

Meeting of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet

May 24, 2012 • 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Middletown 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	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	X	Joan Parris <i>Director, ECE, Norwalk CC</i>	Representative of Institutions of Higher Education	X
Julie Bisi (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	
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		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, Head Start Collaboration Office</i>	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	X
Janice Gruendel <i>Deputy Commissioner, 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 March 22, 2012 meeting
- Project Director's Report
- Child Development Infoline (CDI) Fast Facts and Brochure Map
- Connecticut Charts-a-Course Overview
- The Parent Leadership Training Institute Packet

A. Welcome and Introductions

David Title opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. and introduced Myra Jones-Taylor as the director for the Early Childhood Planning Team. Carlota Schechter (formerly of the Department of Higher Education) and Mara Siladi (former Assistant Superintendent of Stamford) will also join the planning team on a part-time basis. Also introduced was Steve Randazzo from the Governor’s Office who has been attending meetings for the Early Childhood Planning team in the interim.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 22, 2012, meeting were approved.

C. Legislative Updates

Harriet Feldlaufer reported that she and members of the State Department of Education’s (SDE) legislative office have been reviewing each piece of legislation from the Governor’s Education Reform Bill #458 to outline what the necessary tasks are, within what timeframe, and what stakeholders will need to be involved. Key components of bill #458 include: new preschool spaces, T-QRIS, early literacy planning and professional development, early childhood longitudinal systems, and the relationship between age 3 to Grade 3.

Preschool spaces:

A total of 1,000 spaces are available for expansion. All 19 current Priority School Readiness towns will receive additional spaces with 500 spaces allotted for the 10 Education Reform districts, and 250 spaces allotted for the other nine Priority School Readiness districts. An additional 250 spaces will be available for the Competitive School Readiness. New Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from the grant communities will be reviewed by the SDE based on the current grant approval process.

D. Work Group Updates – Sherry Linton-Massiah

Data:

The Data work group is finalizing plans for the Data Systems Roundtable event on June 19, 2012. The morning session will include an end-users panel and the afternoon session will include a response panel. In preparation for this event, the work group continues to participate in semi-monthly planning conference calls with the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) State Support Team. The Data Systems Roundtable event is by invitation only.

Workforce/Professional Development:

The Workforce/Professional Development work group is reviewing articulation agreements with the Department of Higher Education. A gap analysis conducted by Connecticut Charts-a-Course to review six sectors of early care and education workforce is underway. The work group is scheduled to present a status update of deliverables at the October 2012 Early Childhood Cabinet meeting.

Early Learning Standards:

The Early Learning Standards work group has been focusing on the review of the SRI report from the Alignment Institute. SRI International will present their report at the June Early Childhood Cabinet meeting.

Family Involvement/Home Visitation:

The Family Involvement/Home Visitation work group has shifted conversations to family engagement to focus on more than just the home visitation aspect. Workgroup volunteers are developing budgets for the cross-training of early childhood education professionals in the areas of domestic violence, special health care and literacy. As communities begin to expand home visiting models using the new home visiting funding, family resources centers have been identified as community resources in connecting families with home visiting services.

QRIS:

The QRIS work group will have its first meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2012. The chairs are Deb Flis and Eileen Ward. The focus of the meeting will be on outlining next steps as well as drafting a work plan.

Health:

The Health work group will be chaired by Grace Whitney. A co-chair has yet to be named, though a membership list has been brought to the leadership team for consideration.

Public/Private Partnerships:

The Public/Private Partnerships work group will be chaired by Anzelmo Graziosi. A co-chair has yet to be named.

The complete version of the Project Director's report can be found on the Early Childhood Cabinet website at the following link: <http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/project-director.html>

E. Presentations

Connecticut Charts-a-Course

Darlene Ragozzine, Deb Flis and Margaret Gustafson presented an overview of Connecticut Charts-a-Course. This presentation can be found on the Early Childhood Cabinet website at the following link: <http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/presentations.html>. It was noted that the Registry will be an important component of T-QRIS. A second presentation may be needed in the future to focus on the program calculator and schedules.

The Parent Leadership Training Institute

Elaine Zimmerman, Nancy Leonard, Donna Marino and Doug Edwards presented on the continuum of parent leadership and engagement, statewide. Presentation materials, including a short video, can be found on the Commission on Children's website at the following link: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/plti.htm>

F. Items for Discussion

A decision will be made regarding the July and August Early Childhood Cabinet meetings. An e-mail will be sent to all members requesting which meeting they would prefer to cancel.

G. Public Comment

Kareena DuPlessis of the Child Development Infoline (CDI) called attention to the handouts distributed to Cabinet members. These include fast facts and a brochure. Both items can be found on the Early Childhood Cabinet's website at the following link:

<http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/non-cabinet.html>

Maggie Adair reported that CDI will be presenting at the next Early Childhood Alliance meeting.

Amy Watson asked if communities will be trained on home visitation models. Marijane Carey of Carey Consulting responded that communities will identify who will provide services.

H. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Cabinet will be held on Thursday, June 28, 2012, at the State Office Building in Middletown, SERC Community Room from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.