

Early Childhood Education Cabinet Meeting
 September 14, 2010 • 9:30-11:30 A.M.
 Middletown State Department of Education
 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown

ATTENDANCE

John Rathgeber Chairperson, CBIA	Chair, Representative of Business or Philanthropic Community	X	Kevin Sullivan (for Norma Gyle) Dept. of Public Health	Representative of State Agency responsible for Health or Mental Health Care	X
Beth Bye Representative	Member of the House of Representatives	X	Joan Parris Director, Early Childhood Education, Norwalk CC	Representative of Institutions of Higher Education	X
Claudette Beaulieu (and Peter Palermino) Dept. of Social Services	Representative from State Agency Responsible for Child Care	X	Patricia Rehmner Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Designee	
Marisol Estrada-Soto Parent	Parent of child attending school in Priority District		David Title Superintendent, Fairfield Public Schools	Representative of the Local Education Agency	
Harriet Feldlaufer Dept. of Education	Representative of the State Education Agency	X	Maria Synodi (for Anne Louise Thompson) Dept. of Education	Representative of the State Agency Responsible for Programs under 619 or Part C of the IDEA	X
Betsy Morgan (for Senator Tom Gaffey) Member of the Senate	Senator	X	Eileen Ward Director, Children's Community Development Center	Representative of Local Providers of Early Childhood Education	X
Linda Goodman Dept. of Developmental Services	Representative of Entity Determined Relevant by the Governor	X	Grace Whitney Head Start Collaboration Officer	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	
Kathy Guay Director, Office of Policy & Management	Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management Designee	X	Elaine Zimmerman Executive Director, Commission on Children	Executive Director of the Commission on Children	X

Documents Received:

The following documents were distributed:

- Summary Report of State Participant Discussions & Individual Federal Funded Initiative Annual Meetings, Early Childhood 2010: *Innovations for the Next Generation* conference
- Response to Comments on ARRA Head Start Application

A. Welcome and Introductions

John Rathgeber opened the meeting at 9:35 A.M.

B. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the July 27, 2010, meeting were approved.

C. SAC Membership

With the resignation of Dona Ditrio from the Cabinet membership, the Commissioner of Education has requested a new appointment from Representative Cafero be named to serve on the SAC.

Representative Beth Bye stated that a change to language in the bill regarding membership needs to be made. She is willing to have the SAC bring forth recommendations to her. Kathy Guay stated that there is a process for agencies regarding the submission of legislative changes, and all proposals should go through OPM to be discussed with the Governor's office prior to the legislature.

D. Early Childhood 2010

The Early Childhood 2010 Conference was sponsored jointly by the US Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education (DOE). The conference was a three-day working meeting with presentations and state team planning. Many SAC members were present. Discussions centered around three themes related to agency responsibilities and ways in which these can dovetail with the responsibilities of the SAC.

Peter Palermino added that this conference was truly a group effort and gave all present the opportunity to reexamine what is being done and what still needs to be done. Mr. Palermino noted that legislative participation was missing.

Linda Goodman stated that the meetings in Virginia were focused on children with disabilities, and that the HHS and DOE were also present. Ms. Goodman also stated that the Senate has put \$300 million into their proposed budget for the Early Childhood Challenge grants.

The Connecticut team summary of this conference is posted on the Cabinet website.

E. Retreat

John Rathgeber reported that the SAC would like to coordinate an all-day retreat on October 29th to discuss the priorities of the different agencies represented on the SAC, as well as to discuss the recommendations that will be released by the Closing the Achievement Gap committee. The SAC will use a portion of the federal supplemental funds to support this retreat. The retreat will be open to all members of the SAC as well as those who were invited to the Early Childhood 2010 conference. If anyone would like to recommend a facilitator for this all-day meeting, please contact Andrea Brinnel. Kathy Guay stated that the SAC really needs assistance regarding governance issues and avoiding siloed work as the situation in the state gets more dire. John Rathgeber clarified this retreat will be focused more on the identification of priorities and responsibilities, and things that can be administratively changed. It was agreed to have the retreat at CBIA on October 29th.

F. ARRA Grant Status

The ARRA Head Start grant and supplemental funding application has been submitted to the federal government. The total amount of the final grant award is \$747,251, and the total amount of the supplement is \$164,000. There is an RFP for the fiscal agent of these funds going through the SDE process. Once completed, the RFP will be posted on the Early Childhood Cabinet website, and 3-5 reviewers will be needed. Peter Palermino, Elaine Zimmerman and Linda Goodman volunteered.

Peter Palermino asked if the answers to the questions from the federal government regarding our ARRA Head Start grant application were sufficient and if we anticipate more questions. Andrea Brinnel stated that she has not been notified that additional information is needed.

Representative Bye suggested we have a press conference or press release to celebrate our achievements on being awarded this ARRA grant. Kathy Guay stated that if the Governor has signed off on this grant, it is more than likely her role to put together the press release/conference as she has done so for all of the other ARRA grants. SAC members all agreed.

G. Early Childhood PEW Conference Update

The date for the Early Childhood PEW Conference has been scheduled for December 3, 2010, at Fairfield University. The primary goal of this conference is to get businesses involved and interested in early childhood with a focus on return on investment. The Governor elect will be asked to speak at this event. The invitation for this conference will be posted to the Early Childhood Cabinet website (www.ctearlychildhood.org).

H. Leadership Team

John Rathgeber reported on the possibility of having a leadership team to act as a subcommittee of the SAC to ensure the goals of the ARRA grant priority areas are moving forward. This team would also be responsible for reporting on the status of the ARRA grant at each SAC meeting. The fiscal agent will also be asked to attend these meetings with the leadership team to report on the utilization of funds. Suggested members include Peter Palermino, Harriet Feldlaufer, Linda Goodman, Grace Whitney, and Joan Parris.

I. New Business

Protecting Children from Disaster Forum

Elaine Zimmerman and Peter Palermino reported on their efforts regarding a forum titled "Children in Natural and Unnatural Disasters: Are We Prepared?" The forum will be held on Tuesday, September 14th from 1:00-3:00 PM in Room 1-E of the Legislative Office Building and will focus on incorporating care for children and families in our disaster planning. For more information on this forum, please visit the Commission on Children website (<http://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/>).

Website

The Early Childhood Cabinet website (www.ctearlychildhood.org) is now able to feature videos on the homepage and within a video library. Those who have their events tape should keep this feature in mind.

Book Recommendation

Representative Beth Bye recommended the book, "Promise of Preschool" by Elizabeth Rose. The book offers a history of preschool development and structure. Ms. Feldlaufer suggested the author speak at a Cabinet meeting. Representative Bye volunteered to check on Mrs. Rose's availability.

J. Public Comments

There was a question of whether the October 20th SAC retreat will be open to the public. The public is welcome to attend as observers; however participation will be limited to SAC members and those who had been invited to the Early Childhood 2010 conference.

K. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 15, 2010, from 9:30-11:30 AM at the State Department of Education in Middletown in the SERC Community Room.