

Early Childhood Cabinet

Family Involvement/Home Visitation

Notes November 9, 2011

9:00-11:00 AM

Trish Torruella-co-chair	x	Patti-Keckeisen-PLTI Danbury	
Elaine Zimmerman – co-chair	x	Darcy Lowell-Child First	x
Sherry Linton – staff	x	Tawana Bourne-CT Parent Power	
Pam Langer-PAT	x	Christina Morales Smith-Compass	x
Karen Foley-Schain	x	Grace Whitney-HS Collaboration	
Doug Edwards-Real Dads Forever	x	Louis Tallarita-SDE	
Amos Smith-NHCAA		Jennifer Carroll-FSN	x
Donna Maselli-DPH		Dawn Home- Bouthiette.-COC	x
Mary Kate Lowndes	x	Patrick Ruddy (PJ)-Parent	x
Tom Shusterman-COC Intern			

Topics of Discussion	Recommendations	Action Steps
<p><u>Cabinet Updates</u></p> <p>Members were informed of Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge grant application submission on October 19th, and provided with the logic models that highlight each section of application. The group was informed that while Family Involvement was not a discrete section of the application, family engagement was woven throughout the application relating to Early Learning Standards, Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) and Health Standards.</p>	<p>Workgroup members encouraged to access the full application on the Cabinet website.</p>	

Zero to Three Home Visitation Systems Request for Application

Elaine presented an overview of the Request for Applications (RFA) from Zero to Three with an opportunity for states to participate in a policy action team meeting on integrating quality home visiting services in state early childhood systems.”

A quick overview was provided of the components of the application— Background, the State Policy Action Team Meeting, Eligible Applicants, Application Process and Selection Criteria. Copies of the RFA were distributed.

The group was updated on an initial discussion on the RFA that took place with a subset of the workgroup to frame the assets of Connecticut relating to systems building and home visitation.

Mary Kate Lowndes, of the Commission on Children, will be the primary writer for the Zero to Three Application.

The response from states is expected to be approximately five pages; consequently, will be very dense.

The subgroup identified the following assets as being unique to CT and were recommended as elements for the application,

- The recent 11-181 Legislation, calling for a coordinated ECE system.
- The DCF infant/toddler Foster Care System.
- Proven infant/toddler mental health home visitation models (e.g. Child First).
- Legislative (Black/Puerto Rican

<p>The opportunity being presented to CT by Zero to Three to have a state team participate in a national policy action team meeting on integrating quality home visiting</p>	<p>Caucus) focus on Literacy, with an infant toddler component that highlights the relationship of language to relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DCF Differential Response method for addressing the needs of vulnerable families. • Infant/toddler modules being developed in CT and used nationwide (including by Zero to Three). • CT's Parent Civics focus. • Codification of expectations around Fatherhood engagement (Legislation). • Discovery/Community Framework with a focus on families. • The success of Part C (Birth to Three) in CT. <p>This opportunity serves to further highlight and position the work of the group as an integral component of ECE systems building.</p>	<p>Jennifer Carroll to follow up with Linda Goodman for data as evidence of this success of Part C, and an outline of what should be highlighted in this application.</p>
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services in state early childhood systems, was articulated as a complement to the RTT-ELC , that did not specifically focus on family engagement and home visitation.

The large group was divided into three small groups to drill down into the questions within the RFA.

The themes of the small groups' discussion were as follows,

- The existence of evidenced-based models that honor a variety of family configurations.
- Help Me Grow, as implemented through 2.1.1., is a valuable component.
- Budgetary challenges compel us to rethink state priorities, as evidenced by the Governor committing to increasing access to early care and education experiences and DCF repurposing resources to focus more on prevention and early intervention.
- The state lens on child development has expanded to include health and home visitation.
- Streamlining resources is imperative to promote increased case coordination.
- Clear communication channels need to be established to ensure families

	<p>are aware of the existing resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination improvements are needed in multiple sectors, not just ECE.• The conversation should be a balanced one of assets and gaps.• Confirmation that there are plenty of families and limited funding.• Coordination and integration hinge on RELATIONSHIP building; it is about a shift in culture. "Culture eats strategy for breakfast,"-Doug Edwards.• Coordination is about realizing the unique expertise of stakeholders.• Reinforce the bottom up, community approach.• A true system performs universal assessment of families' needs and triages based upon those needs, (e.g. an assessment of needs at child birth).• Consideration must be given to how the system addresses access of micro-populations to needed services, (e.g. children with special healthcare needs).• Families have multiple needs; a review of Entitlements is necessary.	<p>Jennifer C. to provide Mary Kate with a summary of the Katie Beckett Waiver and Money Follows the Child Health Care Option, as it relates to the integration of home visitation to the broader ECE system.</p>
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<p>Neil Halfon, UCLA, was referenced as he recently presented at Yale on collaboration and community mapping as a means of identifying the needs of neighborhoods.</p> <p>The state's focus on Results Based Accountability (RBA) was also recognized as a unique context of the state.</p> <p>The group confirmed that the culture around integration, coordination and systems building is changing in CT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emphasis should be given to the asset CT has with community collaboration. <p>The reference to Niel Halfron reinforced the recommendation that the response to the RFA should be framed with a focus on population results, rather than programs.</p>	<p>Group members to act as point persons for content specific information, and forward relevant information to Mary Kate L.</p>
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