

## **Draft Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council**

**November 16, 2018, SCC – Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Building, Lincoln, NE**

**9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.**

**Council Members Present:** Susan Adams, Mary Barry-Magsamen, Teresa Berube, Sue Borchert, Carol Bowen, Amy Bunnell, Janelle Butler, Allison Cunningham, Julie Docter, Gwen Easter, Jamie Hazlett, Melody Hobson, Stephanie Knust, Krynn Larsen, Karla Lester, Joan Luebbers, Cathy Mohnike, Dawn Murphy, Mary Phillips, Suzanne Schneider, Paula Thompson, Nicole Vint, Allison Wilson

**Council Members Absent:** Laura Arp, Sen. Kolowski, Brenda McNiff, Missy Timmerman

**Also in Attendance:** Council Facilitator, Eleanor Shirley; Council Staff, Karen Hoffman; Technical Assistants, Amanda Adams, Jennifer Auman, Amy Bornemeier, Lynne Brehm, Cole Johnson, Connie Shockley, Kim Texel, Staci Zuerlein

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### **Council Meeting Convenes**

With quorum having been met, ECICC Facilitator, Eleanor Shirley, gave welcome to the group. Chairperson, Dawn Murphy, called the meeting to order at 9:05a.m. The Open Meetings Act was noted as being posted in the back of the room, and mention made that the meeting was being recorded. Welcome was given to Allison Wilson, a Program Specialist from the Division of Children & Family Services, who is replacing Emily Kluver on the Council. Allison will be supporting education and their state boards in the field. Introductions were made from around the room.

Following a brief time for review of the minutes which had been provided via email to the Council, Dawn asked if there were any questions before requesting a motion to approve the minutes. Such a motion made by Mary Phillips and seconded by Nicole Vint; a roll call vote was taken.

Roll call vote: 13-yes, 3-abstain, 0-no; the motion passed. (Note: five members arrived after the vote was taken.)

Yes: Berube, Borchert, Bowen, Bunnell, Docter, Hobson, Knust, Luebbers, Murphy, Phillips, Schneider, Thompson, Vint

Abstain: Adams, Barry-Magsamen, Hazlett, Wilson

#### **Today's Agenda**

The meeting agenda was reviewed and there were no questions.

#### **Public Comment**

Dawn Murphy asked if there was any Public Comment or any announcements for the good of the group. There were none.

#### **Governor's Biennial Report work continued**

Eleanor Shirley, and guest, Mike Medwick, Communications Lead at First Five Nebraska, provided an update on the status of the 2018 ECICC Biennial Report to the Governor. Eleanor recounted the process and timeline for getting the Report to the Governor. Reviewer consensus is that this version of the report will be less text-heavy, contain more data, and include policy-focused information with these five key areas: Availability of High

Quality Services, Professional Development and Capacity of Higher Education, Comprehensive Early Learning Standards, a Unified Data System, and Opportunities for Coordination and Collaboration among State Agencies and Local Programs. These elements are intentional and based upon the By-Laws and the federal and state laws that the ECICC is required to adhere to. Meetings will continue to include presentations that support these report elements, and elevate the issues that Council members face. The Report can be a tool for Council members to present a unified voice when engaging the public about the landscape of Early Childhood care and education in Nebraska, with Legislative members and policy-makers. A one-page information sheet may be created to support this, and would be a working document moving forward.

First Five Nebraska will coordinate the formatting and editing of the report. A dominant theme emerging for this report is the idea of infrastructure within the state, with a goal to communicate that Early Childhood care and education as an integral part of state infrastructure. With significant turnover in the Legislature, the report can be an opportunity to represent that Nebraska is thinking about this work as a cohesive whole. Mike will work with his fellow staff members on context and input in the process. He invited additional feedback and observations from the group.

Eleanor referenced the report and called out some items that were revised and updated. The data facts will support progress that's been made and determine whether attention will move to other needs. A number of comments were made with input that could be included in the report. Parents of children with disabilities often have a difficult time finding caregivers, especially when moving to a new community; funding assistance is also a challenge. Some testimonials about these issues could be included in the report. Linking to other reports that contain data facts about typically developing children as well as special needs children that require additional supports and services was a suggestion. Subsidies and funding for varied populations, as well as the fluctuation in numbers of childcare centers, was discussed. Diane Kvasnicka, Program Manager for the Division of Public Health's Licensure Unit, provided a presentation to the Council in August about Childcare Licensing reporting that is required by statute. Diane is being asked for additional content. Mike thanked the group for its comments and feedback, saying the report will be a touchpoint rather than a "deep dive." Eleanor and Mike will continue this work and bring the more complete report to the February meeting.

### **Part C/Early Development Network (EDN) Study Findings**

Miriam Kuhn, Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders, was introduced to share findings from an Early Development Network study she had conducted with Service Providers, families, and Supervisors. The purpose of the study was to understand the impact of Professional Development and Technical Assistance that the Co-lead agencies (Nebraska Departments of Education and Health and Human Services) have been coordinating and providing as part of federally required RDA (Results Driven Accountability) efforts. Findings were gathered from a number of pilot and non-pilot sites that utilized Routines Based Interview to develop functional IFSP outcomes, and the impact(s) measured. Miriam noted that while Nebraska has been doing RBI and Functional Outcomes-writing training for many years, and the non-pilot sites likely had *some* people who had been trained, the practice was not as universal as in the pilot sites. Dr. Kuhn studied whether trainings had affected the outcomes and the dosage of service delivery, professionals' job satisfaction, and consumer satisfaction. She utilized a mixed method design of both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Dr. Kuhn walked the Council through the Quantitative and Qualitative study results and shared highlights around both child and family outcomes, saying she felt there was significant progress for both. She gave kudos to the participating teams for their efforts to conduct the trainings, and to the professionals implementing them. Dr. Kuhn noticed a foundational shift in daily outcomes, saying parents had a more precise idea about

successes, due to their being more intimately involved in goal development. The EDN website will have a full report, and Dr. Kuhn is noting highlights only today.

The group had questions about sustainability and fidelity, and how effectiveness was measured. Dr. Kuhn responded that building fidelity is a focus, and there is a need to look at 'drift' and new employees over time. Some possible next steps include the goal of widespread, systematic dissemination of Professional Development and Technical Assistance across the state, and more transparency and inclusion of families in the IFSP process. When asked whether the questionnaire will be published, Dr. Kuhn said it will appear in the appendix of the report, which will eventually be on the EDN website. It was noted that a challenge of qualitative research is "everyone" can't be asked, and the goal is to obtain a good sampling. There were participants from across the PRTs, rural areas, educators, therapists, families, etc. However, there were no non-English speaking families, and Dr. Kuhn feels that including English Learner participants, as well as those with varying education and socio-economic levels, is important. When asked about whether families from North Omaha were included in the study, it was noted that some districts have more constraints to participation in these types of studies than others, which presents a challenge when there are time limitations around meeting Federal Reporting requirements. Lincoln was chosen as the Urban Center representative for this particular study.

The full written report and executive summary may be found at <http://edn.ne.gov/cms/results-driven-accountability>. Dr. Kuhn's email address and phone number: [miriamkuhn@unomaha.edu](mailto:miriamkuhn@unomaha.edu); 402-554-3360

### **Part C Annual Performance Report (APR)**

Amy Bunnell and Cole Johnson presented a PowerPoint about the Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) and the indicators for both results and compliance requirements that Part C services are measured by. This annual report is required by the U.S. Government and every state must submit by February 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a measurement of Early Intervention service delivery. Targets for 2017-18 were reviewed and the results for Nebraska were shared. Specific notes included indicator 3 data, Child Outcomes, which are measured by Teaching Strategies GOLD. Caution was given on this data set, as it is still preliminary and incomplete. A final set will be shared with the Council at the February meeting. The Council was also reminded that Nebraska is the only state using GOLD, so there are no other states to compare its data with. Cole shared that on indicator 4, the Family Outcome data set which comes from the Annual Part C Family Survey, Nebraska is performing at close to 90%. It was noted that continued performance at such a high level will be difficult to maintain. The Family Survey includes input about how families feel they are doing in the program. It is believed that one reason for the high return rate is the extra effort Services Coordinators give to hand-distributing them to their families. General questions were shared and discussed around how outcomes are targeted and improvements made. When a target is missed, there is new focus on addressing it, which can include technical assistance. The APR is for a subset (birth to age three), so it is only a small part of the information provided for the Governor's Report.

A vote by the Council was needed to allow ECICC chair, Dawn Murphy, to sign the final report, before it is submitted. Amy Bunnell made the motion and Mary Barry-Magsamen seconded it. A roll-call vote was taken:

Roll call vote: 19-yes, 1-abstain, 0-no; the motion passed.

Yes: Barry-Magsamen, Berube, Borchert, Bowen, Bunnell, Cunningham, Docter, Easter, Hazlett, Hobson, Knust, Larsen, Lester, Luebbers, Mohnike, Murphy, Phillips, Thompson, Vint

Abstain: Wilson

### **Child Care Development Fund Update**

Nicole Vint shared that Health and Safety plan letters went out to all CCDF Subsidy Providers. Phase I changes were communicated in October with requirements that include certification for Pediatric First Aid/CPR by March 31, 2019. This information will be put on the "Provider" tab of the website. Phase II will be a Health and Pre-Service Orientation requirement. A comprehensive training is being developed that could have one module to cover topics, and another to address more specific audiences. A free, online training will likely be two to three hours in length, and more information will be shared as it is prepared.

Next Nicole shared that Federal law requires states to conduct a Market Rate Survey every three years, and state law requires it every two years. Greg Welch with the Buffett Early Childhood Institute will be assisting with the 2019 survey, and a power point slide showed what data will be collected. It was commented that the Market Rate Survey will eventually provide some valuable data for a *future* Governor's report.

Finally, information was shared about an emergency plan to address how HHS will respond to assist child care programs during a disaster. The plan has been prepared in coordination with other state agencies, under the acronym NEMA, or Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. The plan includes an Overview of Child Care and CCDF responsibilities. A new professional development training will be available for all child care providers that addresses needs specific to a child care setting during a disaster. Resources are being developed to be quickly and easily accessed. Eleanor called out the timeliness of this report, considering the dilemmas being faced recently with California fires. While some of these practices can sometimes seem very perfunctory, this is a reminder of their importance.

### **Technical Assistant Spotlight**

ECICC Technical Assistant, Staci Zuerlein, with the Department of Children & Family Services, shared some handouts that detailed three programs she works with and are coordinated through DHHS. Staci shared about the Medically Handicapped Children's Program, the Genetically Handicapped Person's Program, and the Disabled Children's Program, their funding sources, and how they must adhere to both state statutes and state regulations. A comment was shared that, sometimes, a family cannot access services due to their income being too high. Staci acknowledged this is an issue, saying that the rewriting of related regulations was in the very early stages, with the possible adjustment of financial guidelines being a focus. Another program was mentioned that provides supportive services for siblings, such as respite care and mileage, for when a family has a child that undergoes surgery. These services can be covered when a child is on Medicaid.

### **Working lunch presentation: Member Development**

Eleanor shared two power points during the working lunch, the focus being on the Legislative Authority under which the ECICC operates, and the Council By-Laws. Some historical information was given, as well as the charge for the Council to advise and assist, and to function to meet Federal requirements. The Council was taken through the various Acts and Laws that create the framework for its responsibilities.

Next Eleanor talked about Operating Procedures, including details around Council membership and expectations, the Steering Committee and its processes, and Council leadership. She discussed voting procedures and Roberts' Rules of Order ECICC, followed by Secretary, Karen Hoffman, who shared information about reimbursement eligibility.

## **Collaborative Initiatives**

Amy Bornemeier and Lynne Brehm, from the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFE), shared information about a number of programs. Lynne heads up Rooted in Relationships; Amy works with Sixpence and Communities for Kids initiatives. Shared some background for the collaborative approach.

Reporting occurs about how state agencies are coordinating and collaborating in Nebraska communities.

Amy and Lynne provided a brief overview of each of these five initiatives, sharing they are only a portion of what NCFE oversees:

- Community Well-Being
- Sixpence
- Rooted in Relationships
- System of Care
- Communities for Kids

Lynn shared about the Collective Impact approach for the community. No matter which initiative is being focused on, there are common elements used for each one and, ideally, an existing collaborative hub that is being used. Whenever possible they do go through the collaborative for support, to honor and use the collective impact model, saying this helps to develop the capacity within the community, and better respond to grant opportunities when they present themselves. A map was shown that listed the eight initiatives that are currently in place throughout the state.

An example of the Panhandle & Hall County area was shared which has an established, strong collaborative effort in place, and how it continues to expand services and collaboration with yet more programs, without having to duplicate efforts.

## **Early Childhood Updates**

Melody Hobson reported about some various Preschool items, including a one-year Preschool Development Grant for birth to five services that was submitted November 6<sup>th</sup>, following a great deal of work by Melody, Nicole Vint, and others. There was very tight timeline and the grant, which is to start January 1, 2019 is essentially an infrastructure grant with five objectives. Nebraska applied for \$5.8 million dollars, with there potentially being some state and private matching dollars. Nicole mentioned a full-time position was written into the grant to oversee the project and facilitate activities. They felt very fortunate to have had a grant writer on the project, and hope to hear about approval by mid-December. If the grant is received, the ECICC will be asked to provide ongoing input. Lynne Brehm gave kudos to Melody and Nicole for their dedicated work on the grant, and confirmed that activities under this grant would align nicely with the five key elements of reporting in the 2018 Governor's Report.

Melody shared that, with the passing and subsequent signing of LB803, which provides the State Board of Education the authority to have a waiver process for school districts who were unable to provide a teacher with appropriate teaching certificate and early childhood endorsement, work is underway by the Department to create verbiage that utilizes the right legal terms. An August survey that included questions about whether a waiver was applied for and how it worked, collected input from school districts, early childhood contacts, Special Education Directors, and Educational Service Unit Coordinators. The hope is for final language within the next few months.

Finally, Melody shared about an upcoming RFP (request for proposal) release from the Office of Early Childhood regarding an Early Childhood Education Grant for three and four year-olds. School districts and their

partners will be eligible to apply, however, amounts are unknown until State Aid\* is certified. The timeline is also in process of being determined.

\*State Aid is a complex formula system that funds public schools. Not every public school district receives it, and it is based on whether a district can meet the needs of providing the services.

### **Head Start Updates**

Nebraska Head Start Director, Joan Luebbers, shared some updates about some Head Start grants. Early Head Start Expansion and/or Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grants have November 30<sup>th</sup> deadlines. These grants help support and expand services and also help raise the quality of child care. Early Head Start Child Care grants service low income families who are at 100% of the Federal poverty level.

Joan talked about Duration grants which are for extending services that help meet the needs of working families and support young children's educational needs. These grants are also due in November, and an entity must be serving less than 40% of its classrooms at full day (6 hours) to apply. With reauthorization of Head Start performance standards in August of this year, 30% of classrooms had to be at full-day. There is still a requirement that by August 1, 2021, classrooms will be at 100% full day (6 hours). Joan shared that this will create a space issue in some cases. Dawn Murphy mentioned that one-time funds could possibly be used to renovate a building to create more space, or maybe to rent new space. However, those funds are not ever guaranteed. It was noted that the Duration Grants have bi-partisan support.

Finally, Joan made a special announcement about a change in the Chairmanship of the Nebraska Head Start Association. Deb Ross had served in this role for ten years. A recent vote elected ECICC member, Steph Knust, as the new state Chair, and the Council recognized Steph with applause. Following some transition time, Steph expects to be in place by January.

### **February Meeting Components**

Eleanor asked the group for February meeting components. The Steering Committee will consider these and other items during its January conference call.

- Governor's Report for approval (action item)
- Melody requested a School Aged Care presentation
- Part C items for review by the Council
- Shauna Crane / TAESE will provide a virtual presentation about Federal requirements for state ICCs.

### **Other/Adjourn:**

Chair person, Dawn Murphy adjourned the meeting at 2:20p.m.

### **Handouts shared:**

- Part C Executive Summary from Miriam Kuhn
- Three program handouts from Staci Zuerlein
- Head Start powerpoint page from Joan

**Next Meeting:** February 22, 2019, Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center,  
301 South 68<sup>th</sup> Street Place, Lincoln

**2019 ECICC meeting dates:**

- February 22, 2019 – Jack J. Huck Continuing Ed Center
- May 3 – 8800 “O” Street SCC
- August 16 – Jack J. Huck Continuing Ed Center
- November 14 & 15 – Jack J. Huck Continuing Ed Center

*\*Council vote needed*

*\*\* Public Comment Invited*

*\*\*\*Lunch is pre-ordered and limited to Council members, presenters, personal and technical assistants, and agency support staff who have been identified prior to the meeting.*