

Early Childhood Advisory Council
March 17, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on March 17, 2016 at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Frankfort, KY.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Jane Chandler, Marilyn Coffey, Ben Cundiff, Tennant Kirk, representing Dreama Gentry, Paula Goff, Cindy Heine, Wayne Lewis, representing Secretary Hal Heiner, Rick Hulefeld, Chair, Mary Beth Jackson, Jennifer Miller, Karen Kidwell, representing Commissioner Stephen Pruitt, Cory Curl, representing Brigitte Ramsey, Nicki Patton Rowe, Anna Shepherd, Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd, Terry Tolan, Kathryn Whitmore, June Widman and Rita Williams. The following members were not in attendance: Representative Tom Burch, Senator Danny Carroll, Secretary Vicki Glisson, Tracy Haddix, Amy Hood, Daphne Hosinski, Deborah Williams and Rachel Yarbrough.

Welcome Guests.....Rick Hulefeld

Welcome was given by Rick Hulefeld. What does alignment between Birth to 8 look like? There are many principals who did not come out of early childhood, but now have preschools in their building. Because of this, conversation has begun regarding a large grant Kentucky has received to retrain 400 principals. It is time for us to dream big once again. Let us dream without the thought of where the funding will come from. We must dream right and the funding will come.

Approval of Minutes, December 17, 2015

On motion by Ben Cundiff, with all in favor, the minutes of the December 17, 2015 ECAC meeting were approved.

STARS Pilot Update.....Linda Hampton

The STARS Pilot is Project 2 in the Race to the Top program. The pilot program for STARS ended December 31, 2015. The contractor has until March 31, 2016 to finish compiling the data. The project leads will be joined by an expert panel in April 2016. They will assist Kentucky with decision-making on how we will move forward with implementation of the KY All STARS standards. Merging the old system and the new All STARS is to take place July 1, 2016. Linda welcomed the Regional Childcare Administrators and Dr. Beth Rouse who has been overseeing the pilot program work for us. They were key to collecting the data on the field, as were the partners at KDE.

Race to the Top Update.....Joe Roberts

Joe Roberts gave an update for other parts of the early learning challenge work. The grant runs from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017. The 2nd year of our work was just completed in 2015. We put a report together for our Federal agents and submitted the results. 2014 was our base year to build and also for staff infrastructure. However, much work was done in 2015. There are 697 more licenses and certified programs that are currently in the rating system than in the first year. 73% of all programs (large increase). Over 2300 responses came back to us from the pilot. This is a large cross section. 1100 people completed free online high quality training for the Kentucky childcare standards for early childhood credentials. Parent Guide distribution increased. There were 261,621 guides printed and distributed last year. 964 (professional development) early learning professionals and health professionals took our online training. 800 brochures were distributed across the state on strengthening families. We have 7 projects in Race to the Top that are strengthening Project 2, which is the largest part of the Race to the Top program. Also HB 234 was passed. We are currently working on a pilot to integrate child level Head Start data into KCEWS.

Final words from Joe Roberts: He announced this would be his last meeting as he is leaving the GOEC. Joe thanked everyone for their dedication and willingness to participate in this program, and also thanked his work family and Terry Tolan, Executive Director.

Executive Director's Report.....Terry Tolan

Terry Tolan reported that the new childcare profiles came out in February and can be accessed on line. Each year we try to add data that was not previously available or data that is relevant to today. This year we had one new data element – we listed the workforce credentials that were being earned by high school students, listed by county. It has been two years since the CDA nationally eliminated the age limit and we now have many high school students graduating with Child Development Associate credentials. However, at this time the Family and Consumer Science Programs for high school students have not yet totally recognized the value of these credentials. We need to build a pipeline of qualified teachers who are coming into early childhood programs and we need the opportunity to make the case that students graduating with a CDA can go to work right away in a licensed program, if they are 18. They can also go to college with our early childhood scholarships at that point and continue their education in early childhood. This would also help that early childhood program achieve a higher star rating. Terry encouraged the Council to look at the profile for their own county results on line.

Terry has been visiting with the Educational Coops and talking to them about the Superintendent's Toolbox and about the Summit we hosted in November. She has been

encouraging the Coops to take a look at the Toolbox on our website and use the tools being offered.

Terry announced that Rick Hulefeld and Brigitte Blom Ramsey presented at the KSBA conference. She asked Rick Hulefeld to comment on the response they received from Board members. Rick Hulefeld told the Council that about 45 people attended the conference session. He reported that there is a growing interest about what schools can do to change the percentage of children who are school ready according to the Brigance report and about partnering with early childhood, libraries, pediatricians, and pulling in the community to work together. The big message is simple, when you receive the Brigance scores for your school district, it is not school data, it is community data. Schools did not have a large role in actually creating readiness, but parents, early childhood programs, libraries and pediatricians did. They all need to come together to discuss what could be done with existing resources to change the outcomes. These can only be changed when the entire community understands why it matters and realizes that all must work together to bring about the change. Rick stated he appreciates the Office of Early Childhood and their role in making this possible.

Terry mentioned that Anna Shepherd, from Floyd County, has just submitted a Best Practices to the Superintendent's Toolbox. Anna told the Council that attending the School Readiness Summit was helpful for her county. She said the 30 60 90 day plan adopted by her community at the Summit was huge, and was a springboard for their work.

Terry announced that Nicki Patton Rowe and Governor Patton have taken their program regarding early childhood brain development on the road. Their presentation has been recorded and we are now distributing it. The Prichard Committee and United Ways are working together with Ms. Patton Rowe and Governor Patton and are seeing the impact this message is having on business leaders.

Terry invited everyone to the Ready Kids conference, July 11-13, 2016 at the Galt House in Louisville, KY. The Prichard Committee has agreed to be our managing partner this year. We have secured Dana Suskind, author of the book "30 Million Word Gap", as the keynote speaker on Tuesday, July 12th.

Rick Hulefeld introduced, and welcomed, Wayne Lewis, Executive Director of Educational Programs for the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. Wayne stated he will be attending the ECAC meetings, representing Secretary Hal Heiner, and is excited about working with the Committee.

PRESENTATION.....Laura Bornfreund, New America Foundation

Laura Bornfreund is Director of the New America Foundation in Washington, D.C. New America was founded in 1999 as a non-profit non partisan think tank. They pride themselves on big ideas, as well as technological innovation. They conduct research, develop policy recommendations and disperse new ideas that aim to improve access, quality, and coordination of early and elementary education for all children from birth through third grade. New America's Policy Team is dedicated to helping policymakers develop an early education system that serves all American children.

Ms. Bornfreund stated that ultimately we need to reshape the primary years and re-envision the elementary school. The K-5 model starts too late and is usually disconnected from early care and education providers such as pre-K centers. Instead, primary education should start at age 3, and each year of a young child's life should be marked by teachers who work together, grade by grade, to offer age-appropriate and research-based learning experiences up through third grade. Ms. Bornfreund presented a report "From Crawling to Walking", released in November 2015, which shows the states rankings on Birth-3rd Grade policies that support strong readers. This report focuses on 7 policy areas influencing children's literacy development: 1) Educators: Teachers and Leaders; 2) Standards, Assessment, and Data; 3) Equitable Funding; 4) Quality and Access in State-funded Pre-K; 5) Full-day Kindergarten; 6) Supports for Dual Language Learners; and 7) Third Grade Reading Laws. All states support literacy development, but very few states are taking a really comprehensive approach. Reading instruction, reading intervention is important, however there is much more, beginning at birth, that children need in order to achieve reading comprehension by 3rd grade. The Early & Elementary Education Policy team at New America conducted a 50-state scan of the Birth-3rd grade education policy landscape through the lens of literacy. Ms. Bornfreund showed the states rankings. She spoke about how important Principal preparation is. Right now only one state requires a principal to have training in ECE (early childhood) knowledge before becoming a principal. School leadership accounts for 25% of school learning. Elementary school principals often have little or no formal training in early education or child development. States need to reform preparation and licensing requirements to ensure that principals have knowledge of child development, early childhood education and language and development. Ms. Bornfreund spoke about what states can do to achieve this goal. The overview that was distributed to the Council during the meeting highlights state policies in Kentucky and whether they are in step with New America's policy indicators to help ensure children are on track to read at grade level by the end of third grade. This overview, as well as Ms. Bornfreund's PowerPoint presentation can be found on our website, www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURN.....Rick Hulefeld

Rick Hulefeld thanked Ms. Bornfreund for her work and announced that the Early Childhood Council is going to be reforming their committees. One area of work will likely be Birth through grade 3 alignment. He asked the members to be thinking about which committees or areas they may have an interest in. He concluded the meeting by stating, "It is time to start dreaming again."

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.