



Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

Meeting of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet

March 22, 2012 • 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.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	Michelle Maggio <i>Parent</i>	Parent	
Catherine Abercrombie <i>State Representative</i>	Member of the House of Representatives		David Morgan <i>Vice President, TEAM, Inc.</i>	Representative from Head Start Agency	X
Cathy Battista <i>President, FRC Alliance</i>	Representative from Family Resource Centers		Joan Parris <i>Director, ECE, Norwalk CC</i>	Representative of Institutions of Higher Education	X
Peter Palermينو (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
Marisol Estrada-Soto <i>Parent</i>	Parent	X	Andrea Stillman <i>State Senator</i>	Member of the Senate	
Harriet Feldlaufer <i>Chief, Bureau of Teaching & Learning, Dept. of Education</i>	Representative of the State Education Agency	X	Leonard Lee <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Health</i>	Representative of the State Agency Responsible for Health or Mental Health Care	X
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	X	Grace Whitney <i>Director, CT Head Start Association Collaboration Office</i>	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	X
Nancy DiMauro (for Janice Gruendel) <i>Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Children & Families</i>	Commissioner of the Department of Children & Families	X	Elaine Zimmerman <i>Exec. Dir., Commission on Children</i>	Executive Director of the Commission on Children	X

Documents Received:

- Minutes from the January 26, 2012 meeting
- Project Director's Report
- First 1,000 Days Part II
- Cabinet's Needs Assessment

A. Welcome and Introductions

David Title opened the meeting at 9:34 a.m. There was a moment of silence in memory of Cabinet member Kevin Sullivan who recently passed away.

Newly appointed Cabinet member, Leonard Lee, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Health was introduced, as well as returning member Marisol Estrada-Soto, parent.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 26, 2012, meeting were approved.

C. Legislative Updates

The Cabinet discussed raised Bill 300, an Act Concerning Early Childhood Education which addresses many aspects of early care and education including teacher qualifications, spaces in accredited programs, and the expansion of School Readiness spaces.

Harriet Feldlaufer and Deb Adams of the Department of Education (SDE) reported that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) requested a fiscal note for this bill, specifically regarding the population of three- and four-year olds in Connecticut programs and the cost to serve them. This bill could increase School Readiness spaces by 500 in priority districts. SDE had reported 900 as the total amount of spaces available for expansion (both in priority and competitive districts). It was clarified that the request was for spaces in School Readiness programs, not state-funded child day care programs. The number of infant/toddler spaces was not addressed.

If individuals have questions, comments or concerns regarding this bill, they are advised to contact Senator Stillman.

D. Report on Family Child Care Collective Bargaining

The Governor issued an executive order establishing a work group to examine collective bargaining for family child care providers. The work group listened to national experts regarding implementation in other states, heard public comment from Connecticut constituents, and completed a report on the findings. A bill regarding these issues was put forth and has since been tabled.

E. Work Group Updates

Data Work Group

The data work group is working with the National Center on Educational Statistics and a state support team. A Data Roundtable has been scheduled for June 19, 2012, to discuss and address policy questions and issues. The work group is also meeting with state agencies to explore having their data systems be adjusted to include birth certificate numbers. This would allow for initial steps of interoperability between systems.

The Office of Head Start continues to be available to collaborate with this work group and it was suggested that Head Start be added as another entity involved in data interoperability.

The work group will clarify if the MOUs used for the Race to the Top – Early Learning grant application are still relevant, or will need to be rewritten.

Early Learning Standards Work Group

An alignment institute facilitated by SRI International is scheduled for March 28 and 29, 2012 to examine existing standards and identify gaps. SRI International is expected to present a report to the Cabinet in June.

Once the new birth to age 5 standards are complete it will be necessary to complete both content and age validation studies. A request for funds in order to finalize these studies is forthcoming.

Workforce / Professional Development Work Group

The work group is focused on developing a competencies framework for the early care workforce. The group is in the process of contracting with Connecticut Charts-a-Course to develop this framework. The work is scheduled to be completed in August 2012.

Family Engagement/Home Visitation Work Group

The work group continues to work with the Department of Public Health (DPH) as it relates to home visitation by ensuring that each home visitation model currently participating with DPH is represented on the work group.

Recently, Meriden's Children's First received a Promise Neighborhood grant. Meriden is the only city of its size in the country to receive such a grant. The work group has requested a presentation of the Children's First model, in an effort to embed strategies on a larger scale.

It was also reported that the National Conference of State Legislatures have decided to hold their next meeting in Connecticut so that Dr. Darcy Lowell is able to present the Child FIRST model.

Health Work Group

This work group will be chaired by Cabinet member Grace Whitney. The Cabinet has asked that Leonard Lee, Deputy Commissioner of DPH assist in the search for a non-cabinet member co-chair.

Dr. Whitney thanked Senator Stillman for her legislative help in creating Level 1 for QRIS as well as the continued movement of licensing to meet health standards.

T-QRIS Work Group

The T-QRIS work group chairs are Eileen Ward and Deb Flis. A list of programs and agencies needed for representation has been compiled based on the overlap of work and a number of crucial documents have been identified. Due to the large number of members that will be required, subgroups are likely to be formed (i.e., licensing). Suggestions from legislature will be addressed.

Public/Private Partnerships Work Group

Anzelmo Graziosi will chair this work group. A co-chair has yet to be named. There has also been outreach by philanthropic community with regard to this work. The Connecticut Network of Community Foundations has offered both human and financial resources. Harriet Feldlaufer will meet with the Foundation at the end of April to discuss work around early learning standards and Kindergarten Inventory as it relates to Race to the Top and how best to leverage this partnership.

F. First 1,000 Days Part II

Nancy DiMauro, on behalf of Dr. Janice Gruendel, distributed a handout for the First 1,000 Days Part II summit which will be held on June 18 and will focus on the period beginning prenatally and extending through the third year of life. This summit is intended to increase focus on this important period of child development. The Departments of Children and Families (DCF), Public Health (DPH), Education (SDE) and Social Services (DSS) as well as the Cabinet and Head Start Collaboration Office have offered support.

Keynote speaker, Matthew Melmed of Zero to Three will be the keynote speaker at the event. His presentation will focus on the intersection of neuroscience of early development, the role of toxic stress and the implications for trauma-informed practice, and the role of family engagement in the lives of young, vulnerable children.

Further details are forthcoming.

G. 2-1-1 Child Care Presentation

Tracy Zolnik, Director of Child Care Services, gave an overview presentation of 2-1-1 Child Care. 2-1-1 Child Care assists parents and child care providers locate child care resources across the state. This presentation can be found on the Cabinet's website at:

<http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/presentations.html>

H. Update on Early Care and Education Planner

Public Act 181 requires that an early childhood planner be hired to coordinate all early childhood activities. Due to the complexity of finding an individual with expertise in all areas of early childhood two part-time positions have been recommended in addition to the full-time planner.

The Cabinet has committed to pay over half of the planner's salary from the ARRA Head Start grant. The two part-time positions will be funded by SDE.

A candidate is currently being vetted and approved. David Title has met with this individual who stated she would like to work closely with the Cabinet as a partner and also to utilize Cabinet member expertise. The planning team is expected to be in place later this spring.

I. Public Comment

Liz Brown discussed Senate Bill 382 which is proposed to make changes to teacher certification. Currently, elementary teacher certification is K-6. This bill will change elementary certification to PK-3.

Darlene Ragozzine reported that using this year's RBA, 101 people with an associate's degree would need to reach the bachelor's degree level, and roughly 500 currently below an associate's degree, would need to reach the associate's degree level by 2015. A letter of intent from the Commissioner of Education to the Board of Regents indicates that \$250,000 in scholarship funds will be available to work towards meeting the requirement in 2015. A lottery will soon be opened to disburse the funds as quickly as possible.

Maggie Adair reported widespread support of early childhood legislative proposals and indicated that there is discussion around expanding slots to more than the original 500 that had been announced. She also reported that the Early Childhood Alliance is celebrating their 10th anniversary on April 10 at the Governor's Mansion from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Jeff Daniels offered clarification on the Connecticut Network of Community Foundations, explaining that though there are many foundations in the network, each operate on a different set of rules and philosophies. Within the Community Foundations group, a formal committee focused on public policy and advocacy has requested they be engage with the Cabinet around public/private partnerships.

J. Next Meeting

The April 26 meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on May 24, 2012, at the State Office Building in Middletown, SERC Community Room from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.