



DELAWARE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

December 9, 2014

Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

Conference Room 114

Multi-Purpose Facility

Attendance: Secretary Ranji, Mary Kate Mouser, Madeleine Bayard, Heidi Beck, Aileen Fink, John Fisher-Klein, Carmen Gallagher, Marcie Shahan, Paul Harrell, Paula Holloway, Valerie Jermusyk, Sue Mitchell, Melia Anderson, Shebra Hall, Pat Nelson, Karen DeRasmo, Michelle Anderson, Dawn Alexander, Andrea Prettyman, Jen Koester, Leslie Newman, Betty Gail Timm, Nancy Widdoes, Tanya Robinson, Michelle Taylor, Kelly Sherretz, Lynn Jezyk, Kathy Wilson, Janet Carter, Denise Stouffer, Martha Buell, Mike Wilson, JaNICE Barlow, Mary Moor, Paulina Gyan, Rosanne Griff-Cabelli, Debbie Gottschalk

1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

- Mary Kate Mouser welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.
- Mary Kate Mouser asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes before they were approved. No changes were suggested and minutes were approved as is.

2. Committee Updates

- Annual Summit
 - Mary Kate Mouser wanted to recognize the participants at the annual summit. There were many individuals involved such as staff and volunteers from different organizations. It really was an inspiring motivating day and a big thank you for supporting that day and being there. Included in the meeting packets were the 2014 annual early learning summit participant take-away messages shared, the summit participant feedback summary and the summary notes. Mary Kate appreciates the many people who helped get this information together so quickly and that there was a lot of positive feedback.

3. Sustainability

- Annual Meeting Recap and Sharing Information
 - Mary Kate Mouser stated that she would like to take the opportunity to go a little deeper about what happened at the annual meeting and some issues that were discussed on that day.
 - Secretary Ranji gave the members a little background on the building where the council meeting was held. Secretary Ranji stated that the building is their new Multi-Purpose facility which has been open for less than a year. The facility serves level 4 youth which level 5 being the highest. Ferris School is also on this campus and a number of their youth live on campus in three cottages. Grace Cottage is for the girls and Snowden & Mowlds Cottages are for the boys. The Cleveland White building was not very conducive to an educational environment so there was some capital funding available and the opportunity was there to build this beautiful educational facility. Secretary Ranji stated that what is wonderful about this facility is that it has the ability to provide a lot more internet access and helps the students' access dual credit opportunities. The new Multi-purpose facility has been a wonderful addition to the campus.

- Secretary Ranji stated that we have two pending grant applications the Early Head Start and the Pre-School Development Grant. Both of these grants went in over the last 6 months and the announcements on the award of these grants will both be made December 10, 2014. Once we find out the status of these grants after December 10th information will be sent out as soon as we know.
- The Challenge Grant ends in calendar year 2015 as originally planned but the federal government has provided the opportunity for a 6 month to a year extension. Funding has been put aside in the budget to allow us to get another 6 months or so out of the grant funding and the State will pick up whatever pieces they are able to pick up which will start in FY16.
- The planning for State FY17 begins in August 2015. State agencies will be pulling together what they need and further into the fall we put our requests into the budget office. With the information provided the budget office then presents to the Governor and that becomes part of his budget recommendation which goes in January 2016. After the January 2016 recommendation it then goes to the joint finance public hearings and we will know the outcome by the end of June. We have been receiving federal technical assistance and monitoring for the Challenge grant and it's be a great opportunity. They will be coming into Delaware on several dates this spring and setting up focus groups and giving input as far as priorities related to the Challenge Grant. The information from the focus groups will then be put into a report and will be available well before the FY17 budget planning.
- Secretary Ranji goes over the Delaware Early Challenge Grant expenditures through CY2015 by ELC goal and project. They project \$43.8 million to be spent by end of calendar year 2015 and \$49.9 million is the total grant amount and the difference is what has been set aside for sustainability. Secretary Ranji will then go through each goal and the corresponding projects.
 - Goal 1 – Expanding Comprehensive Screening and Follow Up Services for Young Children
 - Health Ambassadors
 - PEDS Screening Supports
 - Help Me Grow
 - Early childhood and mental health consultants added 5 spots
 - Clinical training for therapist in best practice for young children
 - Goal 2 – Expand the Number of Stars Programs and Children with High Needs in Stars Programs, particularly in programs in top tiers of quality.
 - Tiered Reimbursement
 - Technical Assistance
 - Infrastructure Fund – Facility/Technology Enhancements
 - Nutritional and Healthy Living
 - Comprehensive Development Screening – Ages and Stages
 - Early Learning Leadership Initiative
 - Core Awards
 - Goal 3 – Build Connections Between Early Learning and K-12 Schools
 - Delaware Early Learner Survey
 - Readiness Teams
 - Higher Ed
 - Goal 4 – Sustain a Thriving Statewide Early Learning System
 - Multi-State Consortium/QRIS Measurement Tool
 - QRIS Evaluation
 - POC Management Info. System – Much needed up-date
 - Parent and Community Engagement
 - Leadership for Development

- Secretary Ranji stated these goals that were set are ambitious but achievable.
 - Leslie Newman asked for a quick break down of the 22 million dollars in State funds from Secretary Ranji. The breakdown is as follows:
 - Tiered reimbursement is about 7 million dollars State and 5 million of grant funds.
 - General purchase of care is the largest chunk of the remainder of funds.
 - The some additional monies go to increased technical assistance.
 - Secretary Ranji encourages everyone to look for focus group opportunities. We need to think about how we are going to tell the story as it relates to outcomes.
 - A reminder that the March 30th – April 2nd are the days that we will be scheduling the focus groups with Kathy Thornburg. Kathy is from the Federal ELC and technical assistance program and has a lot of experience in focus groups.
- ECC Strategic Plan, ED25 and State Board Early Grade Literacy Campaign Alignment
 - Madeleine Bayard goes over the Draft Vision: Early Childhood Strategic Plan, Vision Coalition’s Draft “A vision for Education in Delaware in 2025” (ED25), State Board of Education’s Early Grade Literacy Campaign.
 - Madeleine Bayard stated that the early literacy campaign alignment document was created because there have been some questions. Madeleine wants to make sure that the many initiatives in the State are complementary and are understood as such so they can reinforce common goals. It takes the goals from the Council’s strategic plan and aligns it with the Vision Coalition. The Coalition is led by a team of 10 people including Dan Rich, former chair of DECC and Mark Murphy. The shared goals plan was out for circulation over the summer and the final plan will be released in 2015.
 - Madeleine Bayard stated that this strategic plan helps us figure out how to enhance our work in early learning and building towards sustainability. Leaders of ECC, State Board of Education and the Vision Coalition are in touch on how we can identify ways to work together. We would like to work with the State Board and Vision Coalition to catalyze these efforts and make more progress.
 - Secretary Ranji says to keep in mind the strategic plan came from three different groups and captures three different sets of processes and just because something appears in one column doesn’t mean it’s not captured in another. An example is that the strategic plan captures high level goals and some of the State Board work for example captures more detail specific actions. Do not consider the plan as if someone is looking up what we are doing and saying that we need to do this in addition to what we are already doing. It’s that in some ways they were written in different levels of detail and are captured differently. These goals are to get integrated with the others and put more support behind the strategic plan.
 - Mary Kate Mouser stated that strategic plan will help others understand all the different work that is happening and how it aligns up. This strategic plan will show the collective impact/framework and that we have agreed we have shared goals. We are doing different things but we all have the shared goals and we know what is best for early education in the State of Delaware. We need to trust in the processes and these are things we need to hear to make sure that everything is connected.
 - Martha Buell asked if they have questions, when they should be addressed. Martha stated it seems that there are places where words that are being used aren’t the same words. For instance under the “State Board Literacy Campaign” it looks like the pre-k is part of the k-12 system and then in some places it looks like pre-k is being discussed as part of the birth through 5 system and why do we need to have two different systems?

- Martha Buell also asked Madeleine Bayard and Mary Kate Mouser how they would like the feedback for literacy campaign alignment.
- Madeleine Bayard wanted to clarify on the pre-k point specifically a lot of members expressed the same question that they are reviewing that question and plan to make revisions to the draft to clarify. Madeleine will check with the State Board to make sure it's accurately represented. Also, there will be more opportunities for everyone to provide feedback on the shared goals once she talks to the State Board to see what the best way for them to receive feedback is.
- Mary Kate Mouser stated this is a fluid process and is not a black and white document that is always going to stay the same. This is a learning document and we can figure out how all these things work together and we can use this document to recognize how things are connected.
- Mary Kate Mouser stated the Council members can mark up the document now and give it back to her today or they can send their comments through e-mail whichever they prefer.
- Michelle Taylor suggested that a FAQ or common questions might be helpful if added to this document. Michelle also stated that we need to clarify on what the specifics are as far as what falls under each core strategy and what will it take to get us where we need to be.
- Madeleine Bayard stated that when the alignment document is sent out there are links that you can click on that will take you to the draft and it will give more detail and policy papers that go along with each goal.
- Michelle Taylor asked if there is going to be an opportunity where we will be able to revisit where we need to put our collective energy as a State. Mary Kate Mouser stated that she believes we have shown where we need to put our collective energy if we look at goals 1 through 4 those are the areas that we are driving for.
- Michelle Taylor states if you look at goal 2 we were talking about the need still for family engagement if that showed up somewhere else we might want to figure out how we partner and leverage our resources, time and energy together. We need to know what the priorities are and how we can help towards the goals to be successful.
- Leslie Newman states that it's pretty striking to her if you look at the three columns the holistic look at what happens before the Early Childhood Council. Leslie also stated there are gaps if everyone is focusing on birth to 3 and there is no recognition on what needs to happen in the before part. The great value of the mental health consultants that you see in the grant there is any social emotional mental health component? So, if we are looking at the total collective impact I would encourage the other places need to go back and identify from when the time they are little to when they enter the system.
- Madeleine Bayard stated that a lot of members shared the same feedback and anticipates it will be addressed in some way. She has been in conversation with the State Board about the social and emotional standards and there is an opportunity to expand it.
- Mary Kate Mouser and Madeleine Bayard are going to be meeting with the State Board leadership team and they will be able to bring all this feedback to them within the first two meetings they have with them next year in 2015.
- Mary Kate Mouser states that this type of feedback is very helpful. They will compile all the feedback and questions and take them back to the board. If anyone wants to reach out and have a one on one conversation with her, Madeleine or Secretary Ranji they will be happy to do so.

- The Case of Delaware’s Early Childhood System Communication Piece
 - Madeleine Bayard talks about the Goal 4 Committee which a number of the members are on and even though Ed Freel isn’t here today to give an update on where that group is and about how we can tell the story. We are also working on some materials on how we can all be aligned around the case for investment and having our compelling outcomes that we can all point to so that we all are focusing on and talking about path forward.
 - Madeleine stated there are some upcoming things such as going to a focus group, participating in Advocacy day and their might be some other opportunities for all of us.
 - Mary Kate Mouser appreciates Ed and others working on this and we have to continue to do this in order to move forward and it’s critically important to the work that we do.
 - Leslie Newman stated that we spoke about what strategies to use once we have our key points but it will be the legislature who makes the determinations. We need to find a way to have the larger constituents and each legislator reach out and tells them that this is a priority. After we get the talking points and the outcomes we need to connect with them and find a strategy and we need them to see this as an important area for their future.
 - Madeleine Bayard stated that we will be working on aligning all the voices so that we are all pointing in the same direction.

4. Purchase of Care Rates

- Mary Kate Mouser asked the Council if anyone would like to discuss purchase of care rates.
 - Debbie Gottschalk stated that a question came up again why they have county by county rates rather than statewide rates. There is a market study currently being conducted and it’s based on actual rates that providers say they are charging in certain areas for child care and those rates are being used as the market rate. If anyone gets those calls please answer these questions because the more data she has the more accurate her report will be on what providers are charging for child care.

5. Future Meetings and Council Feedback

- Mary Kate Mouser said to the Council that if anyone had any agenda items that they would like to talk about or have addressed at future Council meetings please feel free to do so.
- Mary Kate Mouser wanted to thank everyone for all the feedback they had received as far as the Council meetings and they will be using this feedback to ensure planning. Mary Kate thanked everyone for going on the journey and trying new things this year.
- Mary Kate Mouser stated as a reminder over the last year we have had themed meetings. We had 6 meetings after the one on December 18th four of the meetings we have had focused on one of our goal areas.
 - The final Council meeting for this year is coming up on December 18th, 2015 this meeting will give us more information about trauma informed care. Trauma informed care is national conversation that is happening but it’s really about the things in a child’s life that impact them for the long term. We can also better understand how we as an early childhood community can work and potentially do more which will complement the work that we are already doing. We have a wonderful speaker that is coming on the 18th. This is also an open Council meeting as all of our Council meetings are and we encourage all our Council members to be there. We are also combining and making sure that this was coordinated with the Wilmington Council as well. There are only so many hours in the day and we have a lot of meetings and we want to use our time wisely.

- Mary Kate Mouser stated we do not have the official meeting list for all the Council meetings that will be taking place in 2015 but we are working diligently on getting that list compiled. Based on the feedback we anticipate the meetings will run 2 hours this is an increase from an hour and ½.
- Mary Kate Mouser stated that we will be working in conjunction with the Sussex Early Childhood Council and the Wilmington Childhood Council and actually having a joint meeting which is something that we are exploring and are very excited about.
- Mary Kate Mouser stated this year we had two meetings in Dover and the other four meetings were in New Castle County. The meetings were held in a variety of different places and we will continue to look at spreading those meetings throughout the State.
- Madeleine Bayard stated that we are looking at how to maximize Advocacy day. We would like to have a meeting that day along with Advocacy Day events.
- Carmen Gallagher stated that the DOE website is up to date but the Council website updates are in the works. We have had a lot of change over in our office and we are currently getting our new staff trained on how to update the website and within the next 6 weeks we hope to have it up and running. Currently the DOE website is up to date as well as the State public meeting calendar. A link will be sent out to all members with the links to the DOE and State public meeting calendar.
- The first meeting in 2015 will be February 10th at the DDDS training site in Bear, DE at 9:00 a.m.