

# Delaware Early Childhood Council

## Meeting Notes

February 11, 2011

Carvel Research & Education Center, UD Georgetown, DE

*Attending Members: Jeff Benatti, Cheryl Clendaniel, Mary Gavin, Debbie Gottschalk, April Hill-Addison, Beth Inter, Julie Johnson, Tony Marchio, MaryKate McLaughlin, Terri Murphy, Leslie Newman, Dan Rich, Michelle Taylor, Doug Tynan*

*Absent Members: Carlitina Hall, Paul Harrell, Stephanie Johnson, Terry Schooley, Connie Bond Stuart*

*Attending Ex Officio: Martha Buell, Jim Lesko*

*Others Attending: Sherylynn Aurelio, Michelle Blankenship, Anne Camasso, Audrey Carey, Janet Carter, Margaret Clark, Jennifer Clement, Lana Cobb, Lora Collins, Janet Cornwell, Brigitte Gavas, Darlene Hamilton, Dawn Holston, Rita Hovermale, Darby Hudson, Trudy Hunt, Leah Jones, Mary Knapp, Barbara McCaffery, Mary Moor, Kathy Moore, Jennifer Oppel, Carol Owens, Doris Rizek, Chad Robinson, Tony Ruggiero, Gwendolyn Sanders, Anna Scovell, Mary Sonnenberg, Judy Stang, Debbie Taylor, Verna Thompson, Melissa Walter, Kathy Wilson, Maryann Younger*

### **1. Presentation from the Sussex Early Childhood Council**

Janet Cornwell shared an overview of the Sussex Early Childhood Council (SECC). April Hill-Addison provides support to the Sussex Council and serves as the link between the Sussex Council and the State Council. The SECC is the link to LEA's working on Ready Schools. The SECC's goals include giving Sussex County a voice, making the Council purposeful, mapping resources, providing resources to families, assisting existing programs and resources to meet county-wide needs, and recruiting more parents to expand memberships. The action steps for 2011 are:

- Increase and diversify membership and recruit more parents
- Investigate funding to support Council's efforts
- Develop marketing plan to inform families, communities, schools, etc., of the work of the SECC
- Revisit a survey implemented in 2009 by the SECC

### **2. Minutes from December 17, 2010 meeting were approved.**

### **3. Delaware Stars Committee work plan for 2011**

Jim Lesko, Ex-Officio Council member, presented the Delaware Stars Committee's work plan on behalf of Rena Hallam. The 2011 tasks include:

- Reviewing information provided by the Stars program staff at the DIEEC regarding program participation, star level designation, technical assistance and quality improvement

- Reviewing recommendations of the Stars Management Team for technical assistance and quality improvement activities and implementation
- Making recommendations to the Council for the revision and modification of the current Stars system and promotion and expansion of the program

#### **4. Integrated Early Childhood Data System**

Jim Lesko shared a PowerPoint presentation of the current structure of early childhood data. He discussed potential strategies about how to integrate the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families and the Department of Education data to develop an integrated system. *[See Attached Power Point]*

#### **5. ECC Website**

The purpose and content of a revised ECC website were discussed. Consensus was reached that the website must be capable of posting information quickly and allows the public to respond.

#### **6. IRMC Meeting Report**

Jim Lesko and Dan Rich gave an overview of the IRMC meeting on January 5, 2011. The goals for the IRMC are 1) establish a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system; 2) establish a comprehensive and coordinated statewide early childhood data management system; 3) full implementation of the state's early childhood quality rating improvement system Delaware Stars for Early Success; 4) addressing the early development and learning needs of the population of children living with families with incomes that fall below 200 percent of poverty; and 5) application of early childhood standards across programs focusing on the Early Learning Foundation and Delaware Stars Program Standards. Two key items on the agenda were data integration and status of the states home visiting needs assessment. The Chair reported to the IRMC on the strategic goals and work plan of the ECC.

#### **7. Update on DHSS proposed regulation change**

Debbie Gottschalk, Chief Policy Advisor for DHSS, presented an update on the proposed regulation change. A public announcement was made for POC providers referencing the renewal process, authorization for services and rule making process. The TANF program is proposing changes to include eliminating consideration of excessive financial burdens. Also under consideration is elimination or changing the special needs classification in POC.

#### **8. Improving Communication with the Early Childhood Community**

MaryKate McLaughlin addressed the Council concerning efforts by the state agencies to coordinate and work together collectively to improve communications and address concerns. The departments will share the concerns to offer a joint response. MaryKate will bring a proposal to the next meeting for discussion.

#### **9. Chair's Report**

- The Chair noted the Governor mentioned Early Childhood Education during the State of the State address.
- Tony Marchio was recognized for being instrumental in having the Chief School Officers issue a letter of support for the mission and strategic goals of the ECC.
- The P-20 Council meeting was cancelled in January so the ECC Higher Education Committee will bring their recommendations to the next meeting. This information will be shared with Council members.

#### **10. Open Forum**

The floor was opened to all present to share ideas, events, and feedback.

**11. Next Meeting:** March 11, 2011, 9 to noon at the DDDS Training Site @ Fox Run