

Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC) February 11, 2011

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

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

The Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster Room; Lincoln, Nebraska

Heather Gill, chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council at 11:00 a.m. on February 11, 2011 at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. Heather noted the posting of a copy of the Open Meetings Act. Those in attendance made self introductions.

Members present: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Amy Bornemeier, Annie Bruns, Pam Dobrovolny, Carol Fichter, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Heather Krieger, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Julie Middendorf, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Pete Pirsch (11:30), Deb Ross, Julie Rother, Leisha Suckstorf, Joyce Thomas, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Linda Zinke

Members absent: Maya Chilese, Eric Dunning, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Todd Reckling, Roger Reikofski, Deanna Schulze

Also in attendance: ECICC Staff: Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary; *Technical Assistants:* National Child Care Information Center–Rae Anderson; Administration for Children and Families, Head Start State-based Training and Technical Assistance–Mary Finney-Afrank; PTI-Nebraska–Connie Shockley; Munroe Meyer Institute –Mark Smith; Nebraska Children and Families Foundation–Beaky Veak; NDHHS–Lynne Brehm, Paula Eurek (2:30), Shirley Pickens-White; NDE–Pat Frost; *Presenters:* Jennifer Dink, parent; Paula Southworth, Sue Spanhake

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

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Opening and Announcements:

i. Approval of minutes

Motion, Linda Zinke; seconded, Pam Dobrovolny: To approve the ECICC minutes of November 19, 2010, as submitted and provided to members in the pre-meeting packet. There was no discussion. The motion passed 26-0 by roll-call vote; there were no abstentions.

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Amy Bornemeier, Annie Bruns, Pam Dobrovolny, Carol Fichter, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Heather Krieger, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Julie Middendorf, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Deb Ross, Julie Rother, Leisha Suckstorf, Joyce Thomas, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Linda Zinke

Absent: Maya Chilese, Eric Dunning, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Pete Pirsch, Todd Reckling, Roger Reikofski, Deanna Schulze

ii. Steering Committee election

Susan Dahm, secretary, announced the results of the balloting for new Steering Committee members. Voting was by e-mail and printed ballot; 18 (of 33) members voted, 1 member abstained; election was by simple majority. Pam Dobrovolny was elected to the member-at-large position with 6 votes; Mike Adams and Julie Middendorf were elected to represent parents of children with disabilities with votes of 13 and 11, respectively.

iii. ECICC Meeting Dates for 2012

The proposed dates and locations for ECICC meetings in 2012 were presented to members in their pre-meeting packets: February 17, 2012–Lincoln; May 11, 2010–location to be determined; August 24, 2012–Lincoln; November 16, 2012–Lincoln.

Motion, Jane Happe; seconded, Deb Ross: To approve the proposed dates and locations. There was no discussion. The motion passed by roll call vote of 26-0; there were no abstentions.

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Amy Bornemeier, Annie Bruns, Pam Dobrovolny, Carol Fichter, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Heather Krieger, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Julie Middendorf, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Deb Ross, Julie Rother, Leisha Suckstorf, Joyce Thomas, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Linda Zinke

Absent: Maya Chilese, Eric Dunning, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Pete Pirsch, Todd Reckling, Roger Reikofski, Deanna Schulze

iv. Update on 2010 Report to the Governor

Terry Rohren informed the Council that due to reformatting and content revisions a draft of the 2010 Report to the Governor was not ready for public hearing in January as originally planned. Terry estimated that the initial draft would be ready by early April so that a public hearing could be held mid-to-late April, with final Council approval to be scheduled for the May 13 meeting. The draft report will be made available to Council members before the May meeting. It was noted that the Early Childhood Systems Team has been working with Terry to insure that the report also meets the federal guidelines for the report required of the State Advisory Council (SAC).

v. Update on State Advisory Council Grant

Eleanor Kirkland reviewed the background of the federal stimulus grant to support the State Advisory Council, which the Governor designated as ECICC. The federal grant was awarded to Nebraska to support two ECICC priorities: school readiness and an early childhood unified data system. Eleanor announced that Amy Bornemeier has been hired for the school readiness work. She will work out of the Nebraska Department of Education's (NDE) Office of Early Childhood. Hiring for the development of a unified data system is on hold due to an NDE moratorium on new hires. Eleanor is providing coordination for these grant projects, which she emphasized are projects of the Council. Regular updates will be presented at Council meetings. She also informed the group that representatives from ECICC will attend a national SAC meeting in Washington, D.C. April 26-29, but who that will be has not yet been decided.

vi. New Member Orientation and the Open Meetings Act

At the request of Council members, Terry Rohren used the PowerPoint presentation from the new member orientation to lead meeting participants in a review of ECICC structure and responsibilities. The presentation will be available on the ECICC website for future reference. As part the review, Terry highlighted requirements of the Open Meetings Act and talked about how the Act applies to ECICC.

Committee membership was discussed following the presentation. Heather Gill emphasized the importance of each member's voice in the work of the Council and how committee participation contributes to building our capacity as a group. Members also discussed the roles of the Family Leadership Team, the Early Childhood Systems Team, and the two standing committees–Gaps and Barriers, and Legislation and Communication.

Motion, Carol McClain; seconded, Sian Jones-Jobst: To annually ask members for a year-long commitment to regularly participate in a committee with new members being asked to make a decision after their 2nd meeting. The motion carried 24-0, with 2 abstentions:

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Pam Dobrovolny, Carol Fichter, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Heather Krieger, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Julie Middendorf, Dawn Mollenkopf, Deb Ross, Julie Rother, Joyce Thomas, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Linda Zinke.

Abstaining: Christy Pelton, Leisha Suckstorf

Absent: Maya Chilese, Eric Dunning, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Pete Pirsch, Todd Reckling, Roger Reikofski, Deanna Schulze

Friendly amendment to the motion: Melody Hobson; seconded, Pam Dobrovolny: To ask each ECICC member for a committee commitment decision at the May 13, 2011 meeting. The motion carried unanimously (27-0) by roll call vote:

Voting yes: Mike Adams, Rebecca Bimler, Pam Dobrovolny, Carol Fichter, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J.P. Holys, Dr. Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Heather Krieger, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Julie Middendorf, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Pete Pirsch, Deb Ross, Julie Rother, Leisha Suckstorf, Joyce Thomas, Salene Ulrich, Cristen Witte, Linda Zinke.

Absent: Maya Chilese, Eric Dunning, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Todd Reckling, Roger Reikofski, Deanna Schulze

2. **Family Story**

Jennifer Dike from North Platte, Nebraska, and her two-year old son, Maddox, presented the family story during the working lunch period. Maddox was identified at birth with Noonan's Syndrome, a genetic syndrome that presents a variety of symptoms including facial and body features, growth patterns, and congenital heart defects. Jennifer explained that Maddox's symptoms are relatively mild, but that it is a slow process to know the extent of how the syndrome will affect him throughout his lifetime. She said there were no markers before Maddox was born, but he spent two weeks in the hospital in Omaha following his birth. The family received support from the Early Development Network from the beginning and Jennifer feels that Maddox's doctors and service providers are informed about his condition and needs. The family is able to receive many services, including medical visits, directly in North Platte. Jennifer would like to participate in a Noonan's Syndrome support group, but currently she does not know of other children in Nebraska with the condition.

3. **Public Comment:**

Rae Anderson, state technical assistance specialist, informed the group about staff changes in the Administration for Children and Families Region VII office (Kansas City). Betty Lammle is the program manager for the Office of Child Care, and Les Thieroff is child care liaison.

4. **Reports from Working Sessions**

a. **Family Leadership Team**

Leisha Suckstorf reported on the Family Leadership Team discussion with Heather Gill and Terry Rohren about how to strengthen the family voice within the Council and assume accountability in committee work and leadership positions on the Council. Changing logistics for the meeting time for the Team is problematic so they will continue to meet and report out as they have been doing. Team conference calls before and after ECICC meetings will further support the parents' understanding of issues. If there are items for Council action, the Family Leadership Team will submit them for Council consideration within a specified timeline for additions to the agenda, which the Council will develop for all groups and distribute to all meeting participants.

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

Pam Dobrovolny, new chair of the Gaps and Committee, reported on their discussion and process to gather information and determine the level and priority of issues. The committee will

try several approaches to continually gather information about local, regional and statewide gaps and barriers. These include querying members about gaps and barriers from their own systems, gathering information from Planning Region Team reports, and having a standing agenda item to ask members to report on known gaps and barriers. The GBC will gather information about children's mental health services through a survey of Council members and technical assistants to begin a more focused look at serving the social-emotional needs of young children in the state. Compilation of the survey will be submitted to the Steering Committee to decide how to bring it to the Council.

Eleanor Kirkland provided an update on the work of the Transportation Task Force. Eleanor met with NDE Commissioner Breed on how to move forward with the task force findings. He recommended that the next step for the task force would be to develop guidance on transporting young children that could be used to introduce legislation; however, this would have to be from someone other than a state employee. Eleanor will reconvene the task force in a conference call on March 28 from 1:30-3:00. Individuals wanting to participate in the call should contact Eleanor or Lynne Brehm.

c. Legislative and Communications Committee (LCC)

Jane Happe reported that the Legislative and Communications Committee had focused their discussion on materials about the legislative process and new bills that Terry Rohren had prepared for the group that were also distributed to meeting participants. Jane highlighted several bills affecting children and families that the LCC will follow. The group will hold phone conferences between ECICC meetings to review progress on their priority bills and will provide updates via e-mail to Council members.

d. Early Childhood Systems Team (ECST)

Eleanor Kirkland and Amy Bornemeier, co-chairs of the Early Childhood Systems Team, led meeting participants through a review of the history of the ECST and discussion about its role, its membership, and its responsibility. The purpose of the ECST is to bring together representatives of state agencies and other federally-funded partners in a systematic way to determine and prioritize work that needs to be done. The structure of the ECST is intended to mirror federal interdepartmental collaboration on the local level. The presenters emphasized that the ECST is a standing committee of the ECICC even though several of its members do not actively serve on the Council. Rae Anderson described the ECST as an operational group of individuals who have responsibility for managing agency work, but noted that guidance for its work comes from the Council. The intent of the ECST is to move the work of the ECICC forward through the work that the agencies must do. Discussion included questions about transparency, meeting structure, and membership as required to meet federal guidelines. The work of the ECST to date has been focused on development of the State Advisory Council (SAC) grant and prioritizing recommendations for the Report to the Governor. The committee tries to meet quarterly or more as needed and tries to schedule their meetings at least one month before a scheduled ECICC meeting. The next meeting of the ECST is scheduled for April 13, 2011, at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. ECICC members were invited to connect to the meeting by conference call. A roster of the ECST will be sent to all Council members to clarify the membership of the ECST. Council members who want to serve on the ECST should contact Eleanor or Amy immediately.

5. Update on Planning Region Team Survey Information

Paula Southworth presented an update of results from a Planning Region Team (PRT) survey she conducted in the summer of 2010 about inclusive practices in child care and how PRTs support those practices through training. Paula originally reported results at the November 19, 2010 ECICC meeting. Following a suggestion from the Council presentation, she contacted PRTs who had not submitted information previously and added their responses to the survey data. Information from the

survey gives a sense of communication needs and how e-learning could support it. Meeting participants provided additional suggestions for expanding the survey to compare different areas of the state and different types of child care providers.

6. Update on Home Visitation Grant

Paula Eurek, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) was joined by Sue Spanhake, Nebraska ACA Home Visiting Program Coordinator (Affordable Care Act Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program), to present information and a progress update on the DHHS home visitation program grant. Application for the grant was submitted in July 2010. In September, 2010 the initial needs assessment and identification of 17 at-risk communities were submitted. Realizing that 17 counties was too large an area for the funds available, staff have been working with these counties to identify home visitation programs and the reach of the programs in an attempt to gain an understanding of gaps in these counties, while waiting for federal guidance from the submitted material. Final guidance was released on February 8, 2011. This was distributed as a handout to meeting participants. Sue reviewed the summary of steps to be completed, implementation highlights, and federal benchmarks. She pointed out that administration of the program involves coordination with the State Advisory Council and the State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan, and requires “a memorandum of concurrence signed by required agencies including the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care” (i.e., ECICC), making ECICC input and feedback an important part of the process. The final plan is to be submitted no later than June 8, 2011. The presenters entertained questions from meeting participants about the number of families, costs, and funding formulas, much of which depends on the model chosen. More information and updates are on the DHHS website:

<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/lifespanhealth/Home-Visiting-Needs-Assessment.htm> or contact Sue Spanhake with questions (402-471-1938 or sue.spanhake@nebraska.gov). An update on the grant and process will be added to the May 13, 2011 ECICC meeting agenda.

With no other items to be discussed, a motion to adjourn was made by Deb Ross, seconded by Leisha Suckstorf. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the Council adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Next meeting: May 13, 2011, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Attachment to Minutes: Roster of the Early Childhood Systems Team (2/8/11)

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- ✓ ECICC Updates, February 11, 2011
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Steering Committee, January 24, 2011
- ✓ Graphic: Early Childhood Linkages and Relationships to ECICC (updated 2/7/11)
- ✓ HSSCO Status Report: February 2011
- ✓ Statewide Gaps and Barriers Summary, November 2010 (prepared by Pam Kasl from PRT reports)
- ✓ Map: Nebraska Early Childhood Planning Regions and Educational Service Units
- ✓ Directory: Nebraska Early Development Network
- ✓ Information packet: How a bill becomes a law and other information about the Nebraska Legislature
- ✓ 2011 Nebraska Legislation Addressing Early Childhood Issues
- ✓ Unicameral Update: Legislative oversight of child welfare reform advanced
- ✓ PowerPoint slides: Early Childhood Systems Team
- ✓ Survey for Planning Region Teams [on inclusive care practices]
- ✓ “Final Supplemental Information Request for the Submission of the Updated State Plan for a State Home Visiting Program; released February 8, 2011” (for grant application: Affordable Care Act Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program)