



# Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

## Meeting of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet

June 28, 2012 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Middletown State Office Building, SERC Classroom

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>Deb Johnson</b> <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Health</i>	Representative of the State Agency Responsible for Health or Mental Health Care	
<b>Catherine Abercrombie</b> <i>State Representative</i>	Member of the House of Representatives		<b>Michelle Maggio</b> <i>Parent</i>	Parent	
<b>Cathy Battista</b> <i>President, FRC Alliance</i>	Representative from Family Resource Centers		<b>David Morgan</b> <i>Vice President, TEAM, Inc.</i>	Representative from Head Start Agency	
<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>Joan Parris</b> <i>Director, ECE, Norwalk CC</i>	Representative of Institutions of Higher Education	X
<b>Marisol Estrada-Soto</b> <i>Parent</i>	Parent	X	<b>Mary Burnham (for Edie Reichard)</b> <i>Director, Sleeping Giant Day Care</i>	Representative of a State-funded Child Care Center	X
<b>Harriet Feldlaufer</b> <i>Chief, Bureau of Teaching &amp; Learning, Dept. of Education</i>	Representative of the State Education Agency	X	<b>Andrea Stillman</b> <i>State Senator</i>	Member of the Senate	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>Maria 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	X
<b>Anzelmo Graziosi</b> <i>Licensed Attorney</i>	Representative from the Business or Philanthropic Community	X	<b>Eileen Ward</b> <i>Director, Children's Community Development Center</i>	Representative of Local Providers of Early Childhood Education	X
<b>Leah Grenier</b> <i>Budget Specialist, Office of Policy &amp; Management</i>	Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management Designee	X	<b>Grace Whitney</b> <i>Director, Head Start Collaboration Office</i>	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	X
<b>Janice Gruendel</b> <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Children &amp; Families</i>	Commissioner of the Department of Children & Families	X	<b>Elaine Zimmerman</b> <i>Exec. Dir., Commission on Children</i>	Executive Director of the Commission on Children	

#### Documents Received:

- Minutes from the May 24, 2012 meeting
- Project Director's Report
- SRI International: Connecticut Standards Alignment Final Report, Executive Summary

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

David Title opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Deb Johnson will serve on the Cabinet as the designee from the Department of Health.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the May 24, 2012, meeting were approved.

**C. Legislative Updates**

Harriet Feldlaufer reported that an analysis of the 1,000 additional preschool spaces was completed and an announcement from the Governor's office is imminent.

Approximately 1.7 million dollars is available for K-3 Literacy funding for 5 schools in the 10 Education Reform Districts.

David Title reported that he was recently in attendance at a meeting of Commissioners called by the Governor's office regarding the education reform. He noted that Ben Barnes has been involved and has formulated funding proposals to move the agenda forward. The group will meet again at the end of July.

The Cabinet thanked Senator Stillman for all of her legislative efforts this session, particularly with regard to early childhood education. Senator Stillman stated that her role with the Cabinet contributed greatly. She also stated that the education reform bill is very comprehensive, and offers a great framework to build over the next few years. She is anxious to see what the ESEA waiver will mean in terms of future legislation.

**D. Work Group Updates – Sherry Linton-Massiah**

Data:

The Data work group hosted a Data Systems Roundtable on June 19, 2012, with 52 of the 60 invitees in attendance. Participants included researchers and data-users. A comprehensive list of essential questions was compiled that, when answered, will lead to changes in policy and practice. The National T/TA Support Team on State Longitudinal Data Systems will work with the Data Systems work group and Elliott Regenstein to produce a follow-up report.

Workforce/Professional Development:

The Workforce/Professional Development work group did not meet in June, but has a meeting scheduled for July 10, 2012. A gap analysis is being conducted on the core teacher competencies for early care and education. Additionally, the group is working to strengthen articulation agreements between the two- and four-year institutions of higher education.

### Early Learning Standards:

The Early Learning Standards work group hosted an Early Learning and Standards Development Institute June 25-27, 2012. This work was informed by the Standards Alignment Institute held on March 28 and 29, 2012 (see presentation information below).

### Family Involvement/Home Visitation:

The Family Involvement/Home Visitation work group did not meet in June, but will meet in July. Some work group members, as well as the co-chair, attended the national Home Visitation Policy Institute hosted by Zero to Three which focused on technical assistance strategies for effectively connecting home visiting to early childhood education. The work group is developing a budget for cross-sector trainings on family engagement.

Senator Stillman reported that there is a Nurses Family Partnership Program in New London (a division of the Visiting Nurses Association) whereby nurses visit the homes of expectant young mothers. The nurses develop a relationship with the new mother and infant for two years. Programs using this model report it has been an effective strategy to help close the education achievement gap.

### QRIS:

The QRIS work group met on May 24, 2012. An inventory of work already done in Connecticut was reviewed at that meeting. With extensive review of the 2008 Recommendations for QRIS in CT and the T-QRIS section of the RTT-ELC application, the group developed an inventory of areas of the T-QRIS plan that would most likely garner high stakeholder agreement, while also identifying areas that still produce unresolved tensions. The group will develop a work plan and continue to work with the Child Care Training and Technical Assistance Centers for national guidance.

### Health:

The Health work group is still pending a co-chair and membership has yet to be finalized.

### Public/Private Partnerships:

The Public/Private Partnerships work group is still pending a co-chair and membership has yet to be finalized. It is expected that this group will be formalized during the month of August.

The complete version of the Project Director's report can be found on the Early Childhood Cabinet website at the following link: <http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/project-director.html>

## **E. Presentations**

Harriet Feldlaufer thanked her co-chair Dina Anselmi, as well as members who worked with the Standards work group over the last year. The work group's charge has been tied directly to RTT-ELC: Every child, Every settings, Every year.

In preparation for the drafting of Connecticut's birth to five early learning standards, the work group reviewed standards from all 50 states as well as a few countries. On June 25-27, 2012 the work group hosted an Early Learning and Development Standards Institute to begin drafting Connecticut's standards.

Kathleen Hebbeler from SRI International presented the findings from the Connecticut Standards Alignment – a gap analysis of the Preschool Curriculum Framework, Kindergarten Science Curriculum Standards, and Kindergarten Social Studies Curriculum Framework. This report can be found on the Cabinet's website at: <http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/early-learning-standards.html>

There was discussion among Cabinet members regarding the assessment using the standards, in terms of individual child development and learning.

**F. Public Comment**

Cheryl Burack from the Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis stated that home visitation groups need to be informed of work taking place to ensure integration of systems.

Grace Whitney stated that Elaine Zimmerman is hosting a forum for the National Council of State Legislators to look at evidence-based home visitation models, in particular Child FIRST.

Jeff Daniels from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund stated that as we move forward with the alignment standards, it is imperative that linguistic and cultural competencies be considered.

**G. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Cabinet will be held on Thursday, August 23, 2012, at the State Office Building in Middletown, SERC Community Room from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.