



DRAFT Meeting Notes – May 6, 2015
9:22 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Dover Public Library – 35 Lookerman Plaza, Dover, DE 19901

Council Attendance: Heidi Beck, New Directions Early Head Start; Ed Freel, University of Delaware; Debbie Gottschalk, Division of Health and Social Services; April Hill-Addison, Department of Education; Mary Kate Mouser, Nemours Health and Prevention Services; Terri Murphy, West Center Early Learning Center; Leslie Newman, Children and Families First; Susan Perry-Manning, Office of Early Learning; Debbie Taylor, Child Care Aware of America; Michelle Taylor, United Way; Kelli O. Thompson, Nemours Health and Prevention Services; Michelle Wilson, Capital School District

Others in Attendance: Valerie Boothe, Susan Cycyk, Gayle Green, Shebra Hall, Evelyn Keating, Mary Moor, Christine Poehlman, Andrea Prettyman, Brigitte Shellenberger, Joanna Sullivan, Linda Tholstrip, Jamie Walko, Mike Wilson, Linda Zankowsky

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- Mary Kate Mouser welcomed everyone and reminded them to sign in.

2. Review Approval of Minutes

- With errors corrected (misspelling of two names), minutes were approved.

3. Goals Committee Reports

- **Goal 1: A Healthy Start for All Children - Kelli Thompson, Chair**
 - Beginning in 2015, the committee began meeting on an every-other-month schedule.
 - At each meeting the committee members review the progress/status of each of the Council's recommendations regarding Goal 1 of the Early Childhood Strategic Plan
 - The Committee reviewed the December 2014 federal policy on expulsion and suspension of young children from early learning program settings and recommends sending it out to the entire Council for review.
 - The Goal 1 Committee is interested in developing recommendations for Delaware based on the federal expulsion and suspension policy.
 - The Committee is also working to complete a guide for families with young children on resources and training designed to enhance the ability of families to promote young child social-emotional wellness, along with a plan for dissemination of the guide once it is completed. This resource will be incorporated into already existing resources.
 - The Committee is waiting to review the results of the PEDS Toolkit pilot with health providers across the state, led by the Division of Public Health.
 - The Goal 1 Committee is next scheduled to meet on June 26, 2015.
- **Goal 2 – Michelle Taylor, Chair**
 - Goal 2 Committee has reviewed the data related to each relevant objective and strategy in the Early Learning Challenge grant.

- Progress related to high-quality early childhood programs, as measured through Delaware Stars, is at or exceeding targets.
 - Progress in the area of high-quality professionals is of concern because Delaware does not have a professional registry.
 - Summer meeting will focus on workforce issues and data.
- Goal 3 – Michelle Wilson, Co-Chair
 - The Goal 3 Committee has incorporated two existing committees into its structure – the birth to age 5 committee and the Early Learner Survey committee.
 - Christine Poehlman is now serving as Co-Chair of the Committee and is representing the early learning providers.
 - The Committee met in March and began working on a definition of school readiness.
 - The Committee met in April to refine its draft definition and decided to narrow its focus from school readiness to kindergarten readiness.
 - The Committee brainstormed a slogan, “*Children 1st in the First State,*” with a graphic logo designating icons for the children, families, community, K-12, and early learning. Each icon will be accompanied by a definition of what readiness means for the category it represents.
 - The Committee will meet next on Tuesday, May 19th, (5-7pm, location in Dover, TBD) to continue its work on the kindergarten readiness definition.
 - Three sub-committees will begin to meet in June. Other Council members are invited to participate. They are:
 - Alignment Conference Sub-Committee: Planning an Alignment Conference for early learning providers and kindergarten teachers.
 - Family Questionnaires Sub-Committee: Adapting the questionnaires used by the kindergarten teachers as part of the ELS for use by early learning centers and higher grades.
 - ELS Survey Training Materials Sub-Committee: Revise training and materials for final full rollout of the ELS in fall 2015 and develop Train-the-Trainer materials for districts to train new teachers.
- Goal 4 – Ed Freel, Chair
 - Since the Council meeting was held in conjunction with Advocacy Day, Ed encouraged everyone to make sure to thank the Governor and Legislature for their support of the state’s early learning work and ask for their continued support in moving the work forward.
 - The Goal 4 Committee will convene soon to begin planning for the upcoming year.

4. Presentation of Forums and Results

- Susan Perry-Manning provided an overview of the Great Starts Investing focus group and survey results.
- A full report summarizing the results of the focus groups and survey will be coming out in early summer.

5. Advocacy Day Activities

- Mary Kate Mouser briefly went over the activities folder for Advocacy Day.
- Mary Kate thanked everyone for participating in the Advocacy Day’s events.

6. Future Meeting Topics and Date

- Next meeting will be held July 14th at 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Applied Bank Center, 2200 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803 in the Lecture Hall located on the 1st Floor.
- Future meeting topics will include review of governance documents (bylaws, statute, etc.) and Council membership.

7. Adjourn

- Mary Kate adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.