

Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC) August 24, 2012

Working sessions: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Council Meeting: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

The Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster Room 1-2-3; Lincoln, Nebraska

Heather Gill, chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council at 9:00 a.m. on August 24, 2012 at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted at the registration table. Heather noted that her term on ECICC was ending and this would be her last meeting. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as ECICC chairperson and thanked the membership for their voice and perspective and encouraged their continued work focusing on programs and services for all of Nebraska's young children and their families. Heather then called the meeting to order.

Members present: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Annie Bruns, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Carol McClain, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christina Pelton, Shirley Pickens-White, Senator Pete Pirsch, Roger Reikofski, Deborah Ross, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

Members absent: Susan F. Adams, Eric Dunning, Melinda Graham, Heather Krieger, Amy LaPointe, DeAnna Schulze

Also in attendance: ECICC Staff: Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary; *Technical Assistants:* Head Start State-based Training and Technical Assistance–Mary Finney-Afrank; Munroe Meyer Institute–Mark Smith; Nebraska Children and Families Foundation–Beaky Veak; NDHHS–Lynne Brehm, Amy Bunnell, Diane Lewis, Pat Urzedowski; NDE–Joan Luebbers, Jan Thelen

The Family Leadership Team met in a working session beginning at 8:00 a.m. before the opening of the Council meeting.

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Action Items:

Before calling for motions on the action items, Heather thanked the revisions group for their work in updating the ECICC Bylaws and ECICC Operating Procedures. She especially acknowledged Pam Dobrovolny's leadership during the revisions process.

a. Approval of ECICC Bylaws revision

- * Motion, Melody Hobson; seconded, Jane Happe: To accept the 7/16/2012 draft revision of the ECICC Bylaws, which was provided to the membership by e-mail and printed copy prior to the meeting.

There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll call vote: yes–23, no–0, abstain–0.

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Annie Bruns, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christina Pelton, Shirley Pickens-White, Senator Pete Pirsch, Roger Reikofski, Deborah Ross, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

b. Consent agenda/Approval of minutes of May 11, 2012 ECICC meeting

Mike Adams requested that approval of the Operating Procedures revisions be removed from the consent agenda to accommodate a recommendation from the Family Leadership Team. With that request, the only item left on the consent agenda was the minutes of the May 11, 2012 meeting.

- * Motion, Eleanor Kirkland; seconded, Sian Jones-Jobst: To approve the ECICC minutes of May 11, 2012, as submitted and provided to members in the pre-meeting packet.

There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll call vote: yes–23, no–0, abstain–0.

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Annie Bruns, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christina Pelton, Shirley Pickens-White, Senator Pete Pirsch, Roger Reikofski, Deborah Ross, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

c. Approval of ECICC Operating Procedures revision

- * Motion, Jane Happe; seconded, Melody Hobson: To accept the 7/16/2012 draft revision of the ECICC Operating Procedures, which was provided to the membership by e-mail and printed copy prior to the meeting.

During discussion, Mike Adams noted that the composition of the Steering Committee would change with the acceptance of the revised Operating Procedures and proposed a friendly amendment based on a recommendation from the Family Leadership Team:

- * Friendly amendment: That a family technical assistant [i.e., Connie Shockley/Mark Smith] be invited as a regular participant in the meetings of the Steering Committee.

Jane Happe accepted the friendly amendment.

The motion to accept the revisions to the ECICC Operating Procedures with the addition of a family technical assistant to participate in Steering Committee meetings passed by roll call vote: yes–23, no–0, abstain–0.

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Annie Bruns, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christina Pelton, Shirley Pickens-White, Senator Pete Pirsch, Roger Reikofski, Deborah Ross, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

Heather thanked the revisions work group for their work and encouraged the membership to make the Bylaws and Operating Procedures working documents to support the meetings and the work of the Council.

2. Committees meet

With the acceptance of the revisions to the Operating Procedures, the reorganized committee structure and member assignments went into effect for the next portion of the meeting. Meeting participants broke into groups according their assignments, which were based on their ranking of preferences for a specific committee. The focuses of the four new committees are: regulations and standards; needs assessment/early childhood comprehensive services; family engagement; and professional development and workforce. Each committee had an agenda and an assigned leader to direct the work of the committee for the day, which included choosing a committee name and electing a chair/co-chairs.

3. Committee report outs—announcement of chairs/co-chairs, committee names

- a. Name: **Professional Development and Workforce Committee** – Terry Rohren reported.
 - Co-chairs: Dawn Mollenkopf and Susan Strahm
Steering Committee representative: Dawn Mollenkopf
 - Initial focus of the committee:
 - professional shortage areas
 - retention of early care and education professionals (living wage, incentives)
 - the current capacity to provide professional development on infants/toddler, and children with disabilities.
 - Committee focus for the November meeting: Professional shortage areas—What is the data telling us? What do we want to recommend?

- b. Name: Early Childhood Services and Systems Committee** – Cristen Witte reported.
- Co-chairs: Carolyn Thiele and Cristen Witte
Steering Committee representative: Cristen Witte
 - Initial focus of the committee:
 - Create better mechanisms to drive state mechanisms
 - Establish regular methods between local ECICC, Planning Region Teams, and other entities.
 - Facilitate the distribution and sharing of data across the state
 - Committee focus for the November meeting: Early childhood mental health: identify, verify, understanding EC social/emotional, getting kids the services
- c. Name: Family Actions Matter Everyday (FAME)** – Roger Reikofski reported.
- Co-chairs: Annie Bruns, Shirley Pickens-White, Salene Ulrich
Steering Committee representative: Salene Ulrich (with Annie Bruns as backup).
 - Initial focus of the committee:
 - Medicaid–new managed care providers
 - Transportation
 - Quality Child Care
 - Committee focus for the November meeting: Medicaid managed care (Lori Hack)
- d. Name: Regulation and Standards Committee** – Melody Hobson reported.
- Chair: Teri Chasten; Vice-chair: Christy Pelton
Steering Committee representative: Teri Chasten
 - Initial focus of the committee:
 - Communication system to get information to local stakeholders and receive information from local stakeholders
 - Review regulations and standards as they occur and then take to the full Council
 - Time-limited activities; e.g., data system recommendations for the State Advisory Council (SAC) grant, Part C regulations (Rule 52), services coordination regulations, child care regulations
 - Committee focus for the November meeting: draft of Part C Annual Performance Report; Part C regulation changes
- * The committee also recommended that the Council send a letter to NDHHS to finish the process of revising the Child Care Regulations.
- e. Family Leadership Team (FLT)**
Mike Adams reported on the discussion of the Family Leadership Team, which met prior to the opening of the Council meeting. The FLT wants to provide support for parents from the start of their appointment to the Council and wants ECICC to recommit to focus on all children/all families. The FLT discussed how parents might best communicate their concerns in an official manner; how the FLT/ECICC might help toward alleviating some of the additional family stresses experienced with a child with disabilities; and how the FLT/parents might provide input toward changes in Rule 51 and the creation of Rule 52. In addition, the FLT wants to know what the ECICC needs from them. Mike also thanked NDE for again sending ECICC parent representatives to the recent OSEP conference.
- f. Recommendation from the Regulations and Standards Committee**
- * Motion: Eleanor Kirkland; second, Susan Strahm: To write a letter to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) and the Office of the Governor in support of finalizing the revisions to the Child Care Regulations.
- The motion passed by roll call vote: yes–20, no–0, abstain–3.

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Annie Bruns, Pam Dobrovolny, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christina Pelton, Roger Reikofski, Deborah Ross, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte. *Abstaining:* Teri Chasten, Carol McClain, Shirley Pickens-White.

4. Early Childhood Systems Team (ECST)

Becky Veak, co-chair of the ECST, brought a recommendation that the ECST be eliminated as a committee of ECICC. The recommendation came out of a recent retreat of the ECST during which discussions and evaluation revolved around the need to restructure due to changes in current grants and systems. Becky reviewed the initial federal requirement that brought about the formation of the ECST as a state-level team that would be sustainable beyond grant funding and which included members from ECICC. Part of the intended scope of work included writing and responding to federal grant initiatives, for example, Race to the Top. However, in the time since that work, the group has been unable to define vision for the ECST and to get total buy-in from the variety of members that make up the group. In response to questions from ECICC members, Becky noted the difficulties in cross-systems work and assured the Council that systems work was still happening, but individuals were working in smaller and more focused areas. She also noted that the new committee structure of ECICC provides a cross-systems forum for systems issues and that it seemed duplicative in the current ECST structure.

- * Motion, Shirley Pickens-White; second, Melody Hobson: To eliminate the Early Childhood Systems Team as a committee under ECICC.

The motion passed by roll call vote: yes–24, no–0, abstain–0.

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Annie Bruns, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Carol McClain, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christina Pelton, Shirley Pickens-White, Pete Pirsch, Roger Reikofski, Deborah Ross, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

Eleanor Kirkland, co-chair of ECST, thanked all who had participated on the systems team. Heather encouraged Council members to continue to work with Becky and others involved in systems development and systems issues.

5. 2012 Report to the Governor

Terry Rohren distributed a proposal outlining the process for developing recommendations for the 2012 Strategic Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood. Terry reviewed the process and explained that the new ECICC committees would begin discussing and developing their recommendations during the ECICC meeting scheduled for November 16, 2012. Terry will compile a draft of the recommendations by mid-December 2012, and committees will continue to work with Terry to refine their recommendations. Terry will work with state agency representatives on other sections of the report as needed. Council members will receive the draft of a single set of recommendations before the February 15, 2013 meeting, during which Council members will review, discuss and finalize the recommendations. Terry and others will use the input to refine the draft of the report and prepare it for public hearing in April. Final Council approval of the report would be on the agenda of the May 10, 2013 ECICC meeting. The group asked questions and provided additional suggestions for the process. Eleanor Kirkland suggested that the ECICC committees review and evaluate progress on recommendation and strategies from the 2010 Report to the Governor. Terry agreed to put something together for the committees to use in their November meeting discussions.

6. Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Updates

During the working lunch period, Eleanor Kirkland presented information about recent activities in the HSSCO.

a. HSSCO needs assessment

In August 2012 the HSSCO conducted a required needs assessment of Head Start grantees in Nebraska. The first Head Start needs assessment was conducted in 2007-2008; the second needs assessment in 2012 was done in the form of an online survey. Areas covered included health, homeless, welfare, family literacy, disabilities, community services, and education partnerships. Grantees reported on their involvement and the level of difficulties they experienced in the various areas. The sixteen responses were evaluated by an independent contractor. The data from the assessment will go back to the grantees to be used to inform local and regional initiatives. A link to the survey will be added to the ECICC webpage (see Projects and Relationships/HSSCO).

b. Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework

Eleanor presented an online overview of the new *Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework: Promoting Family Engagement and School Readiness from Prenatal to Age 8*. The document is from the federal Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families. It can be viewed at:

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/IMs/2011/pfce-framework.pdf>

Mary Finney-Afrank explained that past emphasis on child outcomes has now been extended to family outcomes. Further information can be found in the technical assistance resource, *Head Start and Early Head Start Relationship-based Competencies for Staff and Supervisors who Work with Families*, which can be viewed at: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/Family%20and%20Community%20Partnerships/Family%20Services/Professional%20Development/ohs-rbc.pdf>

c. Ready for Success

Eleanor called attention to the *Ready for Success* booklet that was included in members' meeting packets. The booklet is information for families about starting school [kindergarten] in Nebraska. The booklet is a product of the school readiness project currently funded by the State Advisory Council (SAC) grant. Copies for distribution may be obtained from Amy Bornemeier, Nebraska Department of Education at: amy.bornemeier@nebraska.gov.

7. Public comment:

- Salene Ulrich invited member's participation in a "Stroll for Rett Syndrome" to be held in Grand Island, Nebraska, on September 22, 2012, from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

8. Meeting Focus: Parent Education/Family Support

a. Home Visitation Update

Lynne Brehm reported on the status of Nebraska's home visiting project funded by the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV), which includes a very rigorous evaluation process for evidence-based home visiting models. Nebraska chose the Healthy Families America evidence-based home visiting model to implement based on a needs assessment completed in 2010. NDHHS is currently in the last step of finalizing the N-MIECHV data system and are preparing a trial bench mark report. Data for the report is being pulled from several different systems. The first set of data will be reported to MIECHV the end of October. More information on evidence based home visiting models and the needs assessment can be viewed at: <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/homevisiting/models.html>, and http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/lifespanhealth_home_visitation_home-visiting-needs-assessment.aspx, respectively.

Lynne also reported that they recently wrote an application for a competitive Development Fund grant and she thanked ECICC for their letter of support. Grant awards will be made the end of September.

b. Zero to Three State policy action team report

Lynne Brehm reported that a diverse state policy action team of home visiting stakeholders submitted an application to participate in a meeting designed around home visiting as service delivery in an early childhood systems. Out of twenty-five applications, Nebraska was chosen as one of seven teams to participate in the meeting. Lynne participated in conference calls to plan the meeting and accompanied the small Nebraska team to the meeting in Chicago in June. The meeting explored ways to work together across different services, collecting data, leveraging funding, and linking home visiting with child care. Nebraska participants presented on “Building a Professional Development System for Home Visiting Staff,” and “Leveraging Existing Funding Sources to Support a Strong Home Visiting System.” The Nebraska team came away with a draft of an early childhood framework that could serve as a strategic state plan. Lynne distributed a draft copy of the framework. Lynne would like people to review it and provide feedback about what works and doesn’t work. Lynne also plans to convene a group of home visiting stakeholders from Part C to work on continuum of home visiting services, coordination of data, and intake models.

c. ACCESS Nebraska

Jill Schreck, NDHHS Children and Family Services administrator, presented information on ACCESS Nebraska, customer service centers that provide information and assistance on services and programs for Nebraska residents. The call centers we formed about USDA encouraged states to modernize their programs. Nebraska has four centers operating in Lincoln, Scottsbluff, Fremont, and Lexington. There are over 600 community partners across the state. The centers are staffed with local community support specialists who work with the community partners and provide call-in and face-to-face contact with individuals. The system was built on an existing computer system and no longer uses paper files, although two scanning centers in Lincoln and Omaha produce documents for clients. Jill responded to questions and gave more information about how ACCESS Nebraska is dealing with inconsistencies and problems in response time. Jill asked that problems be reported to her: jill.schreck@nebraska.gov. ACCESS Nebraska is online at: <http://www.accessnebraska.ne.gov/>

d. Parent to Parent Peer Support

Marge Kaiser, UNMC College of Nursing, spoke to the Council about the Parent to Parent Peer Support survey that is part of an evaluation study to gather information about peer to peer support among parents in Nebraska. The program aims to inform early childhood advocates and stakeholders about the benefit, which “matches” a parent who have received training with parents needing support. She explained there was limited empirical evidence of effectiveness due to inconsistencies among programs, yet there was encouraging anecdotal information from the support programs. The College of Nursing worked with Together for Kids and Families (Lynne Brehm) and the Munroe-Meyers Institute (Mark Smith) to choose a survey, which was distributed by thirteen agencies, electronically and in paper form in both English and Spanish. The survey resulted in a sample of 180 respondents, primarily white, female, and married, although there were differences in age, education and relationship to the child in the Spanish-speaking respondents. Fifty-seven percent said they were interested in participating in a peer-to-peer program, but few were aware of programs. A final report from the survey will be posted.

e. Nebraska Resource and Referral System & The Right Place

Charlie Lewis, project director for Answers4Families (University Nebraska-Lincoln), provided an overview of <http://www.answers4families.org>, a comprehensive data base for all areas of family services—from child care to services for the elderly. The database is an outgrowth of the

Nebraska Resource and Referral System (NRRS). Charlie demonstrated aspects of The Right Place, which provides current information about child care programs across the state. The information is continually updated with information from NDHHS child care licensing and can be searched by zip code or city and allows comparison of program information. Charlie answered questions from meeting participants and called attention to the new “Staying on Track” mobile app from the Early Development Network (EDN) that allows users to download developmental milestones for infants and toddlers to a phone. She also informed the group that Answers4Families is building a respite network providers “button” on the site.

- f. **Child Care Resource and Referral Line at the Early Childhood Training Center (ECTC)**
Dena Johnson, NDE Office of Early Childhood/ECTC, presented information about her role with ECTC’s Resource and Referral Line in assisting parents to identify child care options and coaching them on questions and things to do to help make decisions about what child care is best for them. Dena demonstrated the child care licensing roster online from NDHHS and talked about programs that accept child care subsidy and whether a program is accredited. She showed other materials that she distributes by e-mail or mail and passed around information bookmarks that may be ordered for distribution. Knowledge about the Resource and Referral line is from word of mouth with services coordinators, schools, etc. More information is at:
http://www.education.ne.gov/oec/cc_resource_and_referral.html

9. Family Story

Due to time constraints, the Council accepted Dawn Mollenkopf’s suggestion that her presentation be postponed until the November 16 meeting.

10. Identify possible agenda items for November 16, 2012 meeting

The meeting focus will be Mental Health/Social Emotional. Topics identified included integrated competencies, child welfare, and mental health consultation services.

The meeting closed with a thank you to members whose terms are ending: Deb Ross, Cheryl Hammond, and Heather Gill. Terry Rohren presented a gift to Heather and thanked her for her service as ECICC chairperson. Terry and Heather also thanked Susan Dahm, who is retiring, for her service as ECICC secretary.

With no other items to be discussed, the Council adjourned.

Next meeting: **November 16, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- ✓ ECICC Updates, August 24, 2012
- ✓ Proposed process for developing recommendations for the 2012 Strategic Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood
- ✓ Executive Summary of the ECICC 2010 Strategic Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood
- ✓ Booklet: *Ready for Success: What Families Want to Know about Starting School in Nebraska*
- ✓ PowerPoint presentation slides: Parent to Parent Peer Support in Nebraska
- ✓ Zero to Three state policy action team: Draft of early childhood framework for Nebraska
- ✓ ECTC bookmark–information about the Child Care Resource & Referral Line
- ✓ Working Draft Rule 51: Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs
<http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/index/rule51draft.pdf>
- ✓ Working Draft Rule 52: Regulations and Standards for Early Intervention Services
<http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/index/rule52draft.pdf>
- ✓ 2010-2011 Early Childhood Education State Report
http://www.education.ne.gov/OEC/pubs/eceg_reports/2010-2011.pdf