



Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

Meeting of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet

January 26, 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	
David Title, Chair <i>Superintendent of Fairfield PS</i>	Representative of a Local Education Agency	X	David Morgan <i>Vice President, TEAM, Inc.</i>	Representative from Head Start Agency	X
Catherine Abercrombie <i>State Representative</i>	Member of the House of Representatives	X	Joan Parris <i>Director, ECE, Norwalk CC</i>	Representative of Institutions of Higher Education	X
Cathy Battista <i>President, FRC Alliance</i>	Representative from Family Resource Centers	X	Edie Reichard <i>Director, Sleeping Giant Day Care</i>	Representative of a State-funded Child Care Center	X
Claudette Beaulieu <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Social Services</i>	Representative from State Agency Responsible for Child Care		Andrea Stillman <i>State Senator</i>	Member of the Senate	
Harriet Feldlauffer <i>Chief, Bureau of Teaching & Learning, Dept. of Education</i>	Representative of the State Education Agency	X	Kevin Sullivan <i>Health Associate, Dept. of Public Health</i>	Representative of the State Agency Responsible for Health or Mental Health Care	
Linda Goodman <i>Director, Birth to Three, Dept. of Developmental Services</i>	Representative of Entity Determined Relevant by the Governor	X	Maria Synodi (for Anne Louise Thompson) <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
Anzelmo Graziosi <i>Licensed Attorney</i>	Representative from the Business or Philanthropic Community	X	Eileen Ward <i>Director, Children's Community Development Center</i>	Representative of Local Providers of Early Childhood Education	X
Leah Grenier <i>Budget Specialist, Office of Policy & Management</i>	Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management Designee		Grace Whitney <i>Director, CT Head Start Association Collaboration Office</i>	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	X
Janice Gruendel <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Children & Families</i>	Commissioner of the Department of Children & Families		Elaine Zimmerman <i>Exec. Dir., Commission on Children</i>	Executive Director of the Commission on Children	X
Michelle Maggio <i>Parent</i>	Parent of a Child Attending School in a Priority District	X	Vacant	Parent	

Documents Received:

- Minutes from the December 22, 2011 meeting
- Project Director's Report
- Great Expectations: Raising Educational Achievement (Flyer for 3-part series on CPTV)
- Invitational Priority from RTT Grant: Encouraging Private Sector Support

A. Welcome and Introductions

David Title opened the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

B. Great Expectations: Raising Educational Achievement

A flyer was distributed for Great Expectations: Raising Educational Achievement, a three-part series on closing the achievement gap. Part I focuses on the role of early childhood. Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School in Bloomfield will be featured. The series airs on Thursday, February 9 at 8:30 p.m on CPTV.

C. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December 22, 2011, meeting were approved. Eileen Ward and Edie Reichard abstained.

D. Needs Assessment / Work Group Updates

Sherry Linton-Massiah thanked Cabinet members for their feedback on the draft needs assessment. A final version will be available at the next Cabinet meeting. Electronic copies will also be distributed.

Work group updates are as follows:

Data Systems:

The Data Systems work group is reviewing work plans and considering next steps as they move forward. A follow-up meeting with the state support team has been scheduled.

Professional Development/Workforce:

The Professional Development/Workforce work group is in the process of sending out proposals for two consultants: one who will work on establishing an early childhood competency framework (Connecticut currently does not have a framework for core competencies), and the second who will work on articulation agreements.

The Early Childhood Teacher Credential is in a pilot phase. All community colleges are currently going through the process – three have already been accredited. This credential directly serves as a bridge to Public Act 11-54 requiring all preschool teachers to hold a bachelor’s degree by 2020. Deb Adams, education consultant at the State Department of Education (SDE), is taking the lead to ensure alignment to the Cabinet’s goals.

Early Learning Standards:

The Early Learning Standards work group had been reviewing submitted proposals from consultants who will work to align existing standards in Connecticut, conduct a crosswalk of existing standards and offer next steps. The proposal from SRI International, led by Kathleen

Hebbeler, was selected due to the fact that the proposal incorporated interactive components, including having internal expertise involved to ensure capacity-building while work is being done. The second proposal had come from Drs. Sharon Lynn Kagan, Catherine Scott-Little, and Jeanne L. Reid. Details are forthcoming.

Family Involvement/Home Visitation:

The Family Involvement/Home Visitation work group happily announced that Connecticut was among seven states selected by Zero to Three to receive technical assistance for the integration of home visitation into Connecticut's early childhood system.

The work group has identified literacy, fatherhood, special healthcare needs of children and families, and brain development as the primary areas of focus.

The work group has also requested that family involvement and home visitation be more directly integrated into the work plans of the other Cabinet work groups.

More information on the four priority area work groups can be found in the Project Director's report on the Cabinet's website at: <http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/project-director.html>

E. Presentations

Presentations for First 1,000 Days, Part II (Dr. Janice Gruendel) and an overview on ECCS - Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (Kevin Sullivan) were both tabled for a future Cabinet meeting.

F. Additional Cabinet Work Groups

In addition to the four priority area work groups, three more work groups are under consideration. As with all work groups, the process for selecting co-chairs is to have one chair be a Cabinet member and the second to be an external partner.

Health Work Group

This work group will be co-chaired by Grace Whitney. A second co-chair (preferably a Department of Public Health representative), has yet to be named.

T-QRIS Work Group

Though the Cabinet had initially decided to form a T-QRIS work group, it was recommended that the formulation of the work group be placed on hold until the Governor's agenda and legislative package are made public.

Public/Private Partnerships Work Group

After much discussion, the Cabinet voted to form a public/private partnerships work group. In Connecticut's Race to the Top (RTT) application, a logic and strategy model created by a team led by Nancy Roberts was submitted for work involving public/private partnerships. Though Connecticut

did not receive funding for RTT, there is an opportunity for the Cabinet to review this plan and refocus the goals on a limited budget. The charge of this work group will also need to be broadened. The co-chair representing the Cabinet will be Anzelmo Graziosi. The second co-chair will be named at a later Cabinet meeting. There was a suggestion to include a possible third co-chair so that all three aspects (business, philanthropy and community) will be represented.

G. Cabinet Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Cabinet originally scheduled for February 23, 2012 has been cancelled. The Cabinet is reviewing the upcoming schedule for Cabinet meetings. Details are forthcoming.

H. Public Comment

Elena Trueworthy, director of the Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative (HACCC), stated that HACCC has developed a five-year strategic plan that focuses on early care and education birth through Grade 3 and work force development.

Dr. Darcy Lowell, director of Child FIRST, emphasized the importance of emotional development in domains and standards and the impact of toxic stress on closing the achievement gap.

Maggie Adair, director of the Early Childhood Alliance, reported that the Connecticut Mirror is planning a forum in early February. Details are forthcoming. Meetings may be scheduled less often, but will run until noon.

I. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

J. Next Meeting

The next Cabinet meeting will be held on March 22, 2012, at the State Office Building in Middletown, SERC Community Room from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please note the time change.