

Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)

May 8, 2009

Working sessions: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Council Meeting: 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Norfolk Life Long Learning Center; Norfolk, Nebraska

Ruth Miller, chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council at 10:00 a.m. on May 8, 2009 at the Norfolk Life Long Learning Center, Norfolk, Nebraska. Ruth noted the posting of a copy of the Open Meetings Act.

Members present: Kimberly J. Chase, Carol Fichter, Laura Good Buffalo, Jane Happe, Eleanor Kirkland, Susan McWilliams, Ruth Miller, Amy Pair, Carrie Rasmussen, Stephanie Rau, Leisha Suckstorf, Joyce Thomas, Carey Winkler.

Members absent: A.Kathryn Anderson, Maya Chilese, Eric Dunning, Heather Gill, Chris Hanus, Melody Hobson, Sara Johnson, Carol McClain, Michelle Merrill, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Nancy Montgomery, Lynn Mruz, Todd Reckling, Roger Reikofski, Deb Ross, Janet Staehr, John Street, Derek Weimer, Linda Zinke.

Also in attendance: ECICC Staff: Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary; *Technical Assistants:* National Child Care Information Center–Rae Anderson; Region VII State-based Training and TA Infant Toddler Specialist, Zero to Three–Heather Fox; PTI-Nebraska–Connie Shockley; Munroe Meyer Institute –Mark Smith; NDHHS–Lynne Brehm, Paula Eurek, Shirley Pickens-White; NDE–Carol Puffer; *Guest Presenters:* Margaret Jensen, Planning Region Team #29; Erica Fink, Golden Rod Hills Head Start; Bea Rudloff, Creighton Preschool.

The Family Leadership Team met in working session from 9:00-10:00 a.m. before the regular Council meeting. The Gaps and Barriers Committee and the Legislative and Communications Committee met during the working lunch period.

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Opening and Announcements:

i. Introduction of New Members

Ruth Miller introduced new members, Amy Pair and Leisha Suckstorf. Ruth noted that the Council membership was reduced from 42 members to 34 members in the most recent round of appointments and reappointments.

ii. Approval of minutes

Action: Motion, Joni Thomas; seconded, Laura Good Buffalo: To approve the ECICC minutes of November 14, 2008, as submitted and provided to members in the pre-meeting packet. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions. There were no minutes for the meeting the scheduled for February 13, 2009, which was cancelled due to weather.

iii. Steering Committee Update

- Heather Gill and Laura Good Buffalo were nominated for the Steering Committee as member-at-large and parent representative, respectively. Additional nominations may be submitted to Terry Rohren. A Doodle Poll will be constructed for members to vote via e-mail.
- The Steering Committee is exploring alternatives for on-site meeting for the Council meeting scheduled for February 12, 2010. The regularly scheduled February meetings of the last two years were cancelled due to weather. Suggestions for other venues include conference call, teleconference, distance learning technologies, and webinar. Other ideas

should be submitted to Ruth Miller or Terry Rohren. A decision on the February meeting will be made in August.

iv. Meeting with the Governor

Kim Chase, Ruth Miller, Tammy Mittelstaedt and Carey Winkler are scheduled to meet with Governor Heineman on June 18 to discuss Council initiatives and recommendations on early childhood issues.

2. Family Story

Leisha Suckstorf used a slide show of family photos to illustrate her family story. She described the early intervention services that supported the family on the birth of their 10-week premature twins, one of whom was diagnosed with MCAD deficiency, a genetic metabolic disorder that requires strict attention to what and when the baby/child eats. Leisha described the early days of coping with hourly feedings and the need for an on-going medical protocol that requires immediate crisis care to prevent her son slipping into a coma state. She shared her concerns about how she must educate teachers and care-givers to her son's condition as he moves into preschool and school settings. In addition to providing information and emotional support, early intervention services assisted the family with accessing medical funds and helped them advocate for and find services that were needed and helpful. The Planning Region Team also became a support group that enabled the family to network with other families of children with disabilities. Following her presentation, Lisa answered questions from the audience.

3. Presentations from Regional Early Childhood Groups

Margaret Jensen, Planning Region Team #29, Erica Fink, Golden Rod Hills Head Start, and Bea Rudloff, Creighton Preschool, described their respective programs and outlined recent challenges and successes. All spoke of the challenges of lack of time, funds, personnel, resources for training, and keeping up with policy changes and regulation requirements. In addition, there are continuing challenges in building communication and partnering networks among programs, systems, agencies, and the community. Challenges for the families they work with include transportation issues, language barriers, and access to medical services. The providers also talked about their successes with building community awareness and partnerships, adapting programs to meet the needs of families in their communities, and overcoming local gaps and barriers related to early childhood. The presenters answered questions from meeting participants and provided suggestions for training topics and other ways that the state could support community early childhood programs.

4. Public Comment

A public comment period followed the lunch break. Eleanor Kirkland informed the group about the Nebraska parenting act that requires parents to participate in mediation before dissolving a marriage. There were no other public comments.

5. Reports from Working Sessions

a. Family Leadership Team

The Family Leadership Team requested that ECICC furnish business cards for each of the parent representatives. The group is looking at ways to support family leadership training through the Planning Region Teams and family-to-family mentoring.

b. Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC)

The GBC must elect a new co-chair to fill the vacancy left by Mary Phillips, whose term ended, but no plans were put forth at this meeting. The GBC received updates on the Results Matter assessment process and tools, the Head Start collaborative networking conference, and ARRA funds that may be available for Part C and other early childhood programs. They also received

an update on the transportation work group, an overview of the Part C Annual Performance Report, and a report on the status of the 2009 Part C Family Survey.

c. Legislative and Communications Committee (LCC)

The LCC provided a handout on the status of legislative bills pertaining to early childhood issues. The group discussed details of LB396 (Medical Home) and LB603 (Safe Haven). The committee also developed talking points for the upcoming meeting with the Governor.

6. Together for Kids and Families and Project LAUNCH

Lynne Brehm provided a history and overview of Together for Kids and Families, for which ECICC serves as the advisory body. She provided a handout showing the committee structure and objectives for systematic program building that involves collaboration and partnership among state groups to develop a comprehensive early childhood system. She requested that ECICC form a standing committee to regularly receive reports and assist in the Together for Kids and Families initiative.

Paula Eurek followed Lynne's report with a presentation about a grant proposal opportunity, Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health). If funded, the five-year project would support the development of locally-based networks to address young child wellness, an objective compatible with the Together for Kids and Families plan. The project requires a "multi-agency system development council" to act as a Council on Young Child Wellness. This state-level council may be integrated into an existing body, so ECICC could meet this requirement. Paula also asked that the ECICC provide a letter of support for the Project LAUNCH grant proposal.

Action: Motion, Eleanor Kirkland; seconded, Carol Fichter: To add a new standing committee to ECICC to assist Together for Kids and Families and Project LAUNCH, as well as other grant opportunities that require integrated systems. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote. There were no abstentions. A charter for the committee will be developed and an ECICC member will chair the committee. It was understood that the committee may work outside of the scheduled ECICC meetings and may also include representatives who are not members of ECICC.

Action: Motion, Laura Good Buffalo; seconded, Joni Thomas: To recommend to the Governor that ECICC be considered as the Council on Young Child Wellness required for Project LAUNCH. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

Action: Motion, Eleanor Kirkland; seconded, Laura Good Buffalo: To provide a letter of support for the Project LAUNCH grant proposal. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

7. Nebraska Early Childhood Pyramid: Framework for Social and Emotional Competence

Carol Fichter explained the new name for the Nebraska Early Childhood Pyramid, previously known as PBiS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support), and explained the Pyramid Model for early childhood settings. Carol provided a handout that describes the history and progress of the initiative and outlines expectations for future development and training, which includes the release of a "readiness kit" for early childhood programs to use as a guided self assessment that will be followed by systematic planning and implementation of the Pyramid Model. As a CFESSEL (*Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning*) state partner, Nebraska is receiving support from CFESSEL to develop a train-the-trainers program to assist early childhood programs in the implementation of the Pyramid Model. Carol noted that this program is helping to bring a new perspective to systems change.

8. Head Start State Collaboration Office Strategic Plan

Eleanor Kirkland distributed a draft of the Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Needs Assessment Report. The needs assessment survey of Head Start agencies was conducted statewide as

required by Head Start Reauthorization. Eleanor called attention to various aspects of the draft and explained priority areas that were developed based on findings from the survey. These priorities will form the foundation for developing a strategic plan. Eleanor asked for the Council's approval for HSSCO to work with other systems in the development of a strategic plan. Eleanor also asked for input and feedback from the Council as the HSSCO moves through this process.

Action: Motion, Carey Winkler; seconded, Kim Chase: To approve the Head Start State Collaboration Office to move ahead with the development of a strategic plan based on the needs assessment survey. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

9. Agenda items for next ECICC meeting

Suggestions for discussion at the August 28, 2009, ECICC meeting were:

- Child Care regulations
- Update on Together for Kids and Families and Project LAUNCH
- Report on Kindergarten Guidelines and drafts of related documents
- Part C Family Survey results
- ARRA funding

The Council adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Next meeting: Friday, August 28, 2009, Cornhusker Hotel; Lincoln, NE

Working groups 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Council meeting 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

MEETING HANDOUTS:

From February 13, 2009 meeting packet (meeting cancelled):

- ✓ ECICC Updates: February 13, 2009
- ✓ Possible dates for ECICC Meetings in 2010
- ✓ Status Report: Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office, February -March 2009
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Legislative and Communications Committee, November 14, 2008 and January 22, 2009

From May 8, 2009 meeting packet and meeting handouts:

- ✓ ECICC Updates: February 13, 2009 to May 8, 2009
- ✓ ECICC 2008-2009 Roster: May 8, 2009—Members, staff and technical assistants
- ✓ Status Report: Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office, March to May 2009
- ✓ 2009 New Legislation Introduced to Address Issues of Early Childhood, May 4, 2009
- ✓ Talking Points for Meeting with the Governor
- ✓ 2009 Senators (State Legislature)
- ✓ Revision/Update: Legislation & Regulations Supporting the Work of the Nebraska Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
- ✓ Print copy: ECICC Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood, December 2008, with cover letter to Governor Heineman
- ✓ Print copy: Part C Annual Performance Report FFY 2007 (2007-2008)
- ✓ Draft: Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office 2008-2009 Needs Assessment Report
- ✓ Fact sheet: Nebraska—A CSEFEL Partner
- ✓ Graphic: Pyramid Model for Promoting the Social and Emotional Development of Infants and Young Children
- ✓ PowerPoint slides: Early Childhood Comprehensive System
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Project LAUNCH Grant Opportunity