

## **Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council**

**November 16, 2012**

### **Minutes**

**Council Members Present:** Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Carol Benson, Rebecca Bimler, Lois Butler, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Melinda Graham, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Amy LaPointe, Carol McClain, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Shirley Pickens White, Roger Reikofski, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich

**Council Members Absent:** Barb Esch, Eric Dunning, Heather Krieger, Senator Pete Pirsch, Cristen Witte

**Technical Assistance Staff Present:** Pat Frost, Diane Lewis, Terry Rohren, Mark Smith, Pat Urzedowski, Becky Veak

#### **i. Welcome/Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

Pam Dobrovolny convened the meeting at 11:00 AM. Pam welcomed the new members of the Council and had all Council members introduce themselves to each other. Pam asked for a motion from the Council to accept the minutes of the August 24, 2012 meeting. Jane Happe made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Eleanor Kirkland seconded the motion. A roll call vote to accept the minutes was conducted.

Roll call vote: Voting yes: Mike Adams, Sue Adams, Lois Butler, Terri Chasten, Pam Dobrovolny, Melinda Graham, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Eleanor Kirkland, Amy LaPointe, Carol McClain, Dawn Mollenkopf, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, Salene Ulrich.

Abstaining: Carol Benson, Julie Mizner.

The minutes were approved as presented.

#### **ii. Discuss Letter from Co-Leads RE: Steering Committee Membership**

Pam Dobrovolny explained that she had received a letter from Carol McClain, from Nebraska Department of Education, and Heather Krieger, from the Department of Health and Human Services (Co-Leads for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). The letter requested that the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council consider changing the By-Laws that passed at the August 2012 ECICC meeting to allow for a Part Co-Lead representation on the ECICC Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee discussed the topic at their October 15, 2012 call and determined that the current By-Laws allow for the Steering Committee to include other members on the call if needed and that it made sense to invite Carol McClain as one of the Co-Lead representatives on the Council to participate in the meetings. The Steering Committee will work with Carol to determine if this will address their concerns and to determine if the issue should be revisited at a later point in time.

### iii. Committee Reports:

The ECICC Committees each made reports on their work at their committee meetings held on November 16, 2012.

**Family Leadership Team:** Mike Adams presented the work the Family Leadership Team discussed during today's meeting. The Family Leadership Team discussed priorities or goals for their teams work. Priorities discussed were to strengthen the communication and relationships with the Planning Region Team. The Family Leadership Team also discussed the need to review the language and criteria in Rule 52. They want to review the verification criteria in Rule 52 and specifically want to make sure that criteria are consistent across areas. They also want to examine the CAPTA and social-emotional criteria.

The **Family Action Matter Everyday (FAME)** Committee discussed the need to better understand the Medicaid Managed Care System and the State Insurance Exchange that is being proposed under the Affordable Care Act. The group indicated that as many as 120,000 people might be impacted by the development of the Insurance Exchange. The committee is considering inviting representatives from Medicaid and the Department of Insurance to present at their next meeting.

**Professional Development and Workforce Committee:** Dawn Mollenkopf reported on the work of the Professional Development and Workforce committee. Three issues were identified by the committee that needs to be further explored. 1) The rural health information website can identify professional shortages across the state, but no information exists currently to determine how many of those professionals have any knowledge or preparation in working with young children. 2) In considering the professional preparation of allied professionals working with young children. What information do we have about the amount of content that addresses working with young children in their families? 3) We do not currently have data on shortages that exist for professionals that work with young children. The committee proposed developing a survey they might be sent to planning region teams to determine what the shortage of early childhood care and education professionals and allied health professionals might be locally.

**Regulations and Standards Committee:** The Regulations and Standards committee was unable to address the Annual Performance Report as part of its planned focus for the meeting since the report is not ready for review. The committee spent its time working on the draft recommendations for the 2012 Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood. Several specific language changes were discussed to the draft recommendations that make the recommendations more current. There were many questions that the committee had about the Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood.

**Early Childhood Services and Systems Committee:** Julie Rother provided the report on the Early Childhood Services and Systems Committee. The committee focused their work on early childhood social/emotional supports for young children. The committee discussed the lack of understanding from medical professionals about the Early Development Network's involvement in social-emotional issues. The committee expressed concern that there is not a consistent tool used across the state Early Development Network for assessing social/emotional development. The committee recommended that

there is a need for identifying one tool that all districts use to identify social/emotional issues in young children. The committee also wants to examine the CAPTA data that might be available to determine if the CAPTA requirements for referrals are having an impact on young children getting services earlier.

Terry Rohren provided information on the Report to the Governor to assist the Council in better understanding what needs to be in the report. The statutes for the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council require that the Council submit to the Governor biennially a report on the status of early care and education. Additionally, the Head Start for School Readiness Act requires a report be submitted every two years. The Report to the Governor meets all of those requirements. Within the report the Council has built a series of recommendations. The recommendations were framed in the last reports around the Together for Kids and Families goals since that is the strategic plan for the Council.

The document with recommendations provided to the Council today was created as a resource to Council members to help them know what action was taken related to the recommendations included in 2010 Report to the Governor. The resource document is not the Report to the Governor and may not even show up in the document. It was simply prepared to help Council members know where we stand on the previous recommendations to determine if any of the recommendations need to move forward or if new recommendations are needed. Council members did suggest that we might want to include the information on what happened with the 2010 report in an appendix to the report.

Council members did make several suggestions on changes that need to be made to the report. Members suggested that the data should be presented in a way that is easier to read, and if possible the data should be broken out across that state to show regional trends and issues.

#### **iv. Election of vice-chairperson of the Council**

Council members completed written ballots to elect the next vice-chairperson of the Council. There was one official nominee, Mike Adams. Mike was elected with 23 votes for him, and no votes were written in for possible other candidates.

#### **Public Comment**

Carolyn Thiele provided information from the Coalition for the Advancement of Children's Mental Health. The Coalition recommended that the state agencies should quit fighting about who is going to pay for what in order to serve young children. They also wanted the Council to know that they would like to see more connection between the judicial branch, NECTAC and SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and the state agencies working with young children. Carolyn indicated that there is an excellent series of videos produced by Zero to Three on Trauma in Young Children. Finally, the coalition suggested that more information is needed on screening for fetal alcohol syndrome and who pays for the costs of services for children who have fetal alcohol syndrome.

Shirley Pickens White wanted to share with Council members that the Department of Health and Human Services will be hosting the Child Abuse Prevention Summit on April 10, 2013 in Kearney, Nebraska. The Summit will focus on enhancing protective factors while promoting child well-being.

Carol McClain indicated that April 4 and 5, 2013 will be the State Autism Conference and April 12 and 13, 2013 will be the Jodi Pfarr training on Bridges Out of Poverty.

Salene Ulrich reported that she worked with the Rhett Syndrome Roll-a-Thon and indicated they raised more than \$70,000 for the Roll-a-Thon.

### **Focus Area for Meeting: Early Childhood Mental Health/Social and Emotional Supports**

#### **v. Nebraska's Integrated Skills and Competencies for Professionals**

Jen Gerdes presented information on the work the Together for Kids and Families Mental Health Work Group has done over the last year. Jen indicated the committee worked to develop core competencies that early childhood professionals, mental health professionals, and home visitors should know and be able to do to work with young children. The work group utilized a variety of documents to inform their work on core competencies, including other state's core competencies for mental health professionals, Nebraska's Core Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals, and Head Start's framework for working with young children and families. The work group wanted to keep the integrated competencies manageable and not overly challenging for people to meet the competencies. The Integrated Competencies can be found at

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/EC%20Integrated%20Skills%20Competencies-Final.pdf>

#### **vi. Community Early Childhood System of Care (ESOC) Self-Assessment**

Jen also presented information the work group completed to help communities better determine their strengths and needs when it came to provide social and emotional supports for young children. The work group developed a self-assessment to determine community capacity for supporting young children. After developing the self-assessment the work group piloted its use in three communities across the state. Jen indicated that UNL used an online system for compiling people's responses to the self-assessment and then generated a report for the community stakeholder group to look at areas where there was agreement and areas where there was room for improvement.

Council members wondered how they defined community for the purpose of the self-assessment. Jen indicated that community was meant to be town, city, or county....however it made sense for the group wanting to use the self-assessment.

Communities interested in using the self-assessment need to gather the key stakeholders from the community who work with young children or support young children and their families. It is highly recommended that communities utilize a facilitator to work with the stakeholder group as they complete the self-assessment.

Council members thought the self-assessment instrument might be a good resource for Planning Region Teams to use to determine their capacity to support young children.

Council members indicated that some communities were using a child well-being self-assessment and developing plans based upon that assessment. Members wondered how we could better coordinate the

self-assessment processes and determine where the information being gathered is the same or different.

Council members wondered if there was a pool of facilitators available who could assist a community who was interested in using the self-assessment. Jen encouraged people to talk with Lynne Brehm about the current capacity to support the self-assessment. For more information on the self-assessment go to:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/System%20of%20Care-Final.pdf>

### **Part C Annual Performance Report**

The Council discussed the preferred process for review and approval of the Annual Performance Report for Part C of the Individual's with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The report needs to be approved by February 1, 2013. The Council needs to review and approve the report before it is submitted to the U. S. Department of Education. The Council recommended that the Regulations and Standards committee review the document and upon their approval then Pam Dobrovlny would be authorized to sign the report on behalf of the Council.

Melody Hobson made the motion to approve the Regulations and Standards Committee to review the Annual Performance Report, to meet by conference call to discuss any changes needed to the report, and once approved to have Pam Dobrovlny sign the report on behalf of the Council. Sian Jones-Jobst provided the seconded to the motion. A roll call vote followed. Results of the roll call vote were:

Voting yes on the motion related to the APR Report were: Mike Adams, Carol Benson, Rebecca Bimler, Lois Butler, Teri Chasten, Pam Dobrovlny, Melinda Graham, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, J. P. Holys, Sian Jones-Jobst, Elenaor Kirkland, Amy LaPointe, Carol McClain, Julie Mizner, Dawn Mollenkopf, Christy Pelton, Shirley Pickens-White, Roger Reikofski, Julie Rother, Susan Strahm, Carolyn Thiele, and Salene Ulrich.

There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

#### **vii. Mental Health Consultation**

Jana Habrock from the *KidSquad program* at Child Saving Institute provided information on the Mental Health Consultation services offered to early childhood programs in the Metro Omaha area. Kids Squad is a program that was developed in 2004 as pilot consultation project that worked with Educare and Child Saving Institute's child development program. The program provided mental health professionals and education professionals as consultants to early childhood programs in supporting young children's social and emotional development. The goals of the program are to:

- 1) reduce expulsion from childcare or early education programs;
- 2) increase young children's social and emotional competencies;
- 3) enhance the skills of the early care and education workforce to meet young children's social and emotional needs; and

- 4) help families reduce their stress and increase skills to parent children with challenging behaviors.

The program currently has 15 consultants from 4 partner agencies. There are 8.5 Mental Health FTEs and 2 FTE of Education consultants.

In 2011, 67 centers and 156 classrooms were served and 135 children were targeted for direct intervention with 76% aged 3-5 years. 2,006 children indirectly benefited from the *KidSquad* consultation services.

The program has been funded over the years by a variety of funders. Most of the funding currently comes from the Building Bright Futures and Region 6.

Consistently *KidSquad* data shows children significantly improve social and emotional skills and decrease behavior concerns. Both parents' and teachers' ratings demonstrate improved skills. In 2011, every sub-scale as rated by parents AND teachers, the children made positive gains. In addition, classroom teachers significantly improve classroom environments. In 2011, 95% of the classrooms make improvements in the Environment Rating Scale scores.

#### **viii. Next Meeting Agenda Items**

The Council members discussed possible agenda items for the next meeting. Agenda items identified included: Results Matter update, the Annual Performance Report, the Governor's Report draft, Home Visitation Update, Head Start Professional Staff Education Requirements, Quality Rating System, and Quality Grants-What trends do we see in program's funding requests.

Pam Dobrovolny and Terry Rohren are working on the location for the May 2013 ECICC meeting. Right now it looks like the meeting will be held in Valentine.

**The next meeting of the Council will be February 15, 2013 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln.**