals have been streamlined to be more manageable. The committee will meet on July 13.

D. Legislative Updates

Under Senate Bill 1103, changes to the membership of the Cabinet have been made and are effective July 1, 2011. A representative from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), a representative from the Family Resource Center Alliance, a representative of a state funded child care center, as well as a representative from the Head Start Association have been added as designated members, while a representative from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has been removed. Mr. Rathgeber thanked Elaine Flynn-York for her participation on behalf of DMHAS and welcomed her to continue her participation by attending future Cabinet meetings.

E. Leadership Team Updates

John Rathgeber stated that the leadership team met in early June to review work plans. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for July.

F. Fiscal Updates

Linda Goodman reported that the federal government has issued three home visitation grants: two formula grants worth \$800,000 and ~\$1 million respectively and one competitive grant with as much as 9.6 million (20-25 grants will be issued nationally).

G. Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Plan / DSS Transfer Updates

CCDF Plan

Peter Palermino reported that a one-month extension has been granted to submit our CCDF plan, based on the timeline for the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant. The plan is now due by August 1. This extension will allow for the workgroups to meet and finalize the goals to be incorporated into the CCDF plan. The plan can be amended once it is submitted. A new feature, a quality performance report, was new to the template this year. It will be submitted blank, but will need to be reported on in a year.

GAO Survey

Mr. Palermino reported that Connecticut was asked to complete a Governor Accountability Office (GAO) survey. Connecticut Charts-a-Course, SDE and DSS worked to complete the survey and found that many of the questions asked dealt with data we do not collect on a regular basis. It was recommended that we consider collecting this data for the future.

DSS Transfer

Effective July 1, 2011, all existing DSS contracts with state day care centers were transferred to SDE. Amendments extending contracts until June 30, 2012, were executed and included increased rates for preschool and infant/toddler. Mr. Palermino thanked OPM, SDE and his staff for their work in this transfer with such an aggressive timeline.

Quality enhancement funds (approximately \$1.1 million) were also transferred from DSS to SDE.

H. Guest Speaker David Nee – Systems Building

David Nee from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Foundation (WCGMF) spoke to the Cabinet about “Right from the Start (RFTS): an Early Education and Child Development System”. RFTS is an initiative that *operates on the premise that an early education and child development system must include local decision-making structures, parent engagement, results-based community plans, integration of state and local efforts and a thorough evaluation of progress.* WCGMF has organized teams committed to the design and implementation of this system. The work will be completed in five phases. More information on this initiative can be found on the Cabinet’s website (www.ctearlychild.org).

I. Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant

Harriet Feldlaufer distributed copies of a letter sent from Arne Duncan and Kathleen Sebelius regarding the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC). The letter formally

announces the Challenge grant and connects it to the work of the CCDF plan. On June 2, 2011, Alvin Wilson from Governor Malloy's office, requested an update on early childhood efforts in Connecticut and recommendations regarding the RTT-ELC grant program. Ms. Feldlaufer stated that 6-8 bullets were submitted and recommended that the timelines be realistic and the guidelines be well-articulated. Grants will be awarded by December 31, 2011. It is the Governor's intention to spearhead this application. As of yet, no agency has been designated as the lead.

J. New Business

Statewide Symposium

On August 18, 2011, from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm, there will be a statewide symposium, *Closing the Achievement Gap: getting preK through grade 3 right*, that will include a panel discussion of local boards of education, superintendents, Discovery coordinators, and national speakers. The focus of the symposium is on public schools and their connection to PreK-3 continuum. Dr. Kristie Kaurez, from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Dr. Felicia Lanham-Tarason, from Montgomery County Public Schools, Maryland will be featured speakers.

Cabinet Website

The Cabinet's website is currently transferring its domain to another web-host, effective July 1, 2011. The website will be under construction for approximately 1-2 weeks in order to complete this transfer.

K. Public Comment

Darlene Ragozzine from CT Charts-a-Course distributed copies of a snapshot of the most recent statistics from the Registry. This data shows increases in the amount of teachers with associate's and bachelor's degrees. If the numbers continue to increase, the meeting of the 50/50 legislated requirement will be successful. More information can be found on the CT Charts-a-Course website (<http://www.ctcharts-a-course.org/>).

L. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

M. Next Meeting

The next Cabinet meeting will be held on July 28, 2011, at the State Office Building in Middletown, Room MCR3 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.