

**Early Childhood Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
May 17, 2012

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:00 AM on May 17, 2012 at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce in Frankfort, Kentucky.

**Roll Call**

The following members were present: Jane Chandler, Marilyn Coffey, Ben Cundiff, Paula Goff, Tracy Haddix, Beth Jurek for Audrey Haynes, Cindy Heine, Felicia Cuming-Smith for Terry Holliday, Amy Hood Hooten, Rick Hulefeld, Mary Beth Jackson, Lacy McNary, Joe Meyer, Aubrey Nehring, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Bill Scott, Joe Roberts and June Widman. Staff attending included: Albert Fox, Amanda Riley, Terry Tolan and Elizabeth Whitehouse. The following members were not present: Thomas Burch, Randy Coe, Steve Davis, Tommy Floyd, David Givens, Nicki Patton Rowe, Anna Shepherd, and Bob Wilcher.

**Welcome .....Rick Hulefeld**

Chair Rick Hulefeld called on Cindy Heine to share good news. Cindy reported that an additional \$6 million has been granted to HANDS, enabling the program to serve more families. In addition \$1.1 million was restored to programs funded by tobacco dollars that initially had been reduced earlier in the year.

**Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

On motion of Ben Cundiff, second by Aubrey Nehring, the minutes of the March 2012 meeting were approved.

**Introduction to the Dashboard.....Terry Tolan**

Terry Tolan introduced the dashboard being used to track workgroup goals. Tolan noted that a summary would be sent to members prior to each meeting providing an update and that workgroups would only present at future meetings when they needed input or approval from the whole ECAC.

**Strategic Data Questions.....Brigitte Blom Ramsey**

Brigitte Blom Ramsey introduced the draft data questions and explained that the questions align with the school readiness definition. The goal of these questions is to help us assure that all children will have positive outcomes regardless of different statuses and backgrounds. One major goal of the Data Workgroup is to shorten the

timeline to track return on our investment in early childcare, so that it is easier to build political will and public support for investment in early childhood.

Rick Hulefeld encouraged all workgroups to submit their own respective questions to the Data Workgroup as they arise, so that they can be added.

**Screener Update.....Felicia Cuming-Smith**

Felicia Cuming-Smith could not announce the name of the screener at the time of this meeting, but she anticipated that KDE will announce the vendor that has been chosen at any time. She was happy to report that several volunteer districts have been chosen and that many districts are already using the likely screener models. KDE is ready for Professional Development for and communication of the screener.

Rick Hulefeld publicly thanked the Commissioner of Education, Terry Holliday, for making this screener a priority, noting that this screener will lead to new knowledge and partnerships we have never had before in Kentucky.

**Communication Plan.....Lacey McNary and Terry Tolan**

Lacey McNary reported on the latest Community Engagement Workgroup meeting. She highlighted their discussion on pushing the school readiness definition into the public ethos, determining the audience we want to reach and defining immediate intermediate and long-term goals. The committee would like to conduct a basic survey to find out what kind of technological capacity the community early childhood councils have. Then the committee would like to grow the capacity over time. A main discussion point was that tailoring our message(s) for specific audiences is of key importance.

Terry Tolan introduced the council to the conceptual webpage design, showing a screen snapshot. She shared that the vision of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood is that this site would be an evolving hub, a centralized location, for all things Early Childhood and that the website would become a resource for everyone interested in the subject. Council members responded positively and had suggestions about target audience, word usage and easily accessible information. Joe Roberts will send out the screenshot to members of the council, to invite the members to share comments and feedback about the site.

**Thanks to outgoing members.....Rick Hulefeld**

Rick Hulefeld invited ALL members of the council be present at the meeting on July 19, 2012 so that the council can recognize and thank outgoing members. The Governor will appoint new and continuing members for the 2013 term.

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

Terry introduced Amanda Riley, the newest member of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood. She reported on the Smart Start conference and the National Governor's Association in Washington, D.C. She noted that Kentucky has so much to be proud of in early childhood, but we do not tell our story nationally nearly enough. She accepted it as her personal challenge to put Kentucky on the national radar, stating "We sometimes feel that we have a lot to apologize for in the state of Kentucky, but early childhood is not one of those things."

Terry reminded the council that the CECC Institute was May 22-23 and that her office had received an "intent to apply" from all 120 counties.

Terry also reported that she had met with Secretary Audrey Haynes, and she expressed a commitment to make ECAC work a priority going forward.

**Conclusion.....Rick Hulefeld**

Rick Hulefeld concluded the meeting with an inspirational comment.

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2012 and the location is to be announced.

**Adjournment**

On the motion of Felicia Cuming-Smith, second by Cindy Heine, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 PM.