

Delaware Early Childhood Council

Committee on Sustainable System Improvement

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 23, 2014

Meeting Site: Buena Vista Conference Center

Attendees: Elaine Archangelo, Madeleine Bayard, Ed Freel, Ranie Good, Lynne Howard, Michael Jackson, Bob Laskowski, Maria Matos, Charles McDowell, Leslie Newman, Jennifer Ranji, Annette Searfoss (new Director, Delaware Stars), Mary Sonnenberg, Jeff Tashner, Michelle Taylor, Michelle Wilson and fro Office of Early Learning Evelyn Keating and Nancy Widdoes

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome, Introductions	
2014 Delaware Annual Early Learning Summit	Chair Ed Freel encouraged all members to participate in the upcoming November 19, 2014, 8:30 – noon 2014 Annual Early Learning Summit (which is also a Delaware Early Childhood Council meeting). Meeting site is in Dover at Delaware State University’s Martin Luther King Student Center.
Overview of the Early Learning Challenge – Accomplishments to Date, Financial Picture	Secretary Jennifer Ranji of the Delaware Children’s Department gave this overview. Supporting materials used in her presentation are distributed with the meeting notes.
Overview of the RAND Year One Evaluation Report on Delaware Stars (Delaware’s Quality Rating and Improvement System or QRIS)	Lynn Karoly, Sr. Economist at RAND provided this overview. Her presentation slides are distributed with the meeting notes.
Assess progress over past year on Delaware Early Learning Challenge and in early learning system – develop recommendations to the Council.	<p>Discussion focused on the following items identified as steps to be taken to support effective advocacy for quality early learning and specifically sustainability of key components of the Early Learning Challenge Grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful monitoring of grant budget v expenditures • Follow Tiered Reimbursement expenditures (state and grant) to identify early any need for additional funding • Identify what each project’s annual expenditure has been and what it is anticipated to be going forward, specifically noting what projects will not require funding beyond the expiration of federal grant • Clarify committee’s role in priority setting, what action(s) should be taken • Identify what actions can be taken in the near term to trim the post-grant financial investment required (e.g. change to policy –e.g. Stars/for programs serving low income children) • Rank grant projects for sustainability in order of priority, along with identifying those for which there is no post-grant funding needed. • Get reports/updates on grant accomplishments and expenditures v budget to keep committee informed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm state’s commitment to continuation of \$22M – (suggested is that it be part of advocacy/outreach to ensure it is sustained). • Early Childhood Integrated Data System needed – What can be done to encourage state to invest in early childhood integrated data system? • Messaging is key. We need to <i>identify messages and be consistent to make advocacy effective</i>. • HOW to message – for effective advocacy, we need to know what types of communication are needed - video clips, calls, meetings called by influencers, etc... • Formalize and outreach plan for contacting legislators -- (includes being supportive to legislators in resolving constituent issues relating to early childhood-related issues) • Committee may need to meet more often --- plug in to early phase of JFC (develop an advocacy plan that is long term, starts soon and continues through development/passage of SFY 17 budget) • Early childhood provider community -- Acknowledge provider concerns re: sustainability --- and ensure there is communication with providers regarding their concerns -- can they sustain Star rating with new requirements if the financial incentives do not continue? – will financial incentives and other supports developed with Challenge grant funding be there for them? (targeted messaging) • Share data with legislators (e.g. mapping/stars programs in their area) - • Engage parents – build/expand informed consumer base, so parents will ask provider about whether they are in Stars? If yes, what’s the rating? • Spring 2015 – participate actively in series of meetings to collect input from public, early childhood advocates and community on Challenge grant sustainability – to inform state agency budget request development, crafting of SFY 17 state budget • We should ask those we aim to influence --- what would convince you that early learning is a good investment – (compelling stories from parents, data on child outcomes/benefit of quality early learning – (not just good people working hard/doing wok – but what would sell you on the value added?, where the next dollar should be invested?) and prepare our advocacy/outreach efforts accordingly for optimal influence.
<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>	<p>Chair noted that the next committee meeting is likely to be held in mid- to late-January or early February, 2015.</p>