



Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

Meeting of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet

April 25, 2013 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

State Office Building, SERC Community Room

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		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		David Morgan <i>Vice President, TEAM, Inc.</i>	Representative from Head Start Agency	X
Julie Bisi (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	X
Linda Goodman <i>Director, Birth to Three, Dept. of Developmental Services</i>	Representative of Entity Determined Relevant by the Governor	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	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>Dept. of Children & Families</i>	Commissioner of the Department of Children & Families	X	Steve Hernandez (for Elaine Zimmerman) <i>Exec. Dir., Commission on Children</i>	Executive Director of the Commission on Children	X

Documents Received:

- Minutes from the February 28, 2013 meeting
- Project Director's Report
- Substitute Bill 6359
- HB 6359 Reorganization Timeline
- President's Early Learning Initiative: Birth to Five Continuum of High Quality Early Care and Education

A. Welcome and Introductions

Harriet Feldlaufer, on behalf of David Title, called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 28, 2013, meeting were approved with two abstentions (Senator Stillman and Stephen Tracy).

C. Legislative Updates

Senator Stillman distributed copies of Substitute Bill 6359, as well as a Reorganization Timeline for the new Office of Early Childhood. The bill is currently in the Appropriations Committee and will go through several committees before being voted on in the House and Senate. Concerns were raised about childcare licensing and preschool special education being removed from the Appropriations budget. The Early Childhood Planning Team, the Governor's Office, the Appropriations Committee and the Co-Chairs of the Education Committee will review this.

Myra Jones-Taylor reported that the Planning Team is currently cross-walking the bill with the Appropriations Committee budget and will work with Secretary Barnes from the Governor's Office to ensure clarity.

Senator Stillman encouraged those who have issues and concerns to e-mail her directly with concerns and recommendations. She noted that consolidations are never easy and that original timelines may not be met.

Linda Goodman shared her concern that Birth to Three is now scheduled to move in Year 1. A federal grant application was submitted for July 2013 funding in which the Department of Developmental Services was designated as the lead agency. If Birth to Three moves to the Office of Early Childhood in July 2013, there is a potential loss to of \$4 million of federal funds and \$6 million in Medicaid as a result of the change in lead agency.

Deb Flis of Connecticut Charts-a-Course shared her concern that the Accreditation Facilitation Project (AFP) is now scheduled to move in Year 1. This is an issue as the contracts for AFP will end on June 30 and will lapse if a contacting process is not in place on July 1.

Myra Jones-Taylor reported that the Planning Office has been working with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) on a list of all contracts that exist in current state agencies. The deadline for this chart of accounts is May 1. Myra reported home visitation has been moved from Year 2 to Year 1, which has federal implications, as the move will be in the middle of the grant period. DPH is currently hiring home visitation positions and OPM has recommended that Myra be part of the hiring process. A question was raised about the Department of Children and Families exclusion from the new Office. Myra stated that there are discussions regarding collaboration with DCF, but no plans to move DCF to the new office.

D. Transition Planning

Myra Jones-Taylor reported that three transition teams have been established: fiscal, personnel and IT. Inter-agency meetings about these areas of transitions are occurring regularly. An organizational chart is being developed. Myra assured the Cabinet that much work is being done to ensure services for families and payments to contractors continue with no gap.

Myra also reported that there will updates to staff on who will be transitioning and when, who they will be reporting to, and what their new roles will be. It was noted that no one single agency has just one bargaining unit, and that bargaining unit issues in general can be challenging in terms of creating a new agency. She reported that if the bill passes, 97 employees would be affected.

E. Cabinet Transition

Myra Jones-Taylor reported that there is not yet a plan for the new Early Childhood Cabinet and or its structure, but the work of the work groups will transition to the OEC. The current ARRA grant ends in August and all funds must be liquidated by the end of November. The new Early Childhood Cabinet will continue to be aligned to the Head Start Act.

Andrea Brinnel reported that the leadership team suggested a culminating activity take place at Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School in Bloomfield. This is symbolic as Wintonbury was the location for the initial planning meetings of the current Cabinet. The meeting will be on June 25 and will be open to the public.

Sherry Linton-Massiah will work for the Cabinet until the end of August and then be contracted to prepare a final report in the fall.

F. Work Group Updates

Data Systems:

The work group met on April 19. Rob Aseltine from the UConn Center for Public Health and Health Policy informed the work group that UConn would need to repurpose the resources that have been committed to the Data Demonstration Project and is suspending the project. Opportunities for developing cross-agency early childhood data-sharing processes are anticipated through the P-20 WIN project currently underway between SDE, Department of Labor and the Board of Regents. The work group anticipates that cross-agency data-sharing will be a continued focus of the OEC.

Early Learning Standards:

The work group continues to work with NAEYC to conduct a content validation study of the new standards. NAEYC is currently empaneling experts for the review. In addition to the work of the Cabinet, SDE with support of QE funds, is providing initial training on implementation to those currently using early learning standards and those who plan on adopting the new early learning standards.

Professional Development/Workforce:

The work group met on April 9 and was updated about the change of fiduciary from Charters-a-Course to EASTCONN for the current early childhood teacher credential work. Peg Oliveira continues to be the facilitating consultant. Dr. Regina Miller reported on the status of the Articulation Project with

institutions of higher education and the online presentation of the Interactive Career Map by Elena Trueworthy.

Family Involvement/Home Visitation:

The work group met on April 10 to discuss the role of home visiting and mental health services. Opportunities to codify recommendations through proposed legislation were noted. The work group acknowledged the importance of legislators knowing about a strategic delivery system of home visitation within the early childhood system.

Quality Rating and Improvement Systems:

The work group met on April 16 and continues to work on recommendations for the Connecticut QRIS document. They participated on a conference call with members of the national Child Care Technical Assistance Team to develop an agenda for the upcoming regional meeting, which will provide representatives from Connecticut the opportunity to participate in peer-to-peer dialogue with other states in the region. The work group is also finalizing the RFP for a consultant to assist in developing QRIS standards (criteria and indicators).

Health Promotions:

The work group met on March 22 and will meet again on April 26. The work group continues to identify specific priorities and deliverables to inform the work beyond the grant-funding period. The group recommended that the Early Learning Standards work be connected with health and behavioral health markers.

Public/Private Partnerships:

The work group met on March 12 with a focus on the current early childhood landscape in Connecticut and the proposed legislation for the OEC. In partnership with the OEC Planning Team, the co-chairs and staff of the Cabinet will develop work group objectives for discussion at the next meeting.

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

G. ESSC Grant

Myra Jones-Taylor reported that there is an opportunity to apply for Early Childhood Comprehensive System grant (ECCS). There are three strategies a state can apply for: toxic stress, early screening, and improving early care and education. Connecticut will be applying for early screening funds. This grant is for \$140,000/year for three years. As the OEC legislation has not yet been passed, the United Way will be the grant applicant for CT. Rick Porter, on behalf of United Way, stated that though the United Way will be the grantee, input will come from the Office of Early Childhood.

Myra Jones-Taylor also noted that Connecticut is looking to expand, but not duplicate developmental screenings for young children. This grant will be used for planning purposes.

H. State Policy

Grace Whitney distributed copies of The President's Early Learning Initiative: A Birth to Five Continuum of High-Quality Early Care and Education from the Office of Child Care. The diagram gives a clear description of the federal government's focus for early care and education over the next 10 years.

Grace also reported that as a result of the sequester, 500 spaces for children in CT Head Start programs will be lost. The Head Start Association is working to ensure people are aware that this loss directly impacts the neediest children in the state. David Morgan pointed out that the funds for fiscal year 2013 are gone and will not be replaced even if the Presidents early childhood plan moves forward.

I. New Business

Julie Bisi from the Department of Social Services (DSS) reported that the draft CCDF plan is available for review on the DSS website. Comments can be submitted to Julie.Bisi@ct.gov through June 10. There will be two public hearings for comment on the plan:

- Thursday, May 16, 2013, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Connecticut Charts-a-Course Training and Conference Room (2321 Whitney Avenue, Building 2, Suite 501, Hamden); and
- Thursday, May 30, 2013, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Department of Education Conference Room 3 (25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown).

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

K. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Cabinet will be Thursday, May 30, 2013, at the State Office Building, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.