

## **Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council May 1, 2015 Mid Plains Community College, McCook, Nebraska**

**Council Members Present:** Mike Adams, Laura Arp, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, Joan Luebbers, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy (via Adobe Connect), Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Salene Ulrich

**Council Members Absent:** Sue Adams, Jennie Cole-Mossman, J.P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Emily Kluver, Stephanie Knust, Julie Mizner, Cathy Mohnike, Tammy Stevenson, Nicole Vint, Kathy Zadina

**Also in attendance:** *Council Staff:* Holly Johnson; *Technical Assistants:* Connie Shockley, Cole Johnson, Eleanor Shirley; *Facilitators:* David Hubbard, Casey Karges; *Visitors:* DeAnn Reed, Aetna Better Health of Nebraska

### **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 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 guests introduce themselves.

Melody Hobson explained to the Council the role that David Hubbard and Casey Karges, from The Mediation Center, will be playing on ECICC. They will be acting as Facilitator for the Council as Terry Rohren was.

#### **A. Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2015 Meeting**

The minutes of the February 13, 2015 meeting have been provided to Council members. Pam asked for a motion from the Council to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2015 meeting as presented. Lois Butler moved to approve the minutes and Julie Rother seconded.

There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll call vote: 14-voted yes, 0-voted no, 1-abstained.

*Voting Yes:* Mike Adams, Laura Arp, Carol Benson, Amy Bunnell, Lois Butler, Pam Dobrovolny, Barb Esch, Melody Hobson, Joan Luebbers, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy (via Adobe Connect), Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Salene Ulrich

*Voting Abstain:* Susan Strahm

## **ii Committee Report Outs**

Each committee was asked the following:

1. What role do you see or need TA to be on your committee?
2. What further guidance do you need from the Steering Committee?

### **Family Leadership Team**

Salene Ulrich reported for the Family Leadership Team. The committee was grateful to have David and Casey sit in during their meeting. The committee is focused on getting a new parent rep for the Council. They would prefer a parent from a different region of what is already represented on the council and would also be helpful if they were a minority or a foster parent. They also discussed the 100 Days Brochure possibly being included into the Blue Folders that PTI gives out each June. Their primary work right now will be providing tips and websites to offer. The Co-Leads will be consulted for review and approval prior to any materials being finalized and distributed such as the 100 Days Brochure.

### **Regulation and Standards**

Christy Pelton reported for the Regulations and Standards Committee. They did not have a lot of regulation and standard information to discuss. They did discuss the gaps in rural Nebraska for child care centers and ways to encourage providers to become licensed.

The committee believes TA needs to bring forward current events and information that needs to be handled. Their committee suggests TA bring this information to the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee digests this information and makes the agenda for council meetings and committee meetings. This way, the Steering Committee is being the filter and can provide the full council with more information before the meeting and members can research and review before the meetings.

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

Julie Rother reported for the Early Childhood Services and Systems Committee. Their committee discussed the questions provided to them. They would like to know what their role as a subcommittee is and what they can and cannot do. They would also like guidance on what their committee can do to keep the Governor's Report alive and moving. They discussed the letter to the Governor briefly. They also noted that you don't know what you don't know. You have to know what's out there to go and find it. This is the reason they are pushing for a central clearing

house to find out what is even out there. The committee encourages this to be a top talking point when members meet with the Governor. They would also like to research what other states are doing and possibly follow up with another letter.

### **Professional Development and Workforce**

Dawn Mollenkopf reported for the Professional Development and Workforce Committee. They discussed that they have 2 TAs on their committee that are very helpful from the higher education and parent perspective. Their roles on the committee are working well for what is needed. The committee also discussed gaps and barriers of professional development. They are making a focus of looking at two and four year higher education and find out what they are doing. The committee wants to build connections with Buffett Early Childhood Institute (BECI) on their workforce project. Their data results should be completed by August, so the committee would like to invite Susan Sarver to speak at the professional development and workforce subcommittee. Dawn has already presented the committee's survey results to BECI. The committee would like to ask BECI if they would be willing to help support regional forums about professional development. Melody Hobson asked what the committee would be specifically wanting from BECI. Dawn stated that the committee does not want to reinvent the wheel and BECI may have a better dialog between all these different groups.

### **Family Actions Matter Everyday**

Connie Shockley reported for the Family Actions Matter Everyday Committee. They reviewed the information provided about what the focus of their committee originally was in 2012 and what their goals are. DeAnn Reed, visitor from Aetna Better Health of Nebraska, sat in on their meeting and spoke to them a little about Medicaid. They also discussed their committee's TA support. They use their TA support for education on programs, relevant issues, making connections between programs, and providing information on upcoming opportunities. FAME would request the Steering Committee to review and reevaluate the committees. FAME has lost a lot of members and it would be helpful to have committee assignments more spread out.

### **Orientation**

Melody Hobson explained that the plan at each meeting will be to provide a short orientation type presentation. She explained that new members used to go through an orientation when appointed, however, it appears that this information to all members quarterly may be very useful. ECICC is a difficult Council to jump into and only meets four times a year. Presenting this information will hopefully help the full Council learn more about their duties, council bylaws, and operating procedures.

Amy Bunnell and Melody Hobson presented a PowerPoint regarding the legislative authority of the council. They reviewed the different areas that provide the Council with authority to advise certain entities. They explain the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of

2004, the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council Act, and the Early Intervention Act – Infants with Disabilities.

Julie Rother commented that the presentation was very helpful but still has a lot of questions. Many of the Council members agreed that talking about different information regarding the Council at each meeting will be very helpful.

Eleanor Shirley offered some historical information about ECICC and how the mission was to reduce the number of separate commissions and task forces and be able to collaborate better.

Bylaws and policies will be discussed at the August meeting.

### **Working Lunch**

The council listened to a family story provided by Justin and Kaylynn Harris over their lunch.

### **Local Providers Panel**

1. What has been your greatest accomplishment in providing early childhood services in the past year?
  - There is a very strong belief of the importance of Early Childhood Education in the Community. Sometimes there are new providers that throw everyone for a loop but a core group involved for a long period keeps everyone focused.
  - We are involved with the youngest ones right away from the hospital and being the resource for the parents and having great relationships with families in the area.
  - Being able to provide more services to children and families at Head Start to better their lives.
  - With the help of superintendents in the area, increased the bill for SPED services in the area.
  - Getting to know and being able to work with para-educators in the area.
2. What has been the greatest challenge you have faced in trying to provide early childhood services in the past year?
  - Home visiting. Educating parents about what the medical model and the educational model are. Parents expect the medical model but don't expect or know about the educational model.
  - Occasionally, after we've worked so hard for the first five years, kids get to kindergarten and it's a whole different world and the door seems to be slammed on developmentally appropriate practices instead of continuing until age 8.
  - In daycare centers, there is high turnover which makes relationships hard to build. It's also difficult to hire individuals that are aware of developmentally appropriate practices.
  - The district spent a lot of money on getting trained for Circle of Security, which is a great program. However, it's become challenging to get parent participants and to advertise for upcoming classes. If there aren't any parents coming to these events, it's hard to invest more money into these trainings that are valuable.

- Services for families. There is not a pediatrician or pediatric dentist in the area and families must travel to North Platte or Kearney. Some Head Start families cannot afford to make that trip.
3. What one or two policy or system changes at the state level could improve your ability to deliver services to children from birth through age eight?
    - New teachers are not aware of how we provide services in the primary service provider model. Having classes or training available to new hires to help them understand the process would help a lot.
    - There is a lot of focus on the medical end in school. Sometimes students end up in the education field and it's very different from the medical field.
    - Have a health complex in the area would be very helpful to provide services.
    - Need to better support for families.
    - Increasing access to RBI training and possibly more trainers.
  4. What one or two gaps and/or barriers do you experience in trying to serve children from birth through age eight?
    - There isn't enough communication between the District and Head Start. We need to be better at sharing information.
    - Relationship building.
    - Not a lot of Early Childhood behavioral support.
    - Mental health services located closer. Families have to drive so far away. We have tried to build relationships to get these providers closer.
    - Finding qualified personnel to fill positions. Everyone is spread very thin currently. For speech folks, our schools have to compete with hospitals and rehabs. Schools cannot pay as much so the higher qualified individuals go elsewhere.
  5. Have you tried to resolve the gap or barrier at the local level?
    - ESU 15 offers graduate school reimbursement.
    - Started up McCook Autism Team which has opened the door for behavioral support.
    - Head Start and ESU are on the same page.
  6. What is the one thing you would like the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council to know about the work you do in early childhood?
    - Working with Early Childhood Education is the best part of my week.
    - Find their needs early on and address them so they may not have to be on IEP for the rest of their lives. Getting into the families early enough to support and help bridge the gap.
    - Deal more with parenting issues. Help parents learn how to be a parent so the specialist can focus more on the child.
    - Help families.
    - We do the best with the resources we have. The better support in early childhood, the better ready they will be as a school aged student.

## **Head Start Annual Report & Updated on Head Start Child Care Partnerships**

Joan Luebbbers and Lois Butler presented about Head Start. They directed members to the Head Start Annual Report found in the member's packets.

They updated the council that there are 3 new EHS partnership grants.

### **Sixpence – New Funding**

Amy Bornemeier and Jen Goettemoeller presented to the Council over Adobe Connect, they were in Lincoln. Amy updated the Council about the RFP for Sixpence applications. There are 19 communities interested in applying, 7 of them would be applying as new grantees.

Jen updated the Council about LB 547. The bill has advanced and the biggest hurdle now is that time is running out in the session.

### **Step Up to Quality Updates**

Eleanor Shirley will have Holly Johnson send out her PowerPoint as it was very late in the day. She asked everyone to spread the word about Step Up and to like and share the Facebook page.

### **Items for next meeting – Medical & Dental Health**

- Satellite officing in rural areas, tips & experiences
- Dr. Craft
- Someone from Children's Hospital that could talk about a way they could offer services to people
- Telehealth
- Systems of care
- UNMC

Thanks was given to Barb Esch for being a wonderful host in McCook.

The meeting of the ECICC adjourned at 3:00 PM

#### *Handouts:*

Meeting Agenda

February 13, 2015 Meeting minutes

March 23, 2015 Steering call minutes

Head Start Annual Report

LB547 Overview

Step Up to Quality overview

Step Up to Quality brochure

Overview of Laws, Statutes & Regulations supporting work of ECICC