

Early Childhood Education Cabinet Meeting
July 27, 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	Norma Gyle Dept. of Public Health	Representative of State Agency responsible for Health or Mental Health Care	X
Beth Bye Representative	Member of the House of Representatives		Joan Parris Director, Early Childhood Education, Norwalk CC	Representative of Institutions of Higher Education	X
Karen Foley-Schain (for 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	
Dona Ditrio Director, New Opportunities, Inc.	Representative from Head Start Agency	X	David Title Superintendent, Fairfield Public Schools	Representative of the Local Education Agency	X
Marisol Estrada-Soto Parent	Parent of child attending school in Priority District		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
Harriet Feldlaufer Dept. of Education	Representative of the State Education Agency	X	Eileen Ward Director, Children's Community Development Center	Representative of Local Providers of Early Childhood Education	X
Senator Tom Gaffey Member of the Senate	Senator		Grace Whitney Head Start Collaboration Officer	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	X
Linda Goodman Dept. of Developmental Services	Representative of Entity Determined Relevant by the Governor	X	Dawn Homer-Bouthiette (for Elaine Zimmerman) Executive Director, Commission on Children	Executive Director of the Commission on Children	X
Kathy Guay Director, Office of Policy & Management	Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management Designee	X			

Documents Received:

The following documents were distributed:

- State Advisory Council Supplementary Grant Application Summary

A. Welcome and Introductions

John Rathgeber opened the meeting at 9:50 A.M.

B. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the June 24, 2010, meeting were approved.

C. ARRA Grant

John Rathgeber reported that we are unable to use a third-party agreement in the grant application. The Connecticut Council on Philanthropy had agreed to serve as the subgrantee, however, Kathy Guay stated that an open and competitive RFP process must be in place. The RFP must be posted for seven weeks. Andrea Brinnel has spoken to the legal and fiscal departments at the SDE and is working to expedite the RFP process. Dawn Homer-Bouthiette questioned if a sole source justification had been ruled out. Kathy Guay stated that OPM's existing policy is to not authorize PSAs. There would need to be a tremendous amount of justification provided in order to go this route, and there is not a compelling reason to prove that just one organization is able to serve as fiduciary for this grant. Cabinet members voted and approved the change in the grant application to reflect the state's RFP process.

Grace Whitney stated that there is still an issue with the SAC membership. The fact that it is customary to have legislative appointments for membership spots will continue to be an issue for Head Start. The congressional intent is to have a direct representative from a Head Start community, however, Connecticut's legislation states that it is a legislator's designee. This results in the designee not necessarily representing the constituency or even being someone the Head Start community has selected. A change needs to take place in order to align federal and state legislation as a resolution would be helpful.

Andrea Brinnel reported that Richard Gonzalez from ACF sent out a notice that states who apply by the August 1 deadline are eligible to apply for supplemental funds totaling between \$80,000 and \$150,000. These funds require an additional 70% match which Connecticut has already provided documentation for in our ARRA Head Start grant application. To apply for this supplement, all that is needed is a two-page narrative stating Connecticut's plans for the utilization of additional funds, as well as a corresponding budget and justification. It was decided that the Cabinet will use the supplemental funds to strengthen the work in the four priority areas addressed in the application.

D. Early Childhood Conference - PEW

John Rathgeber provided an update for the Early Childhood PEW Conference. The previous Cabinet had applied for PEW grant funds to engage business leaders in early childhood education through a statewide conference. On May 25, 2010, the current Cabinet decided to move forward with this conference which will be held in early October. Eileen Ward, who is part of the planning committee, has spoken with Fairfield University regarding the facilitation of this conference. Fairfield University can accommodate approximately 200 people in the Dolan School free of charge, and up to 750 people at the Quick Center for a \$1,000 charge. Elaine Zimmerman is working to find presenters who will speak on academic achievement, early childhood through high school, in order

to prepare 21st century workforce that will be leaders and drive innovation and change in Connecticut. Mr. Rathgeber will follow up with subcommittee on this event.

E. New Business

Potential Leadership Team

Harriet Feldlaufer reported that those who worked on the grant application brainstormed ideas on how to coordinate the work of the four priority areas to ensure the work is not siloed. A smaller subgroup may be a more efficient way to streamline processes and report on progress. This group should be comprised of both Cabinet and non-Cabinet members. Linda Goodman added that a this team would also offer a management structure for the SAC project director hired. Kathy Guay cautioned Cabinet members that as the SAC membership is a statutory requirement, we must ensure non-Cabinet members are not placed in a supervisory role. John Rathgeber tabled this item to be discussed at a later meeting date.

F. Public Comments

Judy Goldfarb from the Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative stated that the discussion around having a cross-sector committee for coordination of the four priority work areas as opposed to a leadership committee seemed like an effective way of moving the work across agency sectors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

G. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010, from 9:30-11:30 AM at the State Department of Education in Middletown in the SERC Community Room.