

**Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council  
November 15, 2013  
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel  
Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Council Members Present:** Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Terri Chasten, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Emily Kluver, Carol McClain, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Kathleen Zadina

**Council Members Absent:** Sue Adams, Eric Dunning, Melinda Graham, Amy LaPointe, Cathy Mohnike

**Also in attendance:** *ECICC Staff:* Terry Rohren, facilitator, Holly Johnson, secretary; *Technical Assistants:* NDE-Pat Frost, Jan Thelen; DHHS-Diane Lewis, Pat Urzedowski, Tiffany Mullison; ICFI-Mary Finney-Afrank; PTI Nebraska-Connie Shockley; UNMC-Munroe-Meyer-Mark Smith; First Five Nebraska-Becky Veak; NCFE-Lynne Brehm

**i. Committee Meetings**

The Family Leadership Team met in a working session beginning at 8:30 A.M. All other committees met in working sessions from 9:30 AM-10:45 AM before opening the Council meeting. The Full Council meeting convened at 11:00 AM.

**Welcome**

Pam Dobrovolny, chairperson of the ECICC, convened the meeting at 11:00 AM. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available at the front table. Pam welcomed everyone and had all Council members, technical assistants and Council staff introduce themselves.

**A. Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2013 Meeting**

The minutes of the August 23, 2013 meeting had been provided to Council members prior to the meeting. Pam asked for a motion from the Council to accept the minutes of the August 23, 2013 meeting. Christy Pelton made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. J.P. Holys provided the second to the motion.

There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll call vote: 19 voted yes, 0-voted no, 5-abstained.

*Voting Yes:* Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Terri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Carol McClain, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte,

*Abstain:* Jennie Cole-Mossman, Emily Kluver, Dawn Murphy, Tammy Stevenson, Kathleen Zadina

### **B. Approval Recommendations from Ad Hoc Committee regarding changes to 2014 Report to the Governor**

Mike Adams provided a brief overview of the new format explaining the report would be more concise. The timeline for the report would be moved up. The data would be placed towards the back of the report and referenced when necessary. Melody Hobson stated the data should be current and most data should be 6 months in arrears. The first year may be only half data but all following years will be okay. Becky Veak offered First Five Nebraska to help message the report to legislators. Becky voiced that if the purpose is to give advice, that it needs to be messaged slightly different. Julie Rother asks to clarify what the recommendations will do for the report. Mike Adams explains that the committee would like feedback of the recommendations so that they may begin producing a better report. Melody Hobson states that the source materials may be hyperlinked instead of in the report or in appendixes. Carol McClain warns to be careful not to use the report for too many purposes. She also mentions we need to be careful not to make it too brief or too concise that it has no meaning

Pam asked for a motion from the Council to approve the Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee regarding changes to the 2014 Report to the Governor. Carol McClain made the motion to approve the recommendations as presented. Sian Jones-Jobst provided the second to the motion.

Mike Adams asked if the previous report could be put in a format to see what it would look like. Becky Veak may not be able to do the whole thing, possibly just the Executive Report. Mark Smith commented that we need to make the report more digestible for senators and governors.

The motion passed by roll call vote: 24-voted yes, 0-voted no, 0-abstained.

*Voting Yes:* Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Terri Chasten, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Emily Kluver, Carol McClain, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Kathleen Zadina

### **C. Approval of 2015 Meeting Dates**

The meeting dates for 2015 had been provided to Council members prior to the meeting. Pam asked for a motion from the Council to approve the dates. Mike Adams made the motion to approve the meeting dates as presented. Barb Esch provided the second to the motion.

There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll call vote: 24-voted yes, 0-voted no, 0-abstained.

*Voting Yes:* Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Terri Chasten, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Emily Kluver, Carol McClain, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Kathleen Zadina

## **ii. Committee Report Outs**

### **Family Leadership Team**

Mike Adams reported for the Family Leadership Team. The team discussed the five domains, social emotional, communication, adaptive skills, physical and cognitive, and that a child could be verified with two minor delays or one major delay among the domains. The team continues to discuss the PRT's and getting more involvement, such as participation and attendance. They also briefly discussed Rule 52 but waiting for the final.

### **Family Actions Matters Everyday (FAME)**

Salene Ulrich reported for the Family Action Matters Everyday committee. The committee recruited new council member Tammi Stevenson. They discussed how to get parents involved in PRT's. The committee is trying to create an orientation for new parents at PRT. They are also discussing way to get parents involved in ChildFind activities. They discussed getting parents information more efficiently by PRT setting up a Facebook page. "The Right Place" booklet should be coming out. It is a booklet about what to look for when you're going to look at childcare facilities. Revisions are being made to the booklet and hope to have a final at the February meeting. FAME recommends to the Steering Committee to have a representative from AMR to talk about transportation in February. They also would like to follow up with the August panelists to see where things stand.

### **Early Childhood Services and Systems**

Julie Rother reported for the Early Childhood Services and Systems committee. The committee reported there is a new bill in the Senate "Strong Start for America's Children". They discussed how the new liability insurance requirement in child care licensing is making it more difficult for child care to offer transportation. The committee will continue to support and promote the Answer for Families website. They will also Skype with Washington State to understand how they make families more aware of resources. The new goals for the committee are to: 1. Create better mechanisms to drive state systems; 2. Promote and strengthen communication between ECICC, PRTs and other entities; 3. Facilitate the distribution and sharing of data across the state. The committee recommends development of a toolkit that can be used by any early childhood stakeholder to educate potential community partners about what "quality" early care and education means and what early childhood funding opportunities are available.

### **Professional Development and Workforce Committee**

Dawn Mollenkopf reported for the Professional Development and Workforce committee. The committee continues to work on the shortages survey. Holly Johnson will be working with Carol McClain to reach more of the planning region team coordinators for more results. The committee will begin pulling data regarding endorsements and mapping the colleges accordingly. The next step is to look at community colleges' degrees, certificates and diplomas in early care and education and look for trends.

### **Regulations and Standards Committee**

Teri Chasten reported for the Regulations and Standards committee. After reviewing the Annual Performance Report and the State Performance Plan, the committee recommends the Council approve the report and authorize Pam Dobrovolny to sign the report on behalf of the Council. The committee also discussed the draft of Rule 52. The Rule will go to public hearing December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The committee also recommends having a small group to review prior to the public hearing. Melody Hobson also gave an update on Rule 11, stating the draft is being finished and the Department will then conduct input sessions across the state. The committee will review this more in February.

#### **D. Approval of State Performance Plan and the Annual Performance Report**

The State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report had been provided to Council members. Pam asked for a motion from the Council to approve the SPP and APR. Teri Chasten made the motion to approve the SPP and APR as presented. J.P. Holys provided the second to the motion.

Eleanor Kirkland inquired if indicator number three was using GOLD data. It was noted that the data used was from GOLD. A committee was formed with volunteers: Christy Pelton, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Cristen Witte, Connie Shockley, Pam Dobrovolny and Terry Rohren.

The motion passed by roll call vote: 24-voted yes, 0-voted no, 0-abstained.

*Voting Yes:* Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Terri Chasten, Jennie Cole-Mossman, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Emily Kluver, Carol McClain, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Tammy Stevenson, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Kathleen Zadina

Pam Dobrovolny asked if the later times for the committees worked well for everyone. There did not seem to be any negative comments about it, so the committees will meet at 9:30 a.m. moving forward. Pam announced that the ECICC meeting in May will be Falls City, area of J.P. Holys, who will be helping and providing the Council with information about programs in the area.

### **Working Lunch**

Sue Bainter and Christine Schmid gave an update on routines-based interview book camp.

## **Public Comment**

Tiffany Mullison offered a “Save the Date” flyer to the Council for Together for Kids and Families.

### **iii. Buffett Early Childhood Institute**

Sam Meisels presented to the Council information regarding the Buffett Early Childhood Institute (BECI). Renee Wessels was present with him. Sam has been with BECI for about 5 months. The concept of BECI has been moving along for a few years. No other University has made Early Childhood a top priority except the University of Nebraska. The University of Nebraska Institutions are all on board to make Early Childhood the best place for young children in the country to grow up. Dr. Meisels wants to eliminate the achievement gap and engage the communities and school districts in early childhood care and education. Two initiatives BECI will be doing are “Nebraska Achievement Gap Challenge” and “Workforce Development”. Dr. Meisels handed out a strategic plan and reviewed the information. He also answered some questions of the council members and technical assistants. Dr. Meisel’s vision of bringing everything together is to start in the communities. He explains that BECI is an endowed part of the university that should last far after us. The topic of parent representation was brought up, in which Dr. Meisels explained that BECI does not have any at this time. BECI offices will be at the Community Engagement Center on the UNO campus. There will also be office space at UNL. Dr. Meisel’s ended his presentation by reminding the Council that BECI is not a direct service or research institution. BECI is interested in the outcomes of previous research and how the research can be used to make Early Childhood better for Nebraska children.

### **iv. Answers 4 Families Website Update**

Charlie Lewis presented information regarding the Answers 4 Families website. They are changing things and will be more of a guide for users. The website will have a different look. The site includes information, discussion and resources readily available. They are working with the Nebraska Respite Network to offer information about caregivers. The website also houses Medicaid Providers Rating & Review System (PRRS). Charlie also informed the council to visit ECCLink.org (Nebraska Early Childhood Community Link) which is the search engine for projects, programs and resources.

### **v. Update on Child Care Licensees and Liability Insurance**

Pat Urzedowski spoke to the council about LB 105. It requires, on July 1, 2014, anyone who applies for a child care license to show proof of liability insurance with a minimum of \$100,000. On July 31, 2014, all other existing programs must have liability insurance as well.

### **vi. Personnel Changes at NDE – Office of Early Childhood**

Melody Hobson updated the council regarding some personnel changes at the Department of Education - Office of Early Childhood. Eleanor Kirkland has accepted the position as the Step Up to Quality Director. In the next one to two months, NDE will hire an Office Associate and

two additional Program Specialists to work with Step Up to Quality. The Head Start State Collaboration Office Director position is now open as well.

### **Agenda Items for February 2014 Meeting**

- Have representative from AMR.
- Update from Medicaid – Affordable Care Act
- Further discussion and possible action after committee report out on tool kit that EC Services and Systems Committee will bring to full council.
- Co-Leads time to present application for IDEA – Part C---I thought the application was due February 1, 2014. So do we need this on the agenda? Do you want me to check with Carol McClain?

The meeting of the ECICC adjourned at 3:30 PM.

#### *Handouts:*

November 15, 2013 ECICC Meeting Agenda

Overview of the November 15, 2013 ECICC Meeting Agenda

2013 – 2014 ECICC Membership Roster

November 2013 Membership for ECICC Committees

Minutes of the October 7, 2013 ECICC Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes of the August 23, 2013 ECICC Meeting

Overview of Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee for the 2014 Report to the Governor

2015 Proposed ECICC Meeting Dates

Overview of Part C Annual Performance Report FFY 2012

Overview of Buffett Early Childhood Institute (BECI) (provided by Dr. Sam Meisels)

Liability Insurance Requirements/Certificate of Liability (provided by Pat Urzedowski)