

Early Childhood Education Cabinet Meeting
 November 30, 2010 • 9:30-11:30 A.M.
 Middletown State Department of Education
 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown

ATTENDANCE

John Rathgeber Chairperson, CBIA	Chair, Representative of Business or Philanthropic Community	X	Kevin Sullivan (for Norma Gyle) Dept. of Public Health	Representative of State Agency responsible for Health or Mental Health Care	X
Beth Bye Senator-Elect	Member of the House of Representatives	X	Joan Parris Director, Early Childhood Education, Norwalk CC	Representative of Institutions of Higher Education	
Claudette Beaulieu Dept. of Social Services	Representative from State Agency Responsible for Child Care	X	Patricia Rehmner Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Designee	
Marisol Estrada-Soto Parent	Parent of child attending school in Priority District		David Title Superintendent, Fairfield Public Schools	Representative of the Local Education Agency	
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
Betsy Morgan (for Senator Tom Gaffey) Member of the Senate	Senator	X	Eileen Ward Director, Children's Community Development Center	Representative of Local Providers of Early Childhood Education	X
Linda Goodman Dept. of Developmental Services	Representative of Entity Determined Relevant by the Governor	X	Grace Whitney Head Start Collaboration Officer	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	X
Kathy Guay Director, Office of Policy & Management	Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management Designee		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 October 15, 2010, meeting
- Summary Report of the SAC Retreat on October 29, 2010 from Karen Ray
- Early Childhood Planning for Connecticut Presentation
- Child Care and Development Fund Plan Presentation
- SAC Meeting Schedule for 2011
- *Many Missing Pieces* – article by Laura Bornfreund and Maggie Severns

A. Welcome and Introductions

John Rathgeber opened the meeting at 9:32 A.M.

B. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the October 15, 2010, meeting were approved.

C. Karen Ray

Karen Ray who facilitated the October 29 retreat joined the SAC via iChat. She reiterated the desire of all members of the SAC to reshape the four identified priority areas to be more inclusive as we move forward and asked that the SAC take a few minutes to talk amongst each other to ensure that everyone is in full agreement. John Rathgeber thanked Karen Ray for all of her work and stated that the SAC wishes to keep a relationship with her as the group matures and becomes a more effective voice for raising critical issues for the children in Connecticut.

D. PSA Update

Harriet Feldlaufer reported that the SAC received three applications to the PSA. A four-person team (Harriet Feldlaufer, Peter Palermino, Linda Goodman and Elaine Zimmerman) reviewed the three applications and used a rubric that was part of the PSA to determine the top candidate. The recommended candidate has had a conversation with Ms. Feldlaufer for clarification on their application. The Department of Education is currently working on a contract and once accepted, the SAC will announce its fiduciary at the December 22 meeting. There is optimism that the project coordinator may be hired by February 2011.

E. PEW Conference

John Rathgeber reported that there had been some confusion regarding the business summit in Hartford on December 3. Separate from the business summit in Fairfield on the same day, this event was initiated through a request from the Connecticut Forum. The Connecticut Forum had recently facilitated a summit on education reform featuring national spokespersons and asked if they could piggyback on the December 3 meeting in Hartford. This summit is another opportunity to engage people and get the word out on return on investment.

F. PDI Representative

Dona Ditrio was the PDI representative for the SAC, but since then, Dona has resigned from the SAC which now leaves an opportunity to appoint someone new. John Rathgeber reported that Darlene Ragozzine had approached him to suggest Joan Parris be the possible new PDI representative which initiated discussion from SAC members. Ms. Ragozzine clarified that the PDI team is a very broad cross-sector team which includes many of the people who currently serve on the SAC and that the PDI representative will represent the group as a whole, but will be doing all of the traveling. Ms. Ragozzine also stated that her reason for nominating John was due to her work chairing the professional development work group of the SAC. Beth Bye stated that it is necessary that the person, whoever it may be, meets the requirement for Head Start. Grace Whitney added that a substantial connection with higher education is critical. Andrea Brinnel stated that Joan was going to be meeting with Commissioner Mike Meotti to further discuss this issue. It was recommended

that since Ms. Parris was not in attendance, further discussion on this subject should be tabled for a later time when more information is known and Joan is able to speak.

G. Legislative Proposal for Membership Changes

Mr. Rathgeber reported that he has left messages for Representative Larry Cafero in regards to the appointment of a replacement for Dona Ditrio. He stated that he does not feel it is appropriate for legislative proposals to be made attempting to change the appointing authorities of legislative leaders but that we can request a legislative change to the composition of the SAC so as to give the Head Start appointment to the Governor and the parental representative appointment to Representative Cafero. Parental representation is critical to the SAC and since we don't currently have strong parental involvement at the table, this recommended change would resolve this issue.

Claudette Beaulieu reinforced the issue of having very little parental involvement on the SAC and agreed that this suggestion would be beneficial. She also stated that having Representative Cafero appointment a parent might be less taxing than to find a Head Start representative. a constituent.

John Rathgeber also reported that the Department of Education will be posing a change in the composition of the SAC to include the Department of Children and Families instead of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services as all members agree this would be just a technical correction. Peter Palermino shared his concern with opening up the membership due to the fact that a swell could occur and many others would want to join but Representative Beth Bye stated that this type of change in composition would fall directly within a technical revisions bill and will not be an issue. The SAC all voted to approve the moving forward of these legislative changes.

H. SAC Priority Area Update – Quality Data

Linda Goodman gave an update on the Quality Data priority area via a PowerPoint presentation which can be found on the Cabinet website: (insert link)

I. SAC Priority Area Update – Early Learning Standards

It was decided that the update on the Early Learning Standards priority area will be moved to the agenda for the December 22 meeting due to lack of time. Harriet will facilitate this discussion at the next meeting.

J. Office of Child Care Video and Federal Child Care Plan

Peter Palermino showed the SAC a video from the Child Care Bureau 20th anniversary of the Child Care and Development Block Grant. He followed this video with a PowerPoint presentation which can be found on the Cabinet website: (insert link)

K. Public Comment

Deb Adams from the State Department of Education stated that she was encouraged by the conversation child outcomes around the idea of linking assessment and the trajectory of growth rather than a clear line in the sand of whether a child is “ready” or not.

Jeff Daniels from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund stated that the community foundations next year will be working on a unified system of Kindergarten assessment methodology tool-book on individual basis and population basis.

L. Next Meeting

The next SAC meeting will be held Wednesday, December 22 from 9:30 – 11:30 AM at the Middletown State Office Building, in MCR3.