

# **Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC) November 19, 2010**

**Working sessions: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**Council Meeting: 11:00-3:00 p.m.**

**The Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster Room 5-6; Lincoln, Nebraska**

Heather Gill, chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council at 11:15 a.m. on November 19, 2010 at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. Heather welcomed everyone, especially new members. Those in attendance made self introductions.

*Members present:* Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Amy Bornemeier, Maya Chilese, Pam Dobrovolny, Carol Fichter, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Julie Middendorf, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Deanna Schulze, Joyce Thomas, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte,

*Members absent:* Sarah Briggs, Annie Bruns, Eric Dunning, Jane Happe, Pete Pirsch, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Roger Reikofski, Todd Reckling, Deb Ross, Leisha Suckstorf, Linda Zinke

*Also in attendance:* ECICC Staff—Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary; *Technical Assistants*—Rae Anderson, *National Child Care Information Center*; Mark Smith, *Munroe Meyer Institute*; Connie Shockley, *PTI-Nebraska*; Beaky Veak, *Nebraska Children and Families Foundation*; *DHSS*: Lynne Brehm, Shirley Pickens-White, Pat Urzedowski; *NDE*: Pat Frost; *Guests*—Kristin Flott and Sarah Swanson, *UNMC-Munroe Meyer Institute*.

## **AGENDA:**

The Family Leadership Team, the Gaps and Barriers Committee, and the Legislative and Communications Committee met in separate sessions from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. before the opening of the regular Council meeting.

### **1. Opening and Announcements:**

#### **i. Approval of minutes**

*Motion*, Pam Dobrovolny; seconded, Carol Fichter: To approve the ECICC minutes of August 27, 2010, as submitted and provided to members in the pre-meeting packet. The motion was amended to correct that the presenters for the Family Help Line presentation were from the Helpline, not the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The motion as amended passed 22-0 by roll-call vote; there were no objections or abstentions.

*Voting yes:* Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Amy Bornemeier, Maya Chilese, Pam Dobrovolny, Carol Fichter, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Julie Middendorf, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Deanna Schulze, Joyce Thomas, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte.

#### **ii. Update on the State Advisory Council grant**

Eleanor Kirkland reported that Nebraska received \$500,000 of federal ARRA funds to support the priorities identified by the ECICC and outlined in the State Advisory Grant application that was submitted July, 2010. The funding will be for 3 years—until August 31, 2013. The work plan is to hire a school readiness coordinator and a person to work with the development of a unified child data system. These positions will be posted on the State Jobs website. The July 2010 State Advisory Council Grant Application is posted on the ECICC website at

<http://www.education.ne.gov/ecicc/ECICCDocuments.htm>

**iii. Plan for public hearing on report to the Governor**

Council members discussed options on how to conduct a required public hearing on the 2010 Strategic Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood, which must occur before the final draft of the report is submitted to the Council for approval at the February 11, 2011 ECICC meeting. The proposed date for the public hearing is February 4, 2011.

*Motion*, Maya Chilese; seconded, Sian Jones-Jobst—That ECICC staff persons, Terry Rohren and Susan Dahm, schedule a public hearing and be present to receive comments, and provide the Steering Committee with a full review of all comments submitted in writing and in the public hearing. The Steering Committee will provide the full Council with a summary of the comments and make recommendations if any changes to the final draft of the Report are indicated based on comments from the public.

The motion passed 21-0 by roll call vote; there were no objections or abstentions.

*Voting yes*: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Amy Bornemeier, Maya Chilese, Pam Dobrovolny, Carol Fichter, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Julie Middendorf, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Deanna Schulze, Joyce Thomas, Salene Ulrich, and Cristen Witte.

**iv. Nominations for Steering Committee**

Criteria for nominations to the Steering Committee were reviewed. Nominations were requested for one member-at-large and two parent representatives to fill vacancies on the Steering Committee. Nominations will close on December 1, 2010; voting on the nominations will be conducted via e-mail and regular mail.

**v. Proposed location for meeting on May 13, 2011**

In keeping with the Governor's request, the Steering Committee proposed southeast Nebraska as the next location for the annual meeting held outside of the Lincoln/Omaha area. Various venues were discussed.

*Motion*, Amy Bornemeier; seconded, Deanna Schulze: That the May 13, 2011, meeting of the ECICC be held in Nebraska City and that Terry Rohren and Susan Dahm identify and make arrangements for the meeting site.

The motion passed by voiced consensus. There were no objections or abstentions.

**2. Working Lunch**

During the lunch period, members viewed a documentary film produced by the Discovery Health Network. The film, "I'm Pregnant and in Prison," featured the nursery and parenting program at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women in York, Nebraska.

**3. Public Comment**

Carol Fichter called attention to information items on professional development opportunities and other events related to early childhood. Materials were made available on the registration table.

**4. Reports from Working Sessions****a. Family Leadership Team**

Julie Middendorf reported that the Family Leadership Team discussed ways to increase communication and involvement of parents in Planning Region Teams (PRTs) and ways to develop readiness of parents with young children to become involved on the local level. The team will look at available resources and funding support. The family members also requested business cards identifying them as parent representatives on ECICC. Susan Dahm will provide the cards by the next meeting.

**b. Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC)**

Pam Dobrovolny will be the new chair of the GBC. Topics discussed during the committee meeting included the role of the committee as gatherers of information about gaps and barriers affecting delivery of services to families with young children, networking with families, inconsistencies across the state regarding verification for special education services, and recommendations for targets in the Part C State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report from Carol McClain. Other topics were ARRA funding, summarizing gaps and barriers identified by PRTs, and a report on the Transportation task force meeting with Dr. Breed. The task force will reconvene to look at what was to provide input when the NDE transportation regulations are opened for revision.

**c. Legislative and Communications Committee (LCC)**

Amy Bornemeier distributed materials about the Nebraska's forecasted revenue shortfall and upcoming legislative session. She reported that the committee had discussed NDE and DHHS responses to the potential 10% budget cut, cuts in federally funded programs like Head Start and CCDF, recommendations in the NGA (National Governors Association) report, and the possibility of funding for QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System).

**d. Early Childhood Systems Team**

Amy Bornemeier reviewed recent team meetings and activity toward developing a strategic action plan. The team held a retreat during which they looked at recommendations for the upcoming ECICC Report to the Governor and ways to structure it, and established priorities based on federal Early Childhood State Advisory Committee (SAC) requirements.

**5. Together for Kids and Families**

An update on the strategic plan of Together for Kids and Families (TFKF) was provided to meeting participants in the meeting packet. Lynne Brehm outlined the background and development of TFKF and reviewed the actions required for the comprehensive strategic planning effort. Lynne highlighted the goals and five priority areas of the TFKF strategic plan, which is available in its entirety at: <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/LifespanHealth/Together-Kids-Families.htm>. Lynne asked the ECICC, which serves as the grant's advisory council, to approve the new action steps.

*Motion*, Melody Hobson; seconded, Pam Dobrovolny: To approve the current goals and strategies of Together for Kids and Families as presented.

The motion passed by a roll call vote: 20-0; with no objections and one abstention.

*Voting yes*: Rebecca Bimler, Amy Bornemeier, Maya Chilese, Pam Dobrovolny, Carol Fichter, Heather Gill, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Julie Middendorf, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Julie Rother, Deanna Schulze, Joyce Thomas, Salene Ulrich, and Cristen Witte. *Abstaining*: Mike Adams.

**6. Survey on Inclusive Care**

Katherine Kaiser, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), distributed a report and handout of a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the UNMC needs assessment survey on inclusive care for children with disabilities. The report dealt with responses from child care providers who work with children with special needs and included their preferences regarding training, training delivery, and professional supports to enable them to meet a child's needs and to work with parents. She referred to the report conclusions noting that about one quarter of child care providers do not enroll children with special needs. Lynne Brehm encouraged individuals working with providers to consider this information when making decisions about delivering training opportunities. Lynne will ask Sue Bainter to disseminate the report to PRTs. Katherine said that UNMC intends to do a similar survey in February 2011 for parents of children with special needs.

**7. Nebraska Family Helpline and Family Navigator Service**

Katie Bohn gave a brief information overview of the Nebraska Family Helpline that provides 24/7 access to help families having crisis problems with children. The Family Navigator program helps families find and access services for children aged 19 and under. The Navigator program provides peer mentoring support to help families navigate through the system. The statewide Helpline phone number is 1-888-866-8660. Shellie Gomes reported statistics and demographic information about the calls received. The Helpline averages 340-400 calls per month; the most common referral is for mental health assessment. Shellie suggested that family navigators across the state may be available for presentations to PRTs. Meeting participants were provided with business cards and wallet cards. More information is available at the program website: [www.nebraskafamilyhelpline.ne.gov](http://www.nebraskafamilyhelpline.ne.gov).

**8. Review of draft recommendations for the Report to the Governor**

Draft recommendations for the ECICC 2010 Strategic Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood were provided to ECICC members in the pre-meeting packets. Terry Rohren and Eleanor Kirkland explained the structure and relationship of the report to the strategic plan that was approved earlier in the meeting. Council members provided several suggestions for edits and additions. Members were invited to contact Terry or Eleanor regarding additional suggestions, edits and/or questions about the content. Terry anticipates that a final draft will be provided to members before the February 11, 2011 meeting of the Council.

**9. Closing**

Heather asked members for agenda suggestions for the February 11, 2011 meeting. An update on Nebraska Child Welfare System changes was proposed.

With no other items to be discussed, the Council adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

**Next meeting: February 11, 2011, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE.**

**MEETING HANDOUTS:**

- ✓ ECICC 2010-2011 Member Roster (as of Nov. 19, 2011)
- ✓ Status report: Together for Kids and Families
- ✓ Status report: Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO), November 2010
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Steering Committee, October 10, 2010
- ✓ Update–ECICC Legislation & Regulations: Nebraska Revised Statutes– Kindergarten: Sections 79-212, 79-214, and 79-278.
- ✓ Update–DHHS: What’s New in Children’s Behavior Health
- ✓ PowerPoint slides: Child Care Provider Survey
- ✓ Final report: “Child Care Provider Needs Assessment–Caring for Nebraska Children with Special Needs” June 3, 2010.