

Delaware Early Childhood Council

Meeting Notes

October 14, 2011

Farmington/Felton Room, DelDot, Dover

Attending Members: Jeff Benatti, Cheryl Clendaniel, April Hill-Addison, Julie Johnson, Leslie Newman, Dan Rich

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

Attending Ex Officio: Martha Buell, Jim Lesko, Ann Wick

Others Attending: Kelly Schaffer, Norma Everett, Janet Carter, Dawn Holston, Betty Gail Timm, Debbie Taylor, Mary Moor, Mary Sonnenberg, Jason Hustedt, Sara Wilson, Janice Barlow, Bobbi Budin, Linda Zankowski, Sherlynn Aurelio, Dorothy Onn, Carol Owens, John Kowalko, Rena Hallam, Wendy Strauss, Jeffrey Surette, Carol Ann Schumann, Gwendolyn Sanders, Janet Cornwell, Pat Nelson, Penny Deiner, Paulina Gyan, Leah Woodall, Melia Anderson

Minutes from September 9, 2011 were approved.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of Early Challenge Grant Proposal

Chris Librizzi of The Parthenon Group gave a brief summary of the emerging policy objectives in our strategy to focus grant efforts on areas that have a high impact for children which will give programs in high need areas the ability to access resources. The Policy Objectives are:

- Strengthening Stars to drive quality across sectors
- Building a professional, effective workforce
- Supporting the Health and Development Needs of the Whole Child
- Aligning with K-12 to Measure and Improve Kindergarten Readiness

3. ECC Endorsement of Early Challenge Grant Proposal

Dan Rich shared the Early Challenge Grant Proposal letter presented to Secretary Rapposelli, DSCYF, expressing support for the Early Learning Challenge Grant to strengthen the quality, availability, and outcomes of the early learning and development services available to Delaware's youngest children and their families. The Council is also supporting further development and piloting of the Delaware Kindergarten Readiness program. The Motion to Council for endorsement was unanimous, all in favor.

4. Provider Committee

Julie Johnson will host the first Provider Committee on December 6, 2011 in Smyrna. There will be a follow up in the January 13, 2012 ECC agenda.

5. ECC Website

Tony Ruggiero gave an overview of the Early Childhood Council website. The information provided will be submitted to the General Information Center to load which will allow calendar function and an actual view of the web pages to be finished by the end of November. The site will have "hotlinks" to various Departments, agencies and resources will have interactive capability, and information and announcements will be posted. Dan Rich invited everyone to send suggestions, comments and improvements.

6. Policy Brief on Kindergarten Readiness

Kelly Sherretz with the University of Delaware shared a draft copy of the Kindergarten Readiness Policy Brief which will ensure a child's readiness to include access to quality learning opportunities, support to families, nutrition, mental health and physical health. Ready Children need to be supported across five developmental domains from infancy through preschool to include physical development, social and emotional development, language and literacy development, approaches to learning and cognitive development.

7. Chairs Report

- Dan Rich suggested to organize a forum to discuss briefs
- ECAP Grants are due by October 19, 2011
- Needs Assessment will be asked in November to vote on bi-laws of the Council (DECC is in code with Delaware Law)
- Recognition was given to council members to share ideas, comments and suggestions to be included in upcoming DECC Agendas
- Janet Carter was recognized for her retirement after 33+ years of service to children in Delaware

8. Next Meeting:

- **January 13, 2011 from 9am to 12pm at the DDDS Training Site @ Fox Run**