

Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
May 19, 2006
Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster Room
Lincoln, Nebraska

Denise Wright, chairperson, opened the regular meeting of the ECICC at 9:00 a.m. Participants made self introductions.

Members present: A.Kathryn Anderson, Susan Kringle, Terri Lewis, Kim Madsen, Paul Matson, Ruth Miller, Sue Obermiller, Carolyn Witte, Denise Wright, Susan F. Adams, Mary Afrank, Michelle Bartlett, Kimberly J. Chase, Marcia Corr, Eric Dunning, Mary Fran Flood, Kathy Halverson-Rigatuso, Mary Jo Iwan, Barbara Jackson, Marjorie Kostelnik, Betty Medinger, Mary Phillips, Mary Alice Queen, Todd Reckling, Roger Reikofski, Dianna Schimek, Barbara Schliesser, Connie Shonka, Carey Winkler, Linda Zinke

Members absent: Christine Carr, Kris Elmshaeuser, Sali Gale, Sally Hansen, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Cindy Prater, Todd Reckling, DiAnna Schimek, Joyce Thomas, Patti Waltman, Derek Weimer

Also in attendance:

Technical assistants: Rae Anderson, *National Child Care Information Center;* Nina Baker, *PTI-Nebraska;* Mark Smith, *Munroe Meyer Institute;* *Early Childhood Training Center:* Carol Fichter, Carol Puffer; *HHSS:* Lynne Brehm, Linda Shandera, Micaela Swigle, Pat Urzedowski; *NDE:* Judy Fricke, Pat Frost, Melody Hobson, Jeanine Huntoon, Eleanor Kirkland, Joan Luebbers

Guests: Dave Schinzel, for Senator Gwen Howard; Shawna Kolbeck, HHSS; *Crete Even Start Program:* Israel Avelar, Guadalupe Avelar, Josie Flipi, and Connie Lentell

ECICC Staff: Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary, Martha Gadberry, facilitator-GBC.

Agenda:

I. Opening and Announcements:

i. Approval of minutes

Motion, seconded: To approve the ECICC minutes of February 10, 2006, as submitted and provided to members in the pre-meeting packet. There was no discussion. The motion to approve the minutes passed by unanimous voice vote.

ii. Denise thanked Terry Rohren for the Legislative Updates that she had prepared since the last meeting and sent to ECICC members.

iii. Denise called attention to the current issue of *What's Up* at <http://www.esu3.org/ectc> for articles of interest to members of the ECICC.

iv. Denise informed the Council that in March the ECICC Steering Committee had agreed that the Council would support and act as the advisory committee for a grant that the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board and partners were applying for from the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds. Recently, however, Nebraska learned that they would not be awarded this grant.

v. There was consensus to exchange the placement in the agenda of the Family Story and the Update on the Economic Impact Study.

II. Family Story

Connie Lentall, from the Even Start program in Crete, Nebraska, introduced Lupe and Israel Avelar who told about the impact of the Crete Even Start program in their lives after they came to the U.S. from El Salvador. Through the Even Start program at the Blue River Community Center, Lupe was awarded her GED and now works as a paraeducator for the Crete Public Schools. The parents credited their experiences with Even Start for helping them to instill in their two children the importance of education and to live “the Good Life” in Nebraska.

III. Economic Impact Study

Kelly Medwick reported that \$19,000 of the required \$25,000 has been identified to support the study of the impact of child care on the Nebraska economy, and she is confident about securing the remaining amount. She said Eric Thompson and the Business Research Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, have started work on the data and expects to finish by August 1. The report will be used to strategize future steps.

IV. Committees/Working Groups

Members and technical assistants met from 10:05 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. in three breakout groups: the Gaps and Barriers Committee, the Legislative and Communications Committee, and the Financing Task Force. The Family Leadership Team had met at 8:00 a.m. before the ECICC meeting.

* Lunch

During lunch, a panel composed of Eleanor Kirkland, Connie Lentall, Lupe Avelar, Josie Filipi, and Barb Jackson discussed Even Start in Nebraska and answered questions from meeting participants.

V. Public Comment

- i. Nina Baker informed the Council about the PTI-Nebraska Law Conference for Families that will be held November 10-11, 2006 at the Marriott Hotel in Omaha.
- ii. Rae Anderson noted that in *Pre-K and Politics 2005*, Nebraska was portrayed in a positive way.

VI. Update on Public Awareness Campaign

Kelly Medwick, director of marketing for the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, reported on the progress of the early childhood public awareness campaign, which she is coordinating for the Foundation. She reviewed how the process began with the ECICC recommendation and how it evolved into the current campaign. The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation responded to the request for proposals (RFP) and was awarded the contract to utilize several media strategies to develop and implement the statewide communication campaign. The Nebraska campaign is titled, “Learning from Day One.” They are partnering with the United Way for technical assistance and are incorporating into the national “Born Learning” campaign (<http://www.bornlearning.org>). They are also working with local coalitions to get the message out. Kelly briefly explained the various components of the campaign, which include use of a variety of media, a web site (http://www.nebraskachildren.org/resources/day_one.html), and local campaign committees focusing on parent education and local markets. She commented on the partnering and activities and answered questions from Council members.

VII. Update on QRS

There was no report.

VIII. Report Outs from Working Sessions

- **Family Leadership Team**

Carey Winkler reported that the group had discussed updates to IDEA, networking regarding medical issues and schools, the Special Education Law Conference and the possibility of parent

scholarships. She also reported that Mark Smith had told the group about a Munroe-Meyer Institute project to develop leadership across disabilities and age groups to improve systems for persons with disabilities.

- **Gaps and Barrier Committee (GBC)**

Sue Obermiller reported that the GBC had looked at a matrix of transportation regulations, discussed the Results Matter GSEG grant, had an update on Rule 11, and discussed CAPTA implementation strategies to develop communication between the Early Development Network and Protection and Safety workers. Carol Fichter provided an update on activities related to the Positive Behavioral Supports program.

- **Legislative and Communications Committee (LCC)**

- Terry Rohren referred Council members to handouts that were prepared for the LCC and distributed to meeting participants:

- Interim Legislative Study Resolutions
- Final Status Report on 2006 Early Childhood Legislation that Passed in the Unicameral
- Information Report on the Federal Budget from the ECICC Legislative and Communications Committee

- The LCC proposed two recommendations:

- That the ECICC develop a plan to inform new Legislative senators regarding the importance of early childhood. Twenty-one new senators will be joining the Legislature.
- That the ECICC schedule a meeting with Governor Heineman to thank him for his support of LB1256 and to inform him about ECICC activities such as the economic impact study, Results Matter, “Learning from Day One,” and Positive Behavioral Supports.

Action:

- A motion to support both recommendations was seconded and carried by unanimous voice vote.
- The Council discussed who should attend the meeting and agreed that the group should include the ECICC chair, vice-chair, and parent representatives.
- Terry agreed to set up the group and schedule the meeting with the Governor’s Office.

- **Financing Task Force**

The Financing Task Force discussed ideas for an oversight committee to work with the Economic Impact Study to develop a strategy for releasing and sharing the results of the study across the state. They suggested that groups for the oversight committee include representatives from state economic groups, such as labor, economic development, and chambers of commerce.

IX. Together for Kids and Families

Lynne Brehm provided a brief update on the Preliminary Strategic Plan (March 2006) and provided copies for members. The plan has been submitted to the HHSS Policy Cabinet and for public comment. Because the plan is built on existing initiatives, it is already moving forward. An implementation team is being convened to meet in June with federal technical assistants. Eleanor Kirkland noted that they will be looking at Early Childhood data management systems to gather information about the representation of child development across the state.

Action:

Motion: To accept the Strategic Plan Preliminary report. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous voice vote.

XI. Results Matter

- Barbara Schliesser provided an update of activities related to Results Matter and highlighted objectives and timelines for training on measurement tools and data collection. To date, the Early Childhood Training Center (ECTC) has provided training on the use of the assessment instruments for over 725 individuals. Barb recognized the work of Carol Fichter, Carol Puffer, and Barb Jackson in developing these training opportunities. Barb Jackson reviewed the four indicators that will be measured for all children birth to age 5 upon entry to and exit from Early Intervention.
- Barb also informed the Council about the General State Enhancement Grant (GSEG) that Nebraska was awarded and explained how it will be used to develop the family survey for Part C (IDEA-Birth to age three). The family survey will meet federal requirements for reporting and will also provide additional data for program improvement. Barb thanked the ECICC and individuals for their support of this part of the Result Matter project.

XII. Early Learning Guidelines

- Marcia Corr provided copies of the recently printed the *Early Learning Guidelines for Ages Birth to Three*. She reviewed the development and goals of the guidelines and reviewed the format and adaptations. Spanish translations of the guidelines are currently being developed. A poster to accompany the guidelines has been published and will be available to individuals who take the training that is being provided by the ECTC. Carol Fichter explained how the training will be implemented for child care providers and also the plans to develop trainings for parents. Marcia and Carol answered questions about the guidelines and trainings.
- Printed copies of the Early Childhood Policy Study were also made available to meeting participants.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next meeting: August 25, 2006, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- ✓ ECICC 2005-2006 Roster (May 1, 2006)
- ✓ Roster Updates (May 19, 2006)
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Steering Committee, April 3, 2006
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Finance Task Force Meeting, February 10, 2006
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Legislative and Communications Committee, February 10, 2006 and April 12, 2006.
- ✓ Reports from the ECICC Legislative and Communications Committee:
 - Information Report, May 18, 2006
 - Final Status Report: 2006 Early Childhood Legislation that Passed in the Unicameral
 - Interim Legislative Study Resolutions, May 12, 2006
- ✓ HSSCO Report for ECICC (May 11, 2006)
- ✓ Together for Kids and Families—Strategic Plan Preliminary, March 2006 (Nebraska Health and Human Services System-HHSS)
- ✓ Brochure: “Everyday moments matter”—Learning From Day One
- ✓ Executive Summary: Nebraska Childhood Education Grant Program--Evaluation Progress Report (Nebraska Department of Education—NDE)
- ✓ Early Childhood Policy Study (NDE)
- ✓ Early Learning Guidelines for Ages Birth to Three (NDE)