

**Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)  
November 16, 2007 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lancaster Room 1-2-3  
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Ruth Miller, chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council on November 16, 2007, at 11:30 a.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska.

*Members present:* Kathy Anderson, Kim Chase, Mary Fran Flood, Louise Hall-Mountain, Barbara Jackson, Terri Lewis, Paul Matson, Betty Medinger, Ruth Miller, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Mary Phillips, Deb Ross, Barbara Schliesser, Connie Shonka, Joni Thomas, Joyce Thomas, Carey Winkler, Linda Zinke

*Members absent:* Sue Adams, Michelle Bartlett, Marcia Corr, Eric Dunning, Kathy Halverson-Rigatuso, LeaAnn Johnson, Marjorie Kostelnik, Sally Lindenberger, Lynn Mruz, "Mike" Queen, Todd Reckling, Roger Reikofski, DiAnna Schimek, John Street, Derek Weimer

*Also in attendance:*

ECICC Staff: Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary; Martha Gadberry, facilitator, Gaps and Barriers Committee

Technical assistants: *Early Childhood Training Center:* Carol Fichter; *Head Start State Collaboration Office:* Eleanor Kirkland; *Munroe-Meyer Institute:* Mark Smith; *PTI-Nebraska:* Connie Shockley; *Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services(DHHS):* Lynne Brehm, Shirley Pickens-White, Pat Urzedowski; *Nebraska Department of Education (NDE):* Pat Frost, Melody Hobson, Eleanor Kirkland, Carol McClain

Guests: *Nebraska Children and Families Foundation:* Kelly Medwick, Amanda Rucleer, Kathy Stokes and Becky Veak.

**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 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. before the regular ECICC meeting.

**AGENDA:**

**Opening and Announcements:**

i. **Family Story**

Connie Shockley provided the family story during the working lunch portion of the ECICC meeting. She provided information about her position with PTI-Nebraska and the family support program for families of children with disabilities ages birth to three. Connie followed this with a slide show featuring her three children, ages 11-18. She described and contrasted their personalities, and their likes and dislikes, and then told about the family's experiences with the diagnosis of autism for two of the children and the years that followed. She explained that while the two children have a similar diagnosis their learning styles and social interaction skills are quite different and each requires a different approach for teaching and learning. Connie discussed the good educational foundations that her children have received in special education and mainstream classrooms, but she also stressed the need to include time for developing skills for leisure and the work place.

ii. Following lunch, Ruth Miller opened the regular session of the Council and recognized the posting of the Open Meetings Law and asked for additions to the agenda. None were proposed.

Ruth thanked Tammy Mittelstaedt for leading the August 24 meeting at last-minute notice when Ruth was not able to attend.

- iii. Ruth called attention to the "Update" sheet, and the list of re-appointments and new appointments. An orientation for new members will be held prior to the February 2008 meeting.
- iv. Ruth encouraged members to provide Susan Dahm, ECICC secretary, with changes in contact information for the development of the new roster. Ruth also emphasized the need for timely response for lodging reservations due to new procedures with the Marriott.

**v. Approval of Minutes**

*Action:* Motion by Terri Lewis, seconded by Linda Zinke: To approve the ECICC minutes of August 24, 2007, 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.

**vi. Nominations for Steering Committee**

Ruth announced nominations that were submitted for the Steering Committee: Carey Winkler was nominated for the parent position and Mary Phillips for the member-at-large position.

*Action:* Motion by Deb Ross, seconded by Tammy Mittelstaedt: To cease nominations and accept the slate. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote; there were no abstentions.

**vii. Change in May Meeting Date**

The May ECICC meeting will be held at the First St. Paul Lutheran Celebration Center in Hastings, Nebraska on May 2, 2008. Ruth called attention to the change in the meeting date due to scheduling conflicts in Hastings.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Reports from Working Sessions**

**3.1 Family Leadership Team**

Tammy Mittelstaedt and Carey Winkler reported for the Family Leadership Team.

- The Team continues to be concerned about proposed Medicaid Reform issues after receiving a response from Vivian Chaumont, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to their letter sent in July 2007. The Team wants to draft a new letter to Ms. Chaumont, to be copied to the Governor, urging the Medicaid work group to re-examine the issues and base their findings on more substantiated data. The Team will send their draft to Ruth Miller for further action.
- The Team suggested consideration of application for a Hilton Foundation Special Quest State Leadership Team. States selected will develop and implement a state-level cross-agency plan for coordinated early childhood professional development on inclusion for service providers working with young children, ages birth-five, with disabilities and their families.
- The Family Leadership Team called attention to the federal requirement that 20% of the ECICC membership represent parents of children with disabilities and asked for assurance that the new appointments would bring Council membership in line with that requirement.

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

Mary Phillips and Carey Winkler reported for the Gaps and Barriers Committee.

- APR/SPP: The Co-Leads are working on the Annual Performance Report (APR) and State Performance Plan update (SPP) that is due February 1, 2008 to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Members of the GBC were informed about how the Co-Leads will address the several requirements in the two documents:
  - o Child Find (Part C Indicators 5 and 6) and how targets were addressed will include information about the self assessment by Planning Region Teams to analyze numbers and practices for increasing referrals and verifications of children with disabilities ages birth to three.
  - o Child Outcomes will discuss the Results Matter online systems, which are up and running with beginning data on child outcomes in Nebraska available in December. The next phase will be training for administrators on the fidelity process and resources to use assessment properly. Barb Jackson will be also working with publishers in this phase. Nebraska expects to use data from Results Matter to change instructional practices for young children.
  - o Part C Family Survey: Results of a family survey conducted with a sample of families of children with disabilities, ages birth to three, in Omaha and Lincoln Public Schools in the fall of 2007 will be reported in the Part C APR. A full survey of families in Part C will be conducted in the Spring of 2008 to meet the OSEP reporting requirements.
- The Early Childhood Training Center (ECTC) formally became part of the Nebraska Department of Education on September 1, 2007. The ECTC will continue to provide free trainings to Planning Region Teams and will set up trainings with a variety other early childhood groups across the state.
- The Gaps and Barriers Committee heard from Eleanor Kirkland about a transportation task force that has been formed to look at the complexity of transportation issues related to young children and federal and state requirements for schools and early childhood programs. Eleanor asked for a recommendation that members of the ECICC for an ad hoc group to participate in the task force and report back to the ECICC.
- Eleanor Kirkland provided updates on Head Start Reauthorization and briefly reviewed proposed changes. Presidential signature of the reauthorization is expected.

### **3.2 Legislative and Communications Committee (LCC)**

Kathy Anderson reported for the Legislative and Communications Committee.

- ECICC members received a copy of the information piece developed for state legislators, which will be sent to the office and home address of each state legislator and congress person. The LCC is encouraging ECICC members to volunteer to deliver the piece in person and talk to legislators and policy makers about early childhood issues.
- Discussion about legislation focused on Head Start Reauthorization, the Coalition on Human Needs, and related legislation.
- The LCC discussed ways to enhance leadership in schools around early childhood issues as early childhood programs in schools increase. The LCC wants to look at understanding the issues and advocacy needs as well as talk about what administrators need to know.
- Building Bright Futures, Douglas/Sarpy Counties: Connie Shonka called attention to an initiative started by a group of philanthropists in Omaha area to study ways to address the needs of low-income families to encourage success in school, staying in school, and going on to higher education. An early childhood task force was formed with wide representation to define strategies and proposals that are doable and effective. Jessie Rasmussen will head this group, which wants to link into existing programs to enhance and/or expand services in a comprehensive effort to reach families and children. The task force is focusing on areas of health/physical development, socio-emotional, and early learning, and stressing access

to services, quality services, professional development, and parent/community engagement. Other task forces will address issues of truancy, mental health, high school graduation, higher education and after school time.

### **3.3 Financing Task Force**

Ruth Miller reported for the Financing Task Force.

- Kelly Medwick, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, joined the task force discussion to work out details for a press release and new conference to roll out the Child Care Impact Study, which they are planning for after the first of the year.
- The group discussed their dissolving upon the completion of the impact study roll out and whether there were other early childhood finance issues to address that would warrant formation of another ECICC task force in the next meeting year. No decisions were made on this point.

## **4. Positive Behavior Supports**

Eleanor Kirkland and Carol Fichter provided updates and new information about planning and developing programs to support Positive Behavior Supports for young children (PBiS—positive behavior and intervention supports).

- The PBiS task force and leadership team are setting up roles and responsibilities in sub-groups for professional development, infrastructure, and evaluation. They have moved to quarterly meetings with subgroups meeting more frequently. They have additional funding for professional development through an HHS Systems Improvement Grant (SIG). Eleanor invited meeting participants to learn more at <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ECH/PBiS.html>
- Carol informed the group about an application for a grant to be used for training of trainers to implement and support local program training and resources. She also spoke about Nurturing Healthy Behavior grant projects to help build foundations at the local level using the pyramid teaching model.

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

Beaky Veak, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFE), filled in for Marcia Corr, who was ill. The NCFE is managing the Early Childhood Education Endowment (ECEE). Beaky reviewed the ECEE legislation and funding requirements, the formation of the Board of Trustees, and the current development of an RFP (request for proposals) for the first ECEE grants for programs. They are targeting an RFP release date in January 2008. Public meetings will be held in March and April, and applications will be due in May 2008. They are considering three types of grants: quality enhancement grants, service expansion grants, and innovation grants. Beaky responded to questions and comments from meeting participants. The ECEE website is: [www.earlychildhoodendowment.org](http://www.earlychildhoodendowment.org)

## **6. Early Childhood Coalition**

Becky Veak provided information about the Early Childhood Coalition (ECC) that was formed in 2005. Becky and Jen Hernandez from NCFE were charged to build and strengthen the ECC as a voice for early childhood in Nebraska. The group brings recognition of work that others are doing, provides and encourages support of early childhood groups, and lobbies on early childhood issues. The ECC strives not to duplicate work that others are doing. Becky invited ECICC members to participate as individuals. An initial meeting will be held on December 5, 2007, 1:00-3:00 at the NCFE Office, 215 Centennial Mall South, 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. Becky provided details on how to participate by conference phone. The topic of discussion will be how to develop a unified voice for early childhood. The conference call will discuss the role of NCFE, identifying and developing “messengers” in local areas, establishing a training mechanism to deliver a unified message, and identifying issues on the legislative agenda. Interested persons should give Becky an e-mail address

to be put on the mailing list. She invited participants to visit the ECC page on the NCFE website:  
[www.Nebraskachildren.org](http://www.Nebraskachildren.org)

## 7. “Right Place” and “Eat Smart, Great Start”

- Betty Medinger provided a handout about the DHHS program, “Eat Smart, Great Start.” She said that the summary of user feedback has been very positive.
- Betty also provided copies of a DHHS publication, “The Right Place: How to Locate Child Care in Your Area.” This booklet is slated for reprinting and Betty asked members to send her any suggestions for changing or updating. The booklet will be available through the Early Childhood Training Center. Meeting participants briefly made suggestions, which included: distributing to Planning Region Teams and PTI-Nebraska; adding a tab for the Early Development Network describing Child Find; and providing copies to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Nebraska Hospital Association, businesses and child care centers. The group discussion showed excitement for the product and members asked Betty to thank Diane Lewis for her contributions.

## 8. Other

### 8.1 Transportation task force

*Action:* Moved by Carey Winkler, seconded by Deb Ross: To establish a transportation task force as a subgroup of the Gaps and Barriers Committee. Discussion addressed meeting times and format and clarified that the group would report back to the GBC.

- An amendment proposed changing the status of the group to an ad hoc group of the ECICC. The amendment was accepted.
- The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. There were no abstentions.

### 8.2 Recommendation from the Gaps and Barriers Committee regarding the Annual Performance Report.

*Action:* Moved by Tammy Mittelstaedt, seconded by Mary Phillips: To charge Ruth Miller, ECICC chairperson, with the responsibility of signing the Annual Report Certification of the Interagency Coordinating Council under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that accompanies the state’s Annual Performance Report to OSEP. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with no abstentions.

### 8.3 Next ECICC meeting agenda

A report on the transportation ad hoc committee was requested for the February 15, 2008 ECICC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

**Next meeting: Friday, February 15, 2008; Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln;** working sessions beginning at 8:00 a.m., Council meeting time to be announced in the pre-meeting materials.

## MEETING HANDOUTS:

- ✓ Roster Updates, November 16, 2007
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Gaps and Barriers Committee
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Steering Committee
- ✓ ECICC Information for Legislators (“Early Childhood Care and Education is Essential”)
- ✓ Report: Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO), November 2007
- ✓ NAEYC Children’s Champions report, “Head Start Reauthorization Bill Goes to President!”
- ✓ Report–Coalition on Human Needs: “How the Difference Between Congress’ Priorities and the President’s Affect People.”
- ✓ Report: Summary of User Feedback–Eat Smart, Great Start Materials, August 14, 2007
- ✓ Booklet: *The Right Place: How to Locate Child Care in Your Area*