



Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
University of Delaware – Cooperative Extension
Carvel Research & Education Center
16483 County Seat Highway
Georgetown, DE 19947

Council Attendance: Madeleine Bayard, Rodel Foundation; Heidi Beck, Delaware Head Start Association; Cheryl Clendaniel, The Learning Center; Mary Kate Mouser, Nemours Health and Prevention Services; Leslie Newman, Children and Families First; Debbie Taylor, Child Care Aware of America; Kelli Thompson, Nemours Health & Prevention Services

Others in Attendance: Nancy Campbell, Janet Carter, Daphne Evans, Toni Dickerson, Carmen Gallagher, Heather Hafer, Shebra Hall, Belvie S. Herbert, Janet Hickman, Paula Holloway, Rita Hovermale, Evelyn Keating, Mary Moor, Christine Olley, Loyda Santiago, Marcie Shahan, Adriana Simoes, Christine Stoops, Stephanie Wagner, Jamie Walko, Leah Woodall, Pranshu Verma

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- Mary Kate Mouser welcomed everyone.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

- Minutes were approved with the following changes:
 - Change center name under Cheryl Clendaniel to “The Learning Center” instead of “Tender Loving Care.”
 - Add Shebra Hall to the attendance list.

3. Goal Committee Reports

- The Goal 4 committee and the Commission on Early Education and the Economy (CEEE) met at Troop 2 in September about the sustainability of the Early Learning Challenge Grant.
 - Susan Perry-Manning the Executive Director of the Office of Early Learning will be doing a presentation at a later date for the Council on the Early Learning Budget.

4. Sussex Readiness Teams Presentation – Daphne Evans & Christine Olley

- Daphne handed out the “Delaware Readiness Teams Flyer”, document, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/03/Delaware-Readiness-Teams-Flyer.pdf>, which is a quick reference document that is used to show the service areas and priority zones for the Delaware Readiness Teams.
- There are 21 Delaware Readiness Teams that are currently active and moving in Delaware. This project is an outgrowth of the Early Learning Challenge grant and a part of Delaware’s larger strategic plan for early learning under Goal 3.

- Daphne referenced the “Delaware Readiness Team Newsletter” document, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/03/Delaware-Readiness-Teams-Newsletter.pdf> that is currently being used as a communications document for the Delaware Readiness Teams.
- During the 2016 calendar year Prevent Child Abuse Delaware (PCAD) is looking forward to working with three to four Delaware Readiness Teams to enhance efforts to strengthen families. During the first year of funding grantees will be eligible to receive up to \$4,000.00 with two additional years of grant funding possible.
- Christine Olley reported on the 6 different readiness teams that operate specifically in Sussex County:
 - Cape Henlopen Community – Implemented the second annual Cape Community Bookmobile from July 7th – August 6th. The five week schedule ran on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings visiting communities in Lewes, Rehoboth and Milton areas. The bookmobile teamed up with the Summer Food Service Program and meals were provided to children at each location. Sixty volunteers helped support the bookmobile and over 2000 books were distributed.
 - Georgetown – Distributed kindergarten readiness books bags in the community and held trainings for parents. Also, would like to hold vendor and resource fair for early learning providers.
 - Laurel – Has current community involvement but needs additional help and school district involvement.
 - Seaford – Held the Building Partnerships for Success Event for Early Learning Providers. They were very pleased with the turnout from the event and had further discussion on how to sustain in into the future. They would like to host this event twice a year.
 - Southeastern – Provided 60 activity kits for families at a local event.
 - Woodbridge – Distributed learning bags in their area and are looking into hosting clock hour training for early learning providers.

5. Sussex Home Visiting Presentation – Carmen A. Gallagher & Christine Olley

- Delaware home visiting has 7 different programs in Sussex County. The various home visiting programs have come together to create a shared waiting list, and families are now pulled from that list as openings become available. In order to be considered for home visiting in Delaware the family must be at risk and be at least one of the following:
 - Teen parent
 - Child with a disability or chronic health condition
 - Parent with a disability or chronic health condition
 - Parent with a mental illness
 - Low educational attainment
 - Low income
 - Recent immigrant or refugee family
 - Substance abuse
 - Homeless or unstable housing
 - Very low birth weight
 - Domestic violence
 - Child abuse or neglect
- Christine Olley reported that home visiting programs have created a shared network to serve families. Home visiting referrals can come from either:
 - Public health
 - Doctor’s office
 - Self-Referral
- Previously, families were not served due to language barriers. Now, each of the 7 home visiting programs in Sussex County have at least 1 Spanish speaking person on staff.

- Carmen Gallagher referenced and reviewed the “State of Delaware Personal Safety Recommendations for Home Visitors” document, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/Delaware-Home-Visitors-Safety-Recc.pdf>, that is currently being used as a safety document for Delaware home visitors.

6. Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Plan 2016-2018 – Belvie Herbert

- Belvie Herbert presented on the Child Care Development Fund plan development and referenced the “Child Care and Development Overview” document, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/03/Child-Care-and-Development-Fund-Overview-PP.pdf>, this document is used to explain the CCDF plan in detail.
- The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act is the law that authorizes the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).
- CCDF is the primary federal funding source devoted to providing low income families that are working or participating in education and training with help paying for child care and improving the quality of child care for all children.
- The purpose of the Child Care Development Fund is to:
 - Assist states in improving the overall quality of child care services and programs by implementing the health, safety and licensing standards.
 - Empower parents to develop their children by choosing quality child care and to become self-sufficient.
- Key reauthorization changes:
 - Eligibility redetermination
 - Background check requirements
 - Health, safety and fire inspections
 - Group size
- The Child Care Development State Plan is due by March 1, 2016 and full implementation if approved is June, 2016 through September 2018.

7. Alignment of Early Learning Plans – Madeleine Bayard

- Madeleine Bayard reviewed the “Shared Goals: Early Childhood Council Strategic Plan, Vision Coalition Student Success 2025 Plan, State Board of Education’s Early Grade Literacy Campaign,” <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/03/Shared-Goals.pdf>, that is currently being used as an alignment document.

8. Future Meeting Topics and Close

- Mary Kate Mouser reported that there will be a planning a meeting with the Committee Chairs to discuss current and future work that will report back to the full Council.
- December 8th, 2015 Birth to 8 Summit was postponed until February 10, 2016 to allow more time for planning and preparation.
- The next IRMC meeting will be held in late fall during which time recommendations to fill current Council member vacancies or expired terms will be reviewed and voted on. Once the IRMC votes on Council positions, their recommendations will be sent to the Governor/s office for appointment.

9. Adjourn

- Mary Kate adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.
- The next Council meeting will be December 15, 2015 from 9:00a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in conjunction with the Wilmington Early Care and Education Council at Nemours Health and Prevention Services - Wells Fargo Tower 8th Floor Large Conference Room, 2200 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803.