



Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

Meeting of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet

February 28, 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	X	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	
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	
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	
Stephen Tracey (for Janice Gruendel) <i>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

Documents Received:

- Minutes from the January 3, 2013 meeting
- Project Director's Report
- Early Childhood System for Connecticut's Children: Implementation of PA 11-181
- Department of Public Health – Home Visitation Presentation

A. Welcome and Introductions

David Title called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 31, 2013, meeting were approved.

C. Work Group Updates

Data Systems:

The work group continues to work with the Planning Director and the Institute for Public Health Research at UCONN to finalize the draft MOU for the data demonstration project. The work group will review the draft MOUs and offer input on amendments necessarily to expedite the sign-off process.

Early Learning Standards:

The work group continues to work with NAEYC to conduct content validation of the Early Learning Standards. The work group is also working to develop strategies for distributing the age validation prospectus which has now been finalized.

Harriet Feldlaufer reported that the work group is also working on supporting documents and guidance for the standards rollout.

Professional Development/Workforce:

The work group met on February 20 to follow up on the Core Knowledge Competencies Forum that offered stakeholders the opportunity to learn about the work that is underway and the next steps needed to develop a draft framework of core knowledge competencies in Connecticut. Volunteers from the forum will participate in ongoing review of resources to begin framing.

Family Involvement/Home Visitation:

The work group continues to focus on the integration of home visiting and the identification of strategies needed to effectively embed family engagement into the early childhood system.

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems:

The work group is focused on finalizing the QRIS Recommendations document for public distribution. The recommendations have been categorized into areas of licensing, accreditation, incentives and governance. The work group will continue to work with the Child Care Training and Technical Assistance Team for guidance on the development of QRIS.

Eileen Ward reported that the work group has a meeting scheduled with Barbara Wall from the Child Care State Systems Specialist Network to discuss federal standards.

Health Promotions:

The work group plans to meet in early March to initiate the process of developing the work plan.

Public/Private Partnerships:

The majority of invitees have accepted to participate in the initial work group meeting scheduled for March 12, 2013, at Connecticut Charts-a-Course.

Peter Palermino stated that there must be continued coordination and mapping out of what Connecticut needs to do to develop a plan. He noted that this work spreads across several work groups and needs a point person to coordinate as it moves forward. Notes from the Chicago Learning Table will be shared with the Planning Office. He also requested there be dialogue about the Cabinet and the transition to the new Office of Early Learning.

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. Governor's Plan

Myra Jones-Taylor, Director of the Early Childhood Planning Office, presented "An Early Childhood System for Connecticut's Children: Implementation of Public Act 11-181" to the Cabinet. This presentation is available on the Cabinet's website at www.ctearlychildhood.org.

David Title shared that he provided testimony to the legislature in support of the new office.

Peter Palermino stated that DSS is fully supportive of the new office. He noted that the after-school community and the CCDF plan focus beyond birth to age 5. The phase-in approach makes sense, but cautioned that the leadership in all areas (even those that are slated to move in year 2) need to be at the table from the beginning. He is concerned that ECCP is not included in the plan as it is state-funded through DSS. Also, although many agencies/programs will bring funding to the new office, there are not funds committed in the area of data.

Elaine Zimmerman reviewed Connecticut's role as being first in the nation to implement a "Parent Trust." She expressed concern that the Parent Trust may not continue to receive dedicated funding, as there is no dedicated line item in the current plan. She is concerned that PLTI and PEP may suffer as a result of the current plan. Myra agreed that this is important and it will be addressed.

Myra Jones-Taylor acknowledged concern about ECCP and stated that it may be included as an MOU. She also acknowledged that while there are plans for funding data hardware, and that additional future appropriations will need to be discussed. She stated that she and the planning team are meeting with agency managers individually to discuss the transition and their thoughts about the new agency. The planning team is gathering information about Human Resources and fiscal issues as well. They will be bringing agency staff together to continue the discussion.

The new legislation proposes that fiscal/contract services be provided by DMHAS. Myra will be holding additional conversations with agency staff to answer questions about this.

It is hoped that the leadership team will be in place by the end of the current fiscal year and will bring all projected staff together for regular meetings and team building activities (even those that are slated to transition in year 2).

David Title asked for clarification about the transition for the Cabinet under the proposed legislation. Myra suggested that the current Cabinet's final report be used as a transition tool for the new office. She praised the current Cabinet's efforts and suggested a final celebration of the Cabinet's accomplishments.

David Title is pleased that the current efforts of the Cabinet will be put into a common institutional framework in the new office.

David Morgan asked if the new vision for Cabinet membership was final. Myra stated that there are likely to be adjustments as suggestions are made. David stated that a birth to 5 office will be helpful in addressing the art and science of early childhood, but also agreed that vertical alignment will be important. He also thought the guiding principles will be helpful. He cautioned that the new Cabinet will be advisory in nature and that the planners need to keep in mind the importance of having grassroots feedback loops. Myra stated that the Public/Private partnerships work group will continue and that body will be a conduit for feedback. She also noted the importance of the role of community groups in the feedback process.

E. Early Childhood RBA Forum

There will be an ECE RBA forum hosted by the Appropriations Committee on the afternoon of March 21 at the LOB. David Title will be presenting on behalf of the Cabinet. Everyone is welcome to attend. The leadership team is determining the best way to present the current work of the Cabinet in the RBA format.

Elaine Zimmerman stated that with the President's new focus on early childhood education, the efficacy of early childhood is becoming a partisan issue and the RBA forum is a good avenue to show that early childhood education works. Peter Palermino agreed that the RBA forum is an opportunity to present a holistic view of early childhood and the new office. Linda Goodman stated that this would be an opportunity to present that the Cabinet is changing from a working to an advisory board.

F. Department of Public Health – Home Visitation Presentation

Rosa Biaggi from DPH presented on the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program. This presentation is available on the Cabinet's website under meeting materials for February 28 (<http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/meetings.html>).

G. Public Comment

Regina Birdsell, Assistant Executive Director of CAS stated that the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) is now focusing on early childhood. She stressed the importance of coordinated communication with local schools. She recommends a public school administrator as a member of the reformed Cabinet. There is currently a statewide "3 to 3 Institute" that eight communities are participating in. There was also an introductory statewide symposium on this topic.

Maggie Adair stated that the Early Childhood Alliance will take Regina's comments in mind as they make recommendations regarding Cabinet membership. The Alliance strongly supports the new

office. She also reported that the ECTC forums continue and that there has been a very strong turnout.

Peter Palermino asked that the Cabinet and Planning Office co-sponsor public hearings on the CCDF plan this spring. This will be discussed at the next Leadership Team meeting. He would like to have a hearing immediately following a future Cabinet meeting.

On February 27, 2013, the Child Care Planning Emergency Team was activated. Lessons have been learned from the Sandy Hook tragedy. There is an ongoing need for emergency preparedness training for providers.

H. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.