



Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

Meeting of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet

January 31, 2013 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington

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		Deb Johnson <i>Section Chief, Dept. of Public Health</i>	Representative of the State Agency Responsible for Health or Mental Health Care	X
Catherine Abercrombie <i>State Representative</i>	Member of the House of Representatives		Michelle Maggio <i>Parent</i>	Parent	X
Cathy Battista <i>President, FRC Alliance</i>	Representative from Family Resource Centers	X	David Morgan <i>Vice President, TEAM, Inc.</i>	Representative from Head Start Agency	X
Peter Palermino (for Claudette Beaulieu) <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Social Services</i>	Representative from State Agency Responsible for Child Care	X	Joan Parris <i>Director, ECE, Norwalk CC</i>	Representative of Institutions of Higher Education	X
Marisol Estrada-Soto <i>Parent</i>	Parent		Edie Reichard <i>Director, Sleeping Giant Day Care</i>	Representative of a State-funded Child Care Center	X
Harriet Feldlauffer <i>Chief, Bureau of Teaching & Learning, Dept. of Education</i>	Representative of the State Education Agency	X	Andrea Stillman <i>State Senator</i>	Member of the Senate	
Linda Goodman <i>Director, Birth to Three, Dept. of Developmental Services</i>	Representative of Entity Determined Relevant by the Governor	X	Maria Synodi (for Chief of Special Education Bureau) <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
Vacant	Representative from the Business or Philanthropic Community		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, Head Start Collaboration Office</i>	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	X
Stephen Tracey (for Janice Gruendel) <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Children & Families</i>	Commissioner of the Department of Children & Families	X	(Dawn Homer-Bouthiette) Elaine Zimmerman <i>Exec. Dir., Commission on Children</i>	Executive Director of the Commission on Children	X

Documents Received:

- Minutes from the November 15, 2012 meeting
- Project Director's Report
- Promoting Student Success – PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Stephen Tracy

A. Welcome and Introductions

David Title was unable to chair due to a weather-related emergency in his school district. Harriet Feldlaufer, on Dr. Title's behalf, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 15, 2012, meeting were approved with two abstentions.

C. Work Group Updates

Data Systems:

The work group met on January 23, 2013 with the primary focus being on data requests to be included in the agencies' memoriam of understandings for the data demonstration project. Also discussed was the necessary data from agencies to inform the population overview presentation by the Cabinet at the Early Childhood Results-Based Accountability Forum on February 28, 2013.

The work group will schedule a meeting with Rob Aseltine, Director of the Institute for Public Health Research at UCONN (the IT vendor for the demonstration project), in order to have a discuss data fields being requested from agencies.

Early Learning Standards:

The work group met on January 24, 2014 with the focus on the status of the content and age validation for the early learning and development standards. The contract to work with NAEYC on content validation is now final. Department of Education (SDE) funding is being used to begin the rollout process.

The age validation prospectus is being reviewed by legal and fiscal departments and will then be considered final.

Harriet Feldlaufer stressed the work that the work group is doing to provide guidance around the rollout of new standards. She is meeting with the leadership at SDE about the possibility of philanthropies possible role in the future work.

Professional Development/Workforce:

The work group met on January 8, 2013 to discuss next steps on the work to develop a framework of core knowledge competencies (CKC) for early childhood education teachers. Charts-a-Course will serve as lead for the coordination of work; a sub-group continues to work with Charts-a-Course on expansion plans for the Registry.

There will be a kick-off for creation of a Core Knowledge and Competency Framework for teachers on February 25, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza.

David Morgan asked for clarification regarding the work group's connection with the ECTC. Joan Parris clarified that this was part of the work group's work plan.

Family Involvement/Home Visitation:

Draft recommendations for the integration of home visiting into the overall early childhood and development system are being reviewed by all Home Visitation subgroup members. A full workgroup membership meeting will be scheduled to connect the accomplishments to the overall goals and deliverables of the workgroup.

David Morgan asked about the relationship of the Home Visitation/Family Involvement to the McV home visitation grant. Sherry noted that there is an overlap between the Department of Public Health (DPH) advisory group membership and the Cabinet work group. The DPH advisory's work is primarily about the management of the grant. He asked if there could be more intentionality regarding the overlap of this work from both groups.

Rosa Biaggi, DPH, was to present at this Cabinet meeting but was unable to do so due to a conflict at DPH. She has been rescheduled to present at the February 28 Cabinet meeting.

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems:

The work group met on January 8 and 17, 2013 to finalize the QRIS Recommendations document for public distribution. Mara Siladi, ECE Planning Office, and Grace Whitney, SDE, provided an update on the licensing study to be conducted by the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) funded by the new quality enhancement funds.

Eileen Ward added that there are several subcommittees of the work group in place. More details to come.

Health Promotions:

The work group had their first meeting on December 20, 2012 to discuss early childhood health initiatives around the state for the purpose of having an inventory of work that will inform the group's overall goal. The workgroup will finalize the charge and develop a work plan.

Public/Private Partnerships:

The majority of invited members of the work group have agreed to participate and confirmed attendance for the first meeting on February 13, 2013.

For more detailed updates and full summaries of work group meetings, membership and future work group events, visit the Cabinet's website: www.ctearlychildhood.org

D. Early Childhood RBA Forum

Sherry Linton-Massiah provided information about the RBA Forum for the Appropriation Subcommittee on February 28, 2013 at the LOB from 1:00-3:00. The Cabinet has asked to provide systems and population data. Harriet encouraged Cabinet members to attend the forum. Agencies will be presenting RBA report cards on behalf of their agencies. David Title will be presenting the Cabinet information. Peter Palermino, DSS, is working with Myra Jones-Taylor to determine which ECE-related report cards should be presented by DSS regarding the ECE system. Care-4-Kids and Connecticut Charts-a-Course are thought to be important. SDE has already selected which report

cards to present. Linda Goodman said that although no one has yet contacted DSS, they are proceeding with report cards.

E. Department of Children and Families (DCF) Framework Presentation

Dr. Stephen Tracy presented the DCF Education Framework. This presentation can be found on the Cabinet's website under meeting documents (<http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/meetings.html>).

Eddie Riechard asked if training is provided to ECE programs who enroll these children. Dr. Tracy is not aware of any specific training. Grace Whitney noted that there are opportunities across the state for mental health training (ECCP, Child First, Community-based resources). Eddie Reichard feels strongly that there is too much of a delay with ECCP and that there should be specific training that comes when the child is enrolled. Dr. Tracy acknowledged this need especially when it comes to children who have experienced trauma.

Peter Palermino asked if Dr. Tracy is responsible for oversight for children placed in the community. Dr. Tracy clarified that DCF and USD #2 do not have or supervise any preschool programs. They are in loco parentis and assist with placement only. It is the social workers who are responsible for the placement. Eileen Ward stated that her experience has been that it is sometimes the foster parent that takes this responsibility.

Peter Palermino asked to what extent does DCF support children in family daycare. Dr. Tracy did not know but will find out. Harriet Feldlauer stated that Even Start works at the local level to assist with this as an example of a dual-generation program that helps to assist this population. She suggested that programs reach out to DCF regional offices to find out what may be available in their local area. David Morgan stated that there is a very successful DCF/Head Start partnership operating at state and local levels. The partnership has alleviated many misconceptions that both DCF and Head Start had about one another.

Carlota Schechter asked if there were two groups of young children receiving DCF services, those who are with their parent and those removed. Dr. Tracy said that overall, there is a 1:5 ratio but does not know the specific number regarding ECE.

Linda Goodman asked about information provided in the DCF data system (LINK). Dr. Tracy said that there are still much more information that could be there and that DCF is working with SDE to gather additional data – the “education” tab in the data system is largely ignored.

Grace Whitney mentioned that Illinois now has a policy within their DCF system that education is mandated at age 3. She will get the specific language to Dr. Tracy to review. DCF is currently working on automatic enrollment in free- and reduced-lunch. Peter Palermino stated that Care-4-Kids has information about foster children. He noted that social workers do not have access for regional funding for ECE programs.

F. Planning Office Update

Carlota Schechter from the Early Childhood Planning Office, on behalf of Myra Jones-Taylor, gave an update. Governance has been a focus of the planning office. They are hoping that there will be an announcement as part of the budget address. The office will be in touch with the Cabinet as soon as an announcement is made to assist with transition.

The planning office has received the QRIS work group's report and is very appreciative of their hard work. They are moving forward with the idea that licensing will be the foundation for the QRIS. They are working with NARA to review licensing standards in Connecticut.

Peter Palermino asked how the RBA would connect to this announcement and also, how the CCDF draft plan will be effected. DSS is delaying any movement on this to avoid potential confusion. (Public hearings for the CCDF plan are typically held in April and May and DSS plans to keep that schedule.)

G. Public Comment

Kathy Queen from state-funded centers expressed concern about the ECTC. A teacher submitted the application and was asked to submit her most-recent performance appraisal. She does not feel this should be necessary. She is also concerned that they have to submit a writing sample. She questions if this is necessary if someone has obtained a bachelor's degree. Kathy is pleased with her programs involvement in the Head Start/DCF collaboration, but is concerned that not all children are involved. She would encourage Care-4-Kid's money follow the child.

Maggie Adair from the Early Childhood Alliance stated that although DCF is moving in the right direction, there are unintended consequences that the Alliance is seeking to be fixed administratively. An example is when a young mother is living with a grandparent, Care-4-Kids eligibility is impacted.

Jillian Gilchrest, CAHS, stated that there will be five regional forums for the ECTC. Contact Jillian for more information on these forums.

H. Announcements

Peter Palermino reported that there continues to be follow-up with early care providers in Newtown regarding mental health and emergency preparedness.

I. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Cabinet will be held on Thursday, December 20, 2012, at the State Office Building in Middletown, SERC Community Room, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.