

## **Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

March 21, 2013

### **Call to Order**

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:10 AM on March 21, 2013 at Henderson Community College in Henderson, Kentucky.

### **Roll Call**

The following members were present: Mike Hammons for Randy Coe, Ben Cundiff, Paula Goff, Tracy Haddix, Cindy Heine, Bill Buchanan for Felicia Smith, Amy Hood Hooten, Chair Rick Hulefeld, Aubrey Nehring, Joe Roberts, Bill Scott, Sandy Fawbush for Ruth Ann Shepherd and June Widman. The following members were not present: Tom Buford, Tom Burch, Jane Chandler, Marilyn Coffey, Tommy Floyd, Audrey Haynes, Mary Beth Jackson, Joe Meyer, LaQuandra Nesbitt, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Nicki Patton Rowe and Anna Shepherd.

### **Introductions**

Aubrey Nehring welcomed the Early Childhood Advisory Council to the Henderson Community College campus and the Reggio Emilia exhibit. This is the first time that the Reggio Emilia exhibit has been in a community as small as Henderson and many partners worked together to make this happen.

### **Approval of the November 2012 Minutes**

On recommendation of June Widman, the minutes of the January 2013 meeting were amended as follows: correct the spelling of the acronym NAECE to NAEYC and to clarify the statement about three different types of early learning environments in Kentucky to include based on the UK Evaluation. On second of Aubrey Nehring, the minutes of the January 2013 meeting were accepted as amended.

### **Early Childhood Data Profile**

Terry Tolan introduced the complete 2013 Early Childhood Data Profile, on behalf of Brigitte Blom Ramsey. The Early Childhood Advisory Council was provided with the Kentucky Profile. Many people worked on this profile and it is the first time all of this data is in the same place on one page. Thanks to Brigitte Blom Ramsey, the Assessment Work Group and its subcommittees, Elizabeth Whitehouse, Joe Roberts, and KCEWS for the development of the profile. The Assessment work group is currently evaluating the implementation of the K screener to see if suggestions should be made for the upcoming school year.

### **CECC Update**

Bill Scott and Amanda Flanary presented current news for Community Early Childhood Councils. The Community Collaboration work group has heard from several different councils over the past few months in order to get better perspective for changes to the RFA. This year, the Request for Application does not have as many changes as last year. Instead, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) wanted to ensure continuity while continuing to make improvements: councils now have more latitude over their choice in projects, the early childhood profile replaces the local needs assessment requirement, and councils are encouraged to be more focused and strategic when choosing goals and strategies for community change. There have been a few changes in the statute to expand the definition of who gets a seat at the table to encourage more collaboration

and to codify the requirement that Head Start, public preschool, and child care must all participate. The RFA this year requires even more focus on outcomes and involves a communication plan with the GOEC. The RFA was released March 1, the CECC Institute was March 14 and 15, the Intent to Apply is due April 15 and the RFA is due May 15. The GOEC hopes to have reviews complete and RFAs ready for approval at the June meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council. The CECC Institute drew 179 attendees, which included 73 CECCs, 6 of which were representing new councils. Currently, the GOEC has received 66 Intent to Apply Forms representing 93 counties. Amanda Flanary plans to travel to local CECCs to aid in the RFA Process.

### **Work Group Chairs Report**

Tracy Haddix reported on the progress of the STARS Work Group. Their last meeting on March 13 was extremely productive and all members had a high degree of consensus about the guiding principles of the STARS QRIS system improvements. In their next meeting, they hope to begin working on the details of the system. Amy Hood Hooten reported on the progress of the Assessment Work Group. The Parent Guides are complete and a copy of the Birth to 3 Parent Guide was available for ECAC members. The 3 and 4 Parent Guide is complete but at the time of the ECAC meeting, had not been printed yet. Their group hoped to present on the Continuous Assessment Guide (CAG) at this ECAC meeting, but decided that their work was not complete. They plan to present at the June meeting of the ECAC.

### **Review of Suggested Actions**

Rick Hulefeld opened the floor for ECAC members to make any more suggestions for the ECAC to take on as “moving the needle” projects for the state of Early Childhood in Kentucky. Governor Beshear has tasked the Early Childhood Advisory Council with “moving the needle” and the ECAC has been reviewing suggestions for “Big Asks” for a few months. Many members qualified their suggestions they had already made, that were included in the “Big Asks” document. Rick Hulefeld concluded this part of the meeting by stating that staff and leadership would decide how to move forward and will report back to the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

### **Executive Director’s Report**

Terry Tolan reported that many new and exciting things were coming out of the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood. The office has produced a new logo and a redesigned school readiness definition. Legislation passed for the office, which also included some changes in statute for CECCS: required three members from all “silos,” annual reporting versus quarterly reporting and allowing all members to vote. Terry has also made multiple presentations and plans to make multiple others to: Head Start Association, KSBA, Smart Start and NAEYC. It is her priority to brag on the good things in Kentucky early childhood programs.

### **Conclusion**

The meeting pattern of the Early Childhood Advisory Council has changed, from every third Thursday of every other month to every three months on the third Thursday. The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 20, 2013. Location to be announced. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.