

**Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)  
February 16, 2007 11:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (corrected 5-18-07)  
The Cornhusker Hotel, Yankee Hill Room  
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Ruth Miller, chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council on February 16, 2007 at 11:15 a.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska.

*Members present:* Sue Adams, Kathy Anderson, Kim Chase, Eric Dunning, Mary Fran Flood, Louise Hall-Mountain, Kathy Halverson-Rigatuso, Mary Jo Iwan, Barbara Jackson, Marjorie Kostelnik, Terri Lewis, Paul Matson, Betty Medinger, Ruth Miller, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Lynn Mruz, Mary Alice Queen, Roger Reikofski, Deb Ross, Connie Shonka, Gaylene Stinman, Joyce Thomas, Linda Zinke.

*Members absent:* Mary A Frank, Michelle Bartlett, Christine Carr, Marcia Corr, Kris Elmshaeuser, LeaAnn Johnson, Susan Kringle, Sali Lindenberger, Kim Madsen, Mary Phillips, Todd Reckling, DiAnna Schimek, Barbara Schliesser, John Street, Derek Weimer, Carey Winkler, Carrie Witte.

*Also in attendance:*

*ECICC Staff:* Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary.

*Technical assistants:* Rae Anderson, National Child Care Information Center, Carol Fichter, Carol Puffer, Early Childhood Training Center; Mark Smith, Monroe-Meyer Institute; *HHSS:* Shirley Pickens-White, Andrea Riley, Joni Thomas, Lynn Brehm; *NDE:* Pat Frost, Eleanor Kirkland.

**Working Group Sessions:**

The Family Leadership Team, the Gaps and Barriers Committee, the Legislative and Communications Committee, and the Financing Task Force met in separate working groups from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. before the regular ECICC meeting.

**AGENDA:**

**Opening and Announcements:**

- i. Ruth Miller recognized the posting of the Open Meetings Law and asked for additions to the agenda. None were proposed.
- ii. **Approval of minutes**  
Motion by Linda Zinke, seconded by Betty Medinger: To approve the ECICC minutes of November 17, 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; there were no abstentions.
- iii. Ruth reviewed actions taken since the last meeting, which included the completion of the ECICC 2006 Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood. Members received a printed copy in their meeting packets. There was no discussion.
- iv. Ruth introduced new members, Lynn Mruz, Deb Ross, and Gaylene Stinman. New member, John Street, had a conflicting meeting obligation. The new members met for orientation on February 15. Meeting participants made self introductions to the new members.
- v. Ruth announced that no nominations for ECICC vice-chair had been received prior to the meeting. She called attention to the nomination form in the meeting packet and asked members to use the form to make nominations for vice-chair and to return the form to Terry Rohren. Terry will announce the nominations and set up balloting to take place before the next meeting.

## 1. Economic Impact Study

Eric Thompson distributed the draft final report, *The Economic Impact of the Nebraska Early Care and Education Industry*, prepared by the Bureau of Business Research of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The report was prepared at the request of the ECICC. Eric briefly explained the basis of the report, which looked at the current impact of the early care and education on the economy of Nebraska. The research looked at the early care and education industry as a critical component to the functioning of the state economy and how the state can make this infrastructure industry successful. Eric noted that an important element of the early care and education industry is that it raises per capita personal income/standard of living; i.e., it raises the number of persons employed or number of hours worked. Eric reviewed several of the research findings and conclusions covered in the report and responded to questions from meeting participants.

- Next steps: The ECICC Financing Task Force has approved the report, which was financed by the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFE). In conjunction with NCFE, the Financing Task Force will meet to review draft marketing materials and a dissemination plan, which will be carried out by NCFE.
- *Action:*  
Motion by Eric Dunning, seconded by Connie Shonka: to accept the final draft report with two word changes, as noted in discussion. The motion carried by voice vote with no abstentions.
- Ruth Miller thanked Eric Thompson, his colleagues, and the ECICC Financing Task Force for their work on the report.

## 2. Public Comment

- Kim Chase: Distributed information about the Nebraska Family Child Care Association (NFCCA) conference on May 23-24, 2007.
- Betty Medinger: Distributed the Public Awareness Campaign Narrative Summary 5<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report and information about the Nebraska Health and Human Services System (HHSS) Child Care Licensing web page, license information system, and child care/preschool roster.
- Rae Anderson: Distributed information page and noted several resources available from the National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC).
- Carol Fichter: Provided information about Positive Behavioral Supports and distributed an article on remarks by the Federal Reserve Board chair lauding pre-school education.
- Tammy Mittelstaedt informed the group about a fund set up at the Sherman County Bank in Loup City. The fund will assist the family of ECICC member, Susan Kringle, following a fire that destroyed their home.

## 3. Reports from Working Sessions

### 3.1 Family Leadership Team

Tammy Mittelstaedt reported on several items of interest discussed by the Family Leadership Team, which included:

- Questions about the Medicaid Waiver and the Team's interest in inviting an HHSS representative to the next ECICC meeting to discuss proposed changes to the waiver. Joni Thomas said she would take the request back to HHSS.
- Partnering with the Co-Leads regarding increasing the parent responses to the Part C Family Survey and raising regional referral and verification numbers.
- Watching several pieces of legislation, including LB 139, 142, 183 and 316. Regarding LB316, the Family Leadership Team asked the ECICC to support their recommendation for parental representation on the Special Education Services Task Force that would be created with the passage of LB 316.

*Action:*

Motion by Paul Matson, seconded by Roger Reikofski: that ECICC send a letter to the senator(s) sponsoring LB316 encouraging the inclusion of a parent representative from ECICC on the proposed Special Education Services Task Force. The motion carried by voice vote with no abstentions.

**3.2 Legislative and Communication Committee (LCC)**

Kathy Anderson reported on activities initiated in the LCC's conference calls between ECICC meetings and the morning work group. These included:

- Compiling a list of legislation concerning early childhood that was placed on the ECICC webpage with a link to the state's bill-tracking website. Copies were also distributed in the meeting packets.
- Creating a sheet of information from recent reviews about the President's proposed budget, which was distributed in the meeting packets.
- Continuing work on information materials for legislators. The LCC is revising their original eight-page document into a 2-sided card stock piece that will include "factoids" about early childhood and early childhood funding, and an ECICC contact number and website address.

**3.3 Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC)**

Joan Luebbers reported on discussions in the GBC work group, which included:

- Activities that the Co-Leads are planning to address declining numbers in referrals and verifications of children with disabilities ages birth to three.
- The high return and positive response rate for the 2006 Part C Family Survey.
- The GBC recommendation that ECICC endorse as a priority the work of moving forward on the planning efforts for Early Childhood Positive Behavior Supports (EC PBS) and strongly recommend its inclusion in the 2008 Report to the Governor.

*Action:*

Motion by Barb Jackson, seconded by Tammy Mittelstaedt: that ECICC support the development of Early Childhood Positive Behavior Supports in Nebraska and receive regular updates on the progress of moving the program forward.

**3.4 Financing Task Force**

Following the completion and approval of the report on the economic impact study of early care and education, the Financing Task Force wants to be involved in planning the distribution of this information and requested the Council's approval to develop marketing materials and "talking points" about the study's findings.

*Action:*

Motion by Betty Medinger, seconded by Kathy Anderson: that ECICC support the Financing Task Force help with the "roll out" plans and development of marketing materials for dissemination of the report findings before the 2007 Legislature concludes. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

**4. Part C Updates**

Joan Luebbers reported for Barb Schliesser on the results of the 2006 Part C Family Survey, which had an exceptionally high return rate and high positive responses. A main priority for this year will be to educate the public on the meaning of the results.

Another effort of the Co-Leads is to develop a self assessment process for Planning Region Teams (PRTs) to evaluate their Child Find efforts using data from the HHSS CONNECT system to

determine if there are identifiable reasons for upward or downward trends in referral and verification numbers and to develop strategies to increase these numbers.

#### **5. Early Childhood Endowment**

Linda Meyers from NDE's Early Childhood Office spoke for Marcia Corr to update the Council on the Early Childhood Endowment Fund. An information sheet about the endowment fund was provided in the meeting packet. Linda informed the group that the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFE) was identified as the endowment provider. The NCFE deposited \$1 million in the Endowment account when the \$40 million from state funds were deposited. The NCFE will also be responsible for raising the additional private monies required by the legislation. The interest from this account will be used to provide grants for early childhood programs. Linda further described the process and the timeline of funding. An endowment board of trustees will be appointed by the Governor, as determined in statute. A small internal group within the Nebraska Department of Education is developing focus questions to ask across the state regarding needs for training, program models and other areas to look at to provide guidance for the Board of Trustees. Linda asked that suggestions for focus questions be directed to her. Linda answered questions from meeting participants.

#### **6. State Behavioral Health Incentive Grant**

Pat Lopez, Nebraska Health and Human Services System (HHSS), presented information about the State Infrastructure Grant (SIG) for Children's Mental Health and Substance Abuse that HHSS recently received. She said that Nebraska had been one of seven states to receive the grant, which is in the third year of the 5-year grant. Pat distributed information to meeting participants and explained the working structure, steering committee and charter committees that gave recommendations that are beginning to be implemented. She discussed some of the strategies in progress, including several family-centered activities. In the area of early childhood, they are capitalizing on work already done, e.g., Together for Kids and Families. They developed ways to work and provide support for a perinatal depression grant and developed a socio-emotional curriculum based on "Bright Futures" methodology to provide education to primary care providers. This will also be on a new website: neproviders.org. They have begun working with medical schools to incorporate socio-emotional aspects in their curricula. They also are collaborating with the Positive Behavioral Supports leadership team. The grant steering committee is currently focusing on determining organizational and financial structures that are needed. They hope to have some pilot projects begun by summer 2007. Eventually, a statewide, interagency council will be needed for sustainability.

#### **7. Next Meeting Agenda**

A different agenda format is being considered for the ECICC meeting scheduled in North Platte on May 18, 2007. The expectation is to include local families and early childhood programs to make presentations on issues and local activities. Terry Rohren outlined a possible format for the meeting, which would include a regular business session and 1-hour working session for small groups during the lunch hour. She is working with state agencies to identify presenters and asked for suggestions for agenda items. Suggestions made included:

- Marketing pieces from Economic Impact Study roll out.
- Legislative Updates
- Results Matter Conference Update
- Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support

#### **8. Evaluation of New Meeting Format**

Terry Rohren asked meeting participants to complete an evaluation form about the new meeting format and return them to her.

Motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Next meeting:** Friday, May 18, 2007, Sandhills Convention Center, Quality Inn & Suites, North Platte, Nebraska.

**MEETING HANDOUTS:**

- ✓ ECICC Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood, December 2006
- ✓ Form: Nomination for New Vice-Chair for ECICC
- ✓ 2006-2007 ECICC Roster
- ✓ ECICC Roster Updates: February 16, 2007
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Steering Committee, January 12, 2007
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Legislative and Communications Committee, February 1, 2007
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Gaps and Barriers Committee, November 17, 2006
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Gaps and Barriers Committee Special Meeting, November 16, 2007 for review of IDEA-Part C Annual Performance Report.
- ✓ Meeting Notes: Part C Stakeholders Meeting—Child Count and Family Survey, January 25, 2007; provided by Martha Gadberry, facilitator
- ✓ Draft: Information packet on the ECICC for state legislators
- ✓ Information sheet: 2007 Legislative Bills Addressing Issues Relating to Early Childhood
- ✓ Unicameral Update—Week of January 3-5: 2007 State Senators
- ✓ Draft Final Report: The Economic Impact of the Nebraska Early Care and Education Industry
- ✓ Public Awareness Campaign Narrative Summary 5<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report: From NCFE to HHS as required by contract
- ✓ Information sheet: Child Care Licensing web page, License Information System web page, On-line Roster of Licensed Child Care/Preschool Programs web page.
- ✓ Status Report: Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office, February 2007
- ✓ Information sheets:
  - Nebraska's Children's mental health and Substance Abuse State Infrastructure Grant
  - Progress on Nebraska's Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Substance Abuse State Infrastructure Grant Phase I Strategies
  - SIG Finance and Organization Structure Work Team Recommendations
- ✓ Save the Date: NFCCA Provider's Day Out 2007
- ✓ Information sheet: Results Matter State Conference, May 7-9, 2007
- ✓ Copy: ExchangeEveryDay newsletter—Federal Reserve Board Chair Lauds Pre-School Education
- ✓ Information sheet: Early Childhood mental Health for Nebraska's Children: Supporting Social and Emotional Development
- ✓ Policy Brief: Prompting Social, Emotional and Behavioral Outcomes of Young Children Served Under IDEA, January 2007
- ✓ Website resources on challenging behaviors, and social and emotional foundations for early learning.
- ✓ NCCIC Updates/Briefing information—February 2007