

**Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)
February 10, 2006 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
The Cornhusker Hotel, Yankee Hill Room
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Denise Wright, chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council on February 10, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. Meeting participants made self introductions.

Members present: Sue Adams, Mary Afrank, Kathy Anderson, Kim Chase, Marcia Corr, Eric Dunning, Mary Fran Flood, Sally Hansen, Mary Jo Iwan, Barbara Jackson, LeaAnn Johnson, Susan Kringle, Terri Lewis, Kim Madsen, Paul Matson, Betty Medinger, Ruth Miller, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Mary Phillips, Mary Alice "Mike" Queen, Barbara Schliesser, Connie Shonka, Joyce Thomas, Carey Winkler, Carrie Witte, Denise Wright, Linda Zinke.

Members absent: Michelle Bartlett, Christine Carr, Kris Elmshaeuser, Sali Gale, Kathy Halverson-Rigatuso, Marjorie Kostelnik, Sue Obermiller, Cindy Prater, Todd Reckling, Roger Reikofski, DiAnna Schimek, Patti Waltman, Derek Weimer.

Also in attendance:

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

Technical assistants: Rae Anderson, *National Child Care Information Center*; Nina Baker, *PTI-Nebraska*; Mark Smith, *Monroe-Meyer Institute*; *Administration for Children and Families:* Betty Lammler; *HHSS:* Lynne Brehm, Paula Eurek, Micaela Swigle; *NDE:* Pat Frost, Melody Hobson, Eleanor Kirkland, Tracie Klosterman.

Guests: *St. Monica's:* Kathy Pruitt, Leah Winget, Kylee Stuart; *Administration for Children and Families:* Mary McKee; *Early Childhood Training Center:* Carol Fichter; *HHSS:* Diane Lewis, Shirley Pickens-White (for Todd Reckling), Jamie Hobson and Sheritha Smittick (interns); Dave Sshinzel, for Senator Gwen Howard; Martha Gadberry, facilitator-GBC.

AGENDA:

The Family Leadership Team met at 8:30 a.m. before the opening of the regular ECICC meeting.

I. Opening and Announcements:

i. Approval of minutes

Motion, seconded: To approve the ECICC minutes of December 9, 2005, 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 was one abstention.

ii. Actions since the last meeting

Terry Rohren reviewed actions that had taken place since the last ECICC meeting on December 9, 2006.

iii. Change in meeting start time

Terry Rohren asked for a show of hands by members to indicate their preference for the start time of regular meetings—9:00 a.m. vs. 9:30 a.m. The members were about equally split in their preferences. It was agreed that the Steering Committee would make the decision after discussing the issue.

II. Family Story

The family story was presented by a resident of St. Monica's. The young woman gave a brief history of her "average" life growing up in Nebraska and her downward cycle into addiction, which began when she was 15. She discussed her addiction to methamphetamine, how she was able to stop her drug use during her pregnancy and nursing of her daughter in 2002, and her relapse when she returned to work. She described her struggle with continuing addiction and told how it affected her relationships with her extended family and with her child and how after continued relapses and intervention by Child Protective Services, she entered St. Monica's residential program in April of 2005. In the long-term residential program she is receiving counseling and support to learn strategies for coping with day-to-day living, learning trust, and developing parenting skills in a structure, consistent environment. She described the personal enjoyment of building a trusting relationship with her young daughter and shared her plans to become recertified as a nursing assistant. She will leave St. Monica's in March of 2006. The young mother credited St. Monica's for their role in her recovery effort and expressed how the long-term program was an essential element in addressing her addiction. She also noted the continuing support she is receiving from her family and her church.

Meeting participants asked questions and discussed opportunities to educate others about addiction.

III. Legislative Updates

- Kim Chase referred meeting participants to a handout prepared by the Legislative and Communications Committee. The handout listed the status of carry over and new legislative bills related to early childhood and identified priority bills picked by the ECICC and BillWatch. It also provided information on hearings and actions. Kim called attention to several individual bills and made comments about them. She reminded Council members that they may voice support of bills as individual citizens.

Kim Madsen thanked the committee for their work.

- Carey Winkler called attention to day-to-day family issues that are often affected by government actions. She told about how a local family was denied services for a child with disabilities because of a change in the health insurance carrier for employees of the City of Lincoln. The new carrier neglected to cover disability services related to "mental retardation" and Carey expressed concern that this could lead to the refusal of medical care for these children. Members provided suggestions for addressing the issue. Denise Wright reminded the Council that we need to know how legislation affects families and children.

IV. Committees/Working Groups

Members and technical assistants met from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in three breakout groups: the Gaps and Barriers Committee, the Legislative and Communications Committee, and the Financing Task Force.

V. Working Lunch

During the lunch hour, Kathy Pruitt presented information about St. Monica's family residential program for women with addiction and their children. She told how having an addicted parent affects the children and how the St. Monica's program works to re-build the relationships between mothers and their children. Following her presentation she answered questions from the group.

VI. Public Comment

- Denise Wright passed out information and briefly described Scottsbluff's "Building BRIDGES to Healthy Mothers, Babies and Families" program, which addresses alcohol, tobacco and other drug use during pregnancy.

- Rae Anderson provided technical assistance handouts about after school child care programs, after school investment projects, and a bulletin about child care resources.

VII. Report Outs from Working Groups

- **Family Leadership Team**

Tammy Mittelstaedt reported that the Family Leadership Team was exploring strategies for reaching out to families in the Planning Region Teams (PRT) to encourage more active involvement and representation at PRT meetings. The group is also providing information and promoting involvement in Bill Watch.

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

Carey Winkler, GBC co-chair, reviewed the topics that were discussed in the GBC meeting. These included:

- Rule 11: Linda Meyers, NDE, reviewed recent revisions to Rule 11 and offered clarifications on several points of revision.
- Micaela Swigle provided information about implementation activities and issues related to CAPTA.
- Barb Schliesser and Barb Jackson updated the group on the progress of Results Matter—outcomes for children and families, and the plans for the first phase of implementation.
- Carol Fichter informed the GBC about the status of pilot programs and the plans for training in Positive Behavioral Supports at Mahoney State Park in March. GBC members, Carey Winkler, Mary A Frank, and Mark Smith, will assist with the development of the training plans.
- Eleanor Kirkland discussed current issues with funding for Head Start and Even Start programs. She also discussed transportation issues as they relate to the programs.

- **Financing Task Force**

Ruth Miller reported on the progress toward implementing the economic impact study. She noted that the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Health and Human Services System (HHSS) have each pledged \$5,000 to support the study. Jessie Rasmussen is seeking additional private funding toward support of the study. Jessie and Eric Thompson, who will conduct the study, will report on progress at the ECICC meeting in May. Ruth noted that ECICC technical assistant, Rae Anderson, will provide a connection to the Kansas study. More information also will be coming from updates and reports from members attending national meetings.

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

The LCC reviewed updates to the legislative bills they had chosen to watch. They discussed whether to request a spring meeting with the Governor, but agreed to wait until after the Legislative session and the primary.

The group discussed plans for the ECICC report to the Governor, due December, 2006. Terry Rohren had received advice from Senator DiAnna Schimek about how to best do that report. Senator Schimek suggested that distributing copies of the report at a breakfast meeting with legislators would be an effective way to call their attention to the report's content.

VIII. Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS)

- Barb Schliesser informed the Council about training that is being planned to develop an infrastructure in PBS for birth to age 5. The program is currently being used in elementary schools in Lincoln and Omaha. The training will link with what is going on in these schools and eventually will spread to other parts of the state. Some groups, such as the Central Nebraska

Community Services Head Start program is already using PBS. The goal is to create additional teams to take on the program, which requires an on-going commitment. Barb also noted that groups working with the lower autism spectrum disorders would find these trainings helpful.

- Carol Fichter talked about the process and the expectations for the PBS teams, which must include an administrator, an early childhood teacher, and a behavior specialist, plus liaisons from the school to the PBS team to support continuity. The goal of the first phase of training is to build leadership capacity to mentor and coach team members and to begin to build an infrastructure to support a consistent approach for PBS. Carol emphasized that the commitment is for a 2-3 year process with regular active involvement. National trainers, Drs. Hemeter and Fox, will conduct the PBS training scheduled in March. Martha Nash, ECTC, is heading the project. Carol invited involvement from ECICC members.

IX. Quality Incentive Payments for License Exempt Quality Enhancement Grants

- Betty Medinger provided information about initiatives through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) to provide incentive payments for license exempt providers to raise the quality of child care by supporting immediate and urgent needs to improve the quality of the program/curriculum of child care. Betty described the strategies to provide information and connections to resources and about the paid incentives to participate in specific trainings. She also gave figures on the number of children impacted by these trainings.
- Diane Lewis, HHSS, explained the amount and method of awarding the incentives for child care providers. Information about the grants is distributed through homes and centers serving low-income families. Applications are accepted monthly. She described other strategies for disseminating information about the grants and briefly described the application process and how the grants may be used.
- Information about the program was distributed to the Council. Betty and Diane responded to questions from the group.

X. Other

- Terry Rohren presented the proposed dates for ECICC meetings in 2007: February 16, May 18, August 24, and November 16. There was no objection to the proposed dates.
- Terry thanked Nina for her preparation of the photo directory of ECICC members and technical assistants. Nina was available after the meeting to take photos of individuals who had been missed in the draft issue distributed at the meeting.
- Terry asked member to notify her about agenda items for the next ECICC meeting.

Next meeting: Friday, May 16, 2006, time to be announced.

MEETING HANDOUTS:

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| ✓ Roster Updates, February 10, 2006 | ✓ Alphabet Soup Made Palatable |
| ✓ ECICC Roster 2005-2006 as of February 10, 2006 | ✓ Nebraska Legislature On-line: Bill Status |
| ✓ ECICC 2005-2006 Photo Directory | ✓ Nebraska Unicameral Legislature Roster 2005 |
| ✓ Nebraska 2006 Legislative Bills Status Report | ✓ Nebraska Part C State Performance Plan, 2005-2006 through 2010-2011 |
| ✓ Report: Head Start State Collaboration Office, February 10, 2006 | ✓ Application: Child Care Quality Improvement Grant |
| ✓ Minutes: ECICC Steering Committee, January 9, 2006 | ✓ Legally Exempt Child Care Providers: Summary of Surveys |
| ✓ Minutes: Legislative and Communications Committee, December 9, 2006 | ✓ Quality Incentive Payment for License-Exempt Child Care Providers |
| ✓ Proposed Dates for ECICC Meetings 2007 | ✓ Quality Improvement Grant—summary information |