



Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

Meeting of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet

October 31, 2013 • 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Middletown State Office Building

ATTENDANCE

| Member | Member Type Required by Federal Statute | | Member | Member Type Required by Federal Statute | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leah Grenier, Chair <i>Principal Budget Specialist, Office of Policy & Management</i> | Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management Designee | X | David Morgan <i>Director, 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 |
| Dante Bartolomeo <i>State Senator</i> | Member of the Senate | | Laura Post, Senior Director, <i>Strategic Planning & Insights, LEGO Systems</i> | Representative from the Business or Philanthropic Community | X |
| Cathy Battista <i>President, FRC Alliance</i> | Representative from Family Resource Centers | | Stefan Pryor <i>Commissioner, Dept. of Education</i> | Representative of the State Education Agency | X |
| Peter Palermino (for Claudette Beaulieu) <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Social Services</i> | Representative from State Agency Responsible for Child Care | X | Edie Reichard <i>Director, Sleeping Giant Day Care</i> | Representative of a State-funded Child Care Center | X |
| Patricia Bryant -Beausoleil <i>Director, Putnam Family Resource Center</i> | Representative from a Local Education Agency | X | Maria Synodi <i>Special Education, Dept. of Education</i> | Representative of the State Agency Responsible for Programs under 619 or Part C of the IDEA | |
| Marisol Estrada-Soto <i>Parent</i> | Parent | | Stephen Tracy <i>Supt. Unified School District #2, Dept. of Children and Families</i> | Representative from the Department of Children and Families | |
| Linda Goodman <i>Director, Birth to Three, Dept. of Developmental Services</i> | Representative of Entity Determined Relevant by the Governor | X | Eileen Ward <i>Director, Children's Community Development Center</i> | Representative of Local Providers of Early Childhood Education | |
| Deb Johnson <i>Section Chief, Dept. of Public Health</i> | Representative of the State Agency Responsible for Health or Mental Health Care | X | Grace Whitney <i>Director, Head Start Collaboration Office</i> | State Director of Head Start Collaboration | X |
| Michelle Maggio <i>Parent</i> | Parent | X | Elaine Zimmerman <i>Exec. Dir., Commission on Children</i> | Executive Director of the Commission on Children | X |

A. Welcome and Introductions

Leah Grenier called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 29, 2013 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

C. Final ARRA Grant Reports

Copies of the final reports submitted to The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) were distributed to Cabinet members. These reports included those submitted by Sherry Linton-Massiah, former project director for the Cabinet and can be found on the Cabinet's website within the meeting documents posted for October 31, 2013. (<http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/meetings.html>). The final fiscal report from EASTCONN will be presented at the December Cabinet meeting.

D. BUILD Report

Handouts of the BUILD report were distributed to Cabinet members. This report was developed by Karen Ponder for the BUILD initiative to support the creation of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and offers recommendations for transitioning the work of the Early Childhood Cabinet into the OEC. This report can be found on the Cabinet's website within the meeting documents posted for October 31, 2013. (<http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/meetings.html>)

E. Future Role of the Early Childhood Cabinet

Leah Grenier, chair, and Myra Jones-Taylor, director of the OEC, requested feedback from Cabinet members on what they believed the future role of the Cabinet should be. A summary of legislation proposed last year outlining Cabinet membership and function was distributed. Cabinet members shared that they feel it is important for the Cabinet to stay intact as it provides a platform for members of the early childhood community to discuss early childhood policies, programs and resources.

Peter Palermino suggested that language from the Child Day Care Council be resurfaced.

It was noted that the Cabinet is currently serving as the State Advisory Council as outlined in the Head Start Act of 2007 which clearly delineates membership, activities and roles.

Follow-up discussion and review around this topic will be revisited at future Cabinet meetings.

F. Developmental Screening IMPACT Report

Grace Whitney, Judith Myers and Lisa Hodingfeld distributed copies of the IMPACT report and provided an overview presentation of developmental screenings in Connecticut. This presentation can be found on the Cabinet's website within the meeting documents posted for October 31, 2013. (<http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/meetings.html>)

G. Updates

Head Start

David Morgan reported on the devastating impact of the federal sequester in Connecticut. Currently, Connecticut has lost 730 of their 7,400 slots for Early Head Start and Head Start which serve the highest need families in the state.

He noted that though the sequester is a law in place and cannot change until a new law is presented, legislators now have the ability to deliberate on how it will impact year 2 so there is hope that future damage can be avoided or at least minimized in upcoming years.

David also thanked members of the OEC for their coordinated effort in terms of navigating and repurposing state-funded streams.

Office of Early Childhood

Myra Jones-Taylor unveiled the new OEC logo and announced that the OEC website is under development and will be available soon as a means of disseminating information. Myra also shared the latest staffing updates which include the appointment of the following individuals to the OEC:

- Maggie Adair, Director of Government and Community Relations
- Mary Farnsworth, Strategic Planning Manager (Mary served as the project manager for the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant application)
- Director of Communications – position offered (pending background check)

Myra also stated that three education consultant positions (information technology, early learning workforce and professional development, data and evaluation) have been posted and candidates are being screened.

In July, the OEC held a kick-off event at which Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman were present. Full staff meetings for the OEC (current and future staff) will occur quarterly.

Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

Linda Goodman provided an overview presentation for Connecticut's Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant application. This presentation can be found on the Cabinet's website (www.ctearlychildhood.org).

CCDF Plan

Peter Palermino reported that Harriet Feldlaufer will serve as Co-CCDF administrator. The quality performance report will be submitted by December 31. Work group chairs will be contacted for information needed to prepare the report. Preliminary meetings with Care4Kids and the United Way have begun and future planning meetings have been scheduled.

NARA

Deb Johnson reported that the OEC has asked the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) to conduct forums about child care licensing. NARA will share results from the recent survey to identify programmatic strengths and areas for improvement in Connecticut's Child Care Licensing Program. These two events will be held on November 6, 2013, from 6-8 pm at Housatonic Community College and November 7 from 9-11 a.m. at the Wethersfield Public Library. More information can be found on the DPH website. (www.ct.gov/dph)

Parents as Partners Focus Groups

Elena Trueworthy, on behalf of Elaine Zimmerman, reported that Parents as Partners, in partnership with the Family Engagement and Parent Involvement work group of the Cabinet, held five focus groups across the state in three cities reaching a total of 60 early childhood providers. The purpose of these focus groups was to gauge providers' attitudes towards experience with parent engagement and leadership in their current roles; to hear and gather qualitative data; and to create materials and information to support their prospective. Key findings and recommendations of these focus groups have been compiled

and can be found on the Cabinet's website within the meeting documents posted for October 31, 2013. (<http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/meetings.html>).

Block Party

Harriet Feldlaufer thanked Jane Crowell, Andrea Brinnel and Michelle Levy for all of the work they put into the Block Party: Making Early Learning Standards Come Alive event held on August 24, 2013, at Bushnell Park in Hartford. A video about the Block Party can be found on the Cabinet's website (www.ctearlychildhood.org).

H. Public Comment (submitted electronically by Cheryl Burack, M.S., Executive Director Family Centered Services of CT, Inc.)

Elaine talked about the committee working on home visitation standards, etc. I hope that some actual Home Visitors will be recruited onto the Committee. I know that I have an employee who would like to volunteer and I'm sure there are other agencies that would be interested. I will send Elaine an email as well. Also hope this work will be linked to the work of the OEC.

If you are going to tweak the language re: the Cabinet, I would like to propose a home visitation provider (besides Head Start*) as a standing member. I think this would be symbolic and powerful in acknowledging that we want to integrate early home visitation into the work being done around early childhood.

*Note: Other providers represented on the Cabinet include: Care4Kids, FRCs and Birth to 3.

I. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.