



# Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

## Meeting of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet

August 25, 2011 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Middletown State Office Building, Conference Room 3

25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown

### ATTENDANCE

Member	Member Type Required by Federal Statute		Member	Member Type Required by Federal Statute	
<b>David Title, Chair</b> <i>Superintendent of Fairfield PS</i>	Representative of a Local Education Agency	X	<b>Edie Reichard</b> <i>Director, Sleeping Giant Day Care</i>	Representative of a State-funded Child Care Center	X
<b>Catherine Abercrombie</b> <i>State Representative</i>	Member of the House of Representatives	X	<b>Andrea Stillman</b> <i>State Senator</i>	Member of the Senate	X
<b>Cathy Battista</b> <i>President, FRC Alliance</i>	Representative from Family Resource Centers	X	<b>Kevin Sullivan</b> <i>Health Associate, Dept. of Public Health</i>	Representative of the State Agency Responsible for Health or Mental Health Care	X
<b>Peter Palermino (for Claudette Beaulieu)</b> <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Social Services</i>	Representative from State Agency Responsible for Child Care	X	<b>Marie Synodi (for Anne Louise Thompson)</b> <i>Chief, Special Education, Dept. of Education</i>	Representative of the State Agency Responsible for Programs under 619 or Part C of the IDEA	
<b>Harriet Feldlauffer</b> <i>Chief, Bureau of Teaching &amp; Learning, Dept. of Education</i>	Representative of the State Education Agency	X	<b>Eileen Ward</b> <i>Director, Children's Community Development Center</i>	Representative of Local Providers of Early Childhood Education	X
<b>Linda Goodman</b> <i>Director, Birth to Three, Dept. of Developmental Services</i>	Representative of Entity Determined Relevant by the Governor	X	<b>Grace Whitney</b> <i>Director, CT Head Start Association Collaboration Office</i>	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	X
<b>Anzelmo Graziosi</b> <i>Licensed Attorney</i>	Representative from the Business or Philanthropic Community	X	<b>Elaine Zimmerman</b> <i>Executive Director, Commission on Children</i>	Executive Director of the Commission on Children	X
<b>Rudy Brooks (for Janice Gruendel)</b> <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Children &amp; Families</i>	Commissioner of the Department of Children & Families	X	<b>Vacant</b>	Representative from Head Start Agency	
<b>Kathy Guay</b> <i>Director, Office of Policy &amp; Management</i>	Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management Designee	X	<b>Vacant</b>	Parent of a Child Attending School in Priority District	
<b>Joan Parris</b> <i>Director, ECE, Norwalk CC</i>	Representative of Institutions of Higher Education	X			

#### Documents Received:

The following documents were distributed:

- Minutes from the July 28, 2011 meeting
- IMPACT: Ensuring Health and Safety in Connecticut's ECE Programs
- CHDI Targeted Research and Dissemination to Change State Child Care Policy
- Addressing Health and Safety in Early Care and Education Programs: Essential to Quality and Outcomes (PowerPoint presentation)
- Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge Grant Executive Summary

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

David Title opened the meeting at 9:37 a.m. and expressed his gratitude for being chosen as the Cabinet’s new chair. Anzelmo Grazioso, representing members from the business/philanthropy community, Edie Reichard, representing state-funded child care centers, and Cathy Battista, representing family resource centers, were introduced as new members of the Cabinet.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the June 30, 2011, meeting were approved.

**C. Work Group Reports**

Data Systems:

The Data Systems work group did not meet in August but continues to work on an MOU that will ensure agencies are participating and working towards interoperability by linking unique identifiers for children, staff and programs. The work group continues to look to the P-20 Council for no-cost technical assistance options.

Professional Development/Workforce:

The Professional Development/Workforce work group did not meet in August, but is compiling a list of current state professional development opportunities. Work plan Strategies 2 and 3 will be addressed at their next meeting.

Early Learning Standards:

The Early Learning Standards work group met August 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and continues to make progress on the creation of guidelines for standards. Their current focus has shifted toward the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant.

Family Engagement/Home Visitation:

The Family Engagement/Home Visitation work group met August 17<sup>th</sup>, focusing primarily on homelessness and family rights.

**D. Fiscal Report**

Andrea Brinnel reported that other than funding for the project director, no expenditures have been made. A fiscal summary will be available at the end of September.

The Cabinet has agreed to fund a portion of the planning director position at the Office of Policy & Management (OPM) detailed in Senate Bill 1103. (P.A. 11-181) The use of Cabinet funds for this position is strongly supported by the federal government as it relates to sustainability.

**E. Leadership Team Report**

Sherry Linton-Massiah distributed handouts of a matrix for tracking early care and education systems both federally and statewide. An Early Childhood Education Systems Building graphic was

also distributed. Once final edits have been made, all documents will be posted on the Cabinet's website and will be used to inform the RTT-ELC section on state systems.

**F. SDE/DSS/Child Day Care Program Transition**

The OPM/SDE/DSS Transfer Study Group has made progress at looking at four major transition elements: eligibility, governance, quality and financing. A matrix was created to compare similarities and differences between programs to inform recommendations for a unified system. A report on study group findings as well as a plan for creating the unified system is due January 1, 2012. The study group will work to ensure that preschool special education, as well as Head Start, are included in the planning process.

**G. Home Visitation Grant Application**

The home visitation grant application was submitted to the federal government. Deadlines were very quick as to take advantage of current congressional funding. Although the turnaround for the application was very quick, the planning team was pleased with the effort.

**H. Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC)**

The RTT-ELC grant is a \$500 million dollar competitive grant program over a four-year period. Connecticut is eligible to apply for 50 million. The Governor has designated the SDE as the lead agency for submitting the grant and a planning team has been assembled. Grant writers are being interviewed by the Governor's office to work with this team. Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner for the SDE, gave an update on the coordination of work moving forward. Handouts of the executive summary, grant application, and summary of the rubric that will be used to grade the application were distributed.

The due date for the RTT-ELC grant is October 19.

On September 8, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Legislative Office Building, there will be an opportunity for public comment on the RTT-ELC. There is also an opportunity to leave electronic comments pertaining to the RTT-ELC on the Cabinet's website forums.

**I. Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan Updates**

The CCDF plan was submitted on time and has been reviewed. Initial comments that have come back are very minor. Gaps in the CCDF plan will need to be addressed in the future. The federal government is reviewing the CCDF plans prior to the RTT-ELC grants as the work of the CCDF plan will be directly related to the work of the RTT-ELC.

**J. Addressing Health and Safety in Early Care and Education Programs**

Judith Meyers, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Children's Fund of Connecticut and Child Health and Development Institute, and Angela Crowley, Ph.D., APRN, PNP-BC, FAAN Associate Professor at Yale University School of Nursing presented on "Addressing Health and Safety in Early Care and

Education Programs: Essential to Quality and Outcomes". This presentation can be found on the Cabinet's website.

**K. Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)**

Harriet Feldlaufer reported that 25 percent of the RTT-ELC application is related to QRIS. Co-chairs of the Cabinet's work groups, as well as some members of the 2008 QRIS planning team met to review the 2008 CT QRIS draft and discuss how that may be able to inform the RTT-ELC application.

**L. Community Assessment**

A needs assessment for the Cabinet will be due in December. A handout that reflects the information trying to be captured was distributed to the Cabinet. Sherry Linton made it clear that the needs assessment is not a one-time document, but an on-going process.

**M. Letters of Support**

The Leadership Team has developed a process for requests for letters of support from the Cabinet. Each letter of support must contain information about how the request relates to the work of the Cabinet and when the letter is needed. Contact information should be included in the event there are any questions regarding the request. The request will be reviewed by the Cabinet Leadership Team and brought to the full Cabinet for consideration as appropriate. This process has been posted to the Cabinet website.

All letters should be addressed to:  
David Title, Chair, Early Childhood Cabinet  
c/o Andrea Brinnel  
165 Capitol Avenue, Room 264  
Hartford, CT 06106

**N. Public Comment**

Christine Devine from LISC encouraged the Cabinet to consider thinking about facilities, funding and capacity and offered support.

Darlene Ragozzine from Connecticut Charts-a-Course offered her assistance with the workforce section of the RTT-ELC grant.

**O. Adjournment**

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

**P. Next Meeting**

The next Cabinet meeting will be held on September 22, 2011, at the State Office Building in Middletown, Conference Room 3, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.