



Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

Meeting of the Early Childhood Education Cabinet

September 27, 2012 • 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.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	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
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	
Lynn Johnson (for 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	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	X	Grace Whitney <i>Director, Head Start Collaboration Office</i>	State Director of Head Start Collaboration	X
Stephen Tracy (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	

Documents Received:

- Minutes from the August 23, 2012 meeting
- Project Director's Report
- Executive Summary – Core Knowledge and Competencies
- Definition of School Readiness Flyer

A. Welcome and Introductions

David Title opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. He announced that Anzelmo Graziosi, who had been appointed by Governor Malloy as the Cabinet representative from business or philanthropy, has resigned. The Cabinet is awaiting a new appointment from the Governor.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 23, 2012, meeting were approved.

C. Work Group Updates

Data Systems:

The work group met in September, focusing on policy questions identified at the June Data Roundtable. The questions will inform the cross-agency data systems demonstration project.

Early Learning Standards:

NAEYC has been selected to conduct the content validation of the new standards. The kick-off meeting with Dr. Kyle Snow from NAEYC is scheduled for October 16, 2012. Age validation for the new standards continues to be explored. National and state organizations with a possible interest in partnering on this research are being contacted.

Family Involvement/Home Visitation:

The work group has been separated into two sub-groups: (1) family involvement and (2) home visitation. The full group is developing recommendations for the planning team on how to best integrate home visitation models into the systems planning work.

T-QRIS:

The work group will provide recommendations to the Early Childhood Planning Team. These recommendations need to be complete by the end of October, followed by a review by the Cabinet Leadership Team and full Cabinet in November. Previous work will inform these recommendations.

Health Promotions:

Grace Whitney from SDE and Marjorie Chambers from the DPH will co-chair the work group. The first meeting will take place on October 2, 2012, in Hamden.

Public/Private Partnerships:

Anzelmo Graziosi, co-chair, has resigned from the Cabinet and therefore will not serve in his role on the Public/Private Partnerships work group. Richard Sussman from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving will remain co-chair, however, another co-chair from the Cabinet will need to be identified. Prospective members are currently being identified.

D. Update from Professional Development/Workforce Work Group

Joan Parris, Darlene Raggozine, Peg Oliveira, Deb Adams and Colleen Brower gave an overview of the status of the Professional Development / Workforce work group. This presentation can be

found at the Cabinet's website: <http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/professional-development-workforce.html>

For additional information on the Cabinet's work groups, please see the Project Director's reports on the Cabinet website: <http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/project-director.html>

E. Planning Office

Myra Jones-Taylor, lead planner from the Early Childhood Planning Team, gave a summary report on the work that has been completed to date. The team has been meeting with local providers, parents, agency Commissioners and organizations as part of a "listening tour." Feedback from these meetings will inform the final recommendations submitted to the Governor. The plan will address possible realignment of funding to most effectively serve children and improve outcomes.

The challenges for a coordinated system in ECE include:

- Inefficiency in operations and implementation
- Not family-friendly
- Uneven quality of programs and services
- Difficulty connecting to related services

A comprehensive statewide early childhood system will:

- Reach all children and families
- Ease access for families
- Value parents as decision-makers
- Ensure stability of services
- Include and accommodate children with special needs
- Respect all aspects of children and their families
- Maximize investment and foster innovation

Included in this presentation was a diagram that shows current early childhood activities within state agencies. Any edits/additions to this diagram should be e-mailed to Myra Jones-Taylor at Myra.Jones-Taylor@ct.gov.

As Connecticut is in the process of building a T-QRIS, SDE is currently in the process of awarding \$3 million to assist in the planning and creation a system. Statewide experts were convened to discuss recommendations regarding the system. As a result of these recommendations the funding has been allocated to the following:

- Early learning development and standards
- Comprehensive assessment system
- Program monitoring system
- Health promotion practices
- Early childhood educator qualifications
- Family engagement strategies

An external consultant is being engaged to assist with this work and ensure the timeline for recommendations is met. The Cabinet's T-QRIS work group will submit their recommendations in to the Cabinet leadership. The Planning Team will make their final recommendations to the Governor in December 2012.

This presentation can be found on the Cabinet's website within the meeting materials for this date. (<http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/meetings.html>)

F. Connecticut Definition of School Readiness

Copies of a revised version of the Definition of School Readiness flyer were distributed. At the last Cabinet meeting, there was concern around using the term "School Readiness" and the discussion was tabled. A virtual sticker that states "School Readiness: it's not just a program" was added to the flyer to avoid confusion. The leadership team approved the revision and brought it back to the full Cabinet for endorsement. The Cabinet voted in favor of endorsing the Connecticut Definition of School Readiness with two abstentions (Deb Johnson and Maria Synodi).

G. Public Comment

Jillian Gilchrest, Assistant Policy Director for Connecticut Association for Human Services asked if the data from the surveys sent via the ECE listserv was being used in the planning team's recommendations. Myra Jones-Taylor stated that it was and that seven parent forums throughout the state are being scheduled to gather additional input.

Sue Tenorio urged local expertise be considered in the role of the consultant being hired to move the work of the QRIS work group. Myra Jones-Taylor stated that there is a need to have someone who is able to push the work group and have knowledge about what is going on around in the country in terms of QRIS but that local experts have been called upon.

Darlene Ragozzine, Executive Director of CT Chart-a-Course, invited everyone to the annual awards ceremony being held on October 19. An e-vite with detailed information is forthcoming on the ECE listserv.

H. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Cabinet will be held on Thursday, November 15, at the State Office Building in Middletown, SERC Classroom, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There will be no Cabinet meeting in October. A retreat will held on October 12 in lieu of the regular Cabinet meeting.