



Connecticut Early Childhood Education Cabinet

State Advisory Council

Project Director Report

July 28, 2011

Workgroup Updates

Data Systems

The workgroup convened on 6/29/11 and 7/18/11 with rich discussions on the status of program, staff and child unique identifiers. Additional items of discussion included the importance of agency buy-in on the process of data sharing through a signed MOU, with attention given to FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) to safeguard privacy.

The workgroup is in collaborating with the P-20 Council with the intent of inclusion in the Training and Technical Assistance being offered by the National Center for Education Statistics to evaluate options for a data system infrastructure.

Action Items

- Agency representatives from DDS, DSS, SDE, DPH, 2-1-1 Child Care, and Charts-a-Course to complete a Cross Agency Unique Identifier Map to account for, 1) The use of unique ids, 2) Who the id is limited to, 3) Who is excluded from the id, 4) How are ids defined, 5) What point is id generated, 6) Trigger event for activation/deactivation) and 7) Are ids linked to other ids?
- Workgroup developing MOU for outlined agencies to intentionally signify their willingness to participate in this process, with an end goal of developing interoperable data systems.

Professional Development/Workforce

The workgroup convened on July 13, 2011 with extensive discussion on the recently passed Public Act No. 11-54, An Act Concerning Requirements for Early Childhood Educations, and the state's capacity to meet the mandates within the act. Discussions also included the charge of the Cabinet (SAC) to review program quality across the entire spectrum of the early care and education community.

Action Items

- Alignment of workgroup members with specific strategies within the work plan to expedite the work of, 1) Establishing a central inventory of Higher Education, non-degree professional

development, and credential opportunities statewide; 2) Creating a licensing study group to examine the prospect of and offering recommendations for change in licensing regulations for ECE staff qualifications; 3) Developing seamless articulation between Associate Degree programs and Bachelor's degree programs; 4) Creating a central directory of workforce opportunities in the ECE community.

Early Learning Standards

The workgroup convened on June 22nd, with focused discussions on establishing agreements around working definitions of selected terms such as standards, guidelines, frameworks, and grade level expectations prior to delving into the work attempting to streamline developmental expectations. Discussions also included perspectives on what and when defines readiness, in addition to the use and value of assessments.

Action Items

- Specific workgroup members are conducting a review of national and international standards.
- Workgroup members have been assigned to review international and other state standards and will compare and contrast findings.

Family Involvement/Home Visitation

The workgroup met on July 14th with rich discussion on current resources statewide that offer opportunities to systematically embed family engagement and parent leadership in the early care and education system. Special attention was given to the need to be more intentionally inclusive of fathers. Workgroup members shared resources provided by their organizations to families.

Action Items

- Pam Langer (ConnPAT) to meet with Doug Edwards to determine how the Fatherhood Audit can be embedded in the Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visitation curriculum certification training that is utilized by 110 early care and education programs and 250 educator in Connecticut.
- Doug Edwards and Trudi Lebron to collaborate on identifying candidates and/or pre-service training for a newly funded fatherhood staff position at the Family Life Education Inc. organization.
- Opportunity identified to embed the Fatherhood Audit in the Family Development Credential & Training Program (FDC).

For more detailed updates and full summary of workgroup meetings, membership and future schedule of meetings visit, <http://www.ctearlychildhood.org/>

Submitted by Sherry Linton-Massiah