

Early Childhood Advisory Council
September 15, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on September 15, 2016 at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Frankfort, KY.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Senator Danny Carroll, Anita Dowd, Amy Duvall, Dreama Gentry, Paula Goff, Tracy Haddix, Linda Hampton, Cindy Heine, Wayne Lewis representing Secretary Hal Heiner, Amy Hood, Darlene Hoover DCC Designee, Rick Hulefeld, Jennifer Miller, Tamra Parker, Sally Shepherd representing Commissioner Stephen Pruitt, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Nick Patton Rowe, Anna Shepherd, Rita Williams, Amy Wooldridge. The following members were not in attendance: Representative Tom Burch, Barbara Colter, Secretary Vicki Glisson, Daphne Hosinski, Ruth Ann Shepherd, Deborah Williams and Rachel Yarbrough.

Welcome New Members.....Rick Hulefeld

Introduction was given by Rick Hulefeld of newly appointed members, Amy Duvall of Bowling Green, Amy Wooldridge of Somerset, Anita Dowd of Lawrenceburg and Tamra Parker of Hickman.

Welcome GOEC Acting Director.....Rick Hulefeld

Rick Hulefeld welcomed the new Acting Director of the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood, Linda Hampton.

Linda Hampton spoke and gave a welcome to the Early Childhood Advisory Council members. Ms. Hampton mentioned that she knew how important the audience is in these meetings and thanked the guests for attending. Also she announced that all presenters were brought to the table today. Linda shared that she began her journey by becoming a public servant and explained that the Early Childhood program and other services were an important part of her life as a child and paved the way for her journey in becoming a public servant. Ms. Hampton is thankful to be a part of the Early Childhood Advisory Council and for the wonderful opportunity to work together to make our children better.

Approval of Minutes, September 15, 2016

On motion by Amy Hood and second by Rita Williams, with all in favor, the minutes of the September 15, 2016 ECAC meeting were approved.

Director's Update.....Linda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Acting Director of the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood, gave an update on the ECAC subcommittees. A list of the 2016-17 ECAC Committees with the description of each committee was distributed. Ms. Hampton shared the names of those who will be leading each committee. She mentioned that

those leaders, along with the members of their committee, will more than likely broaden the scope of the committee they have been assigned. Our purpose and goal is to bring back the true intent of what this office is for which is diving into early care and education practices, but ensuring that we are looking through the lenses of all the areas of early care and education. The list and description of the subcommittees is listed on our website www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Tobacco Master Settlement Committee Update.....Dr. Wayne Lewis

Dr. Wayne Lewis, Executive Director of Educational Programs with the Workforce and Education Development Cabinet gave an update on the Tobacco Oversight Committee meeting. Dr. Lewis welcomed the new members of the Council and thanked them. Dr. Lewis gave honor to Linda Hampton and mentioned that he appreciates the fact that she came in and hit the ground running. He announced that Ms. Hampton is doing a great job and wanted her to know that the entire Council and staff appreciate the work she is doing. The Governor's Office of Early Childhood appeared before the Tobacco Oversight Committee on September 27, 2016. Brigitte Ramsey of the Prichard Committee, Darlene Hoover of the CHFS DCBS and Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd from the Department of Health were among the presenters. This is an annual meeting where we talk to the Tobacco Master Settlement Committee about how the tobacco dollars are being used. Brigitte Ramsey did excellent job presenting an overview of the importance of those tobacco dollars to our program. The members of the Tobacco Oversight Committee were incredibly receptive to what we had to report. There was complete positive response from the committee. Dr. Lewis shared an article that was written about the presentation to the Tobacco Master Settlement Committee. This report is posted on our website www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Ready Kids Conference Update.....Hazel Combs

Hazel Combs of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood gave an update to the Committee about the 2016 Ready Kids Conference. The conference took place at the Galt House in Louisville, KY June 11-13, 2016. The conference was an amazing professional development opportunity. There were seventeen 3-hour sessions for professional development opportunities. The conference had one hundred sixteen 1½-hour sessions. 176 scholarships were awarded to individuals from the child care community. Dr. Walter Gilliam from the Yale Center for the Child and Dr. Dana Suskind, Author and Director of the 30 Million Word Initiative were our special guest presenters. The last session featured a panel of Superintendents to conduct a discussion about school readiness. The panel included the National Governor's Association Executive Director, Aeliya Samuels, and Amanda Ellis, Associate Commissioner, Kentucky Office of Teaching and Learning. During the conference, the Department of Child Care presented certificates for classroom makeovers. The response from the people who received these certificates was overwhelming. The conference promoted the new program KY ALL STARS. We have now received 280 applications to become a part of the program. Ms. Combs said she is looking forward to exciting things ahead. This year there were 9 additional sponsors over last year's conference as well as 16 vendors who rented booth space from us. Ms.

Combs announced that the success of the 2016 Ready Kids conference was a group effort and could not have happened without our team at the Governor's Office of Early Childhood. She also gave thanks to the Prichard Committee for their amazing collaboration with the GOEC team and mentioned that the conference could not have been such a great success without their help. Ms. Combs gave special thanks to the partners who helped keep the focus of the subjects covered in the classes to the needs of those attending. Ms. Combs gave recognition and thanks to Dr. Wayne Lewis and Linda Hampton for being the ground support to help pull everything together. The results from the surveys were positive. People were thrilled that all areas of early childhood were covered. The overall impression was thankfulness for having the opportunity to attend and that it was a good professional development opportunity. The next conference will take place June 28-30, 2017 at the Galt House, Louisville, KY.

Preschool Partnership Grants.....Sally Shepherd

Sally Shepherd, KY Department of Education Division of Program Standards, explained that Preschool Partnership Grants are money that is set aside from the preschool budget to incentivize public and private partnerships. The Tier 1 grant requires an application for planning. Many districts have not had opportunity to reach out to other partners, so the Tier 1 grant is for up to \$25,000 to create an opportunity for those districts to plan with other entities, to have the opportunity to create a partnership for quality care of children. The Tier 2 grant is a grant application submitted with the non-negotiable requirement that they had to have a partnership with another entity. Meaning they must partner with a child care or head start in their area to provide full-day, high quality services. Linda Hampton, Acting Director of the GOEC will be utilizing the information coming out of the 2016 Superintendants Summit to gather some of the needed data of how to bring all of those partners in the community together to reach the goals for our community children. Ms. Shepherd also mentioned that each year is a new competitive process in applying for these grants. If someone did not receive or apply the first year, they will have an opportunity the second year to apply or reapply.

Ms. Shepherd said that the department is in the process of reviewing the Preschool Partnership Grants, and the program is on track to have the date of the announcement of grants awarded to the recipients at the end of September, 2016.

Chair, Rick Hulefeld asked Ms. Shepherd to come back to the December ECAC meeting and share more information about Tier 1 and Tier 2 Grants.

30 Million Word Gap.....Rick Hulefeld

Rick Hulefeld, Council Chair, spoke about the 30 million word gap that was presented by Dr. Dana Suskind at the 2016 Ready Kids Conference. Mr. Hulefeld said that this presentation brought up the fact that there is an enormous possibility to address and change the lives of thousands of children in Kentucky at little or no cost. The study of the word gap began by two researchers in 1992. Graduate students were sent into the homes of children of multiple economic levels and they

literally recorded words spoken to the child in the home and what those words were about. They discovered children of single parent low income homes hear 30 million fewer words than a family where there are two college educated parents. Later, a report came out that this word gap problem affects school success and the child's I.Q. level. Compare this to the brain report. 1991 research said if the mother, no matter her income level, knows the importance of this word gap, she will in fact change her verbal interaction with the child. She will talk more and sing more to the child. The word gap is fixable, but only with someone who realizes the importance to the child. This issue is not only real, but fixable. The question is what will we do about it here in Kentucky? There are a couple of opportunities being presented. Two 90-second videos have been created to address this issue. One is called "Words Matter" (age 0-2) and the other "Dialogic Reading" (ages 2-5). We want to give access, free of charge, to any parent wanting to tune in, talk to their children and learn to take turns, for the benefit of their child. The Council viewed the 2 videos. This presentation can be viewed on our website www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Chair Hulefeld encouraged the Council to think about how they might take this information and share it with all of the folks in their areas around the state who are working with families. Chair Hulefeld asked the Council to help give awareness of the 30 million word gap by sharing the tools presented today to help change the gap. Children INC has partnered with a national organization called "Reach Out to Read", that has someone the family trusts to talk to the family about the importance of reading. This group sees 91% of low income families. This is a trusted source that has the opportunity to reach families. There are other trusted sources through Head Start, Day Cares, Churches, etc. that can be utilized to be able to reach out to these children in our communities. This is a cost effective intervention. The strategy is to "View it, Cue it, Do it". View it - Parents are shown an age-appropriate two minute video that encourages talking, singing and shared reading. Cue it - is an app that can be downloaded on a smart phone. The "RX for Success" app sends reminders to parents to engage in pre literacy activities with their young child. Do it - parents talk, read and sing with their children.

The videos are available now. The free app will be available in a few weeks. The issue is that families are not aware of the word gap issue, and when they learn about it they are always willing to do something about it. This issue is a "game changer". This is something we can do and address the gap that is experienced all the way through school. If families know and do something about it while their child is young, this can make all the difference to children throughout all of their lives.

Race to the Top Update.....Linda Hampton
Linda Hampton, Acting Director of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood told the Council that we went in depth at the last ECAC meeting regarding what is truly happening with Race to the Top. The GOEC and our partnering agencies are all about honesty and transparency about what we can truly do with this grant. The desk monitoring call with our federal agents took place. The Race to the Top TQRIS was launched at the Ready Kids Conference. Since then we have seen a very high

increase of those applying. We are educating, and being educated, as we go. Overall the desk monitoring result was positive. The Division of Child Care and all of us have been working tirelessly on the plan for the spending. There is a good chance that the federal agents will be doing an on-site visit here in Kentucky, as they did last year. But it does seem that they are regaining their trust in us and are appreciative that we are transparent with them and making them aware of all things. A call is scheduled with them today. We are in full conversation with them. They are excited about everything they have seen from us. They approved our budget amendment and did it quickly. They have also pulled in a child care development team of officers to be a part of our monthly calls. There is a lot of excitement about the new quality rating system. Heavy planning meetings are going on to complete the implementation of the new system. We are now meeting every Friday for 2 hours. We are concentrating on the communication piece because it is important to get the information out there to make sure everyone understands what is happening. We are also working on figuring out the running of the current rating system along side, and into, the new system we are migrating into. Dr. Wayne Lewis spoke up and mentioned that he wanted everyone to understand that the work we are undertaking over the next 18 months to get these providers into the new TQRIS is work that should have happened over the course of 2-3 years, but we are now in the position of trying to get it done in 18 months. There are questions we are trying to answer now about how this is going to work, or how providers are going to be into two systems at the same time, and how they are going to run parallel. These are questions we are trying to answer now that should have been answered years ago. Dr. Lewis made everyone aware that this is a massive undertaking and we will absolutely need the Council's support, feedback, and guidance along the way as well as their partnership to make this work. Much progress has been made within the past couple of months and he believes the federal agents feel much better about our progress, and are really happy with the degree of transparency that they see from us, but this is in no way an ideal situation. It's really hard work and to some extent, we are building the plane while flying it. We are asking for everyone to keep clear and open communication with one another as we work to get through this.

TQRIS Redesign – Darlene Hoover, Division of Child Care Representative, gave an update for the Division of Child Care and said they currently have on-line standards training rolled out for the providers to start taking. Once the providers complete that, they will do a self assessment, provide documentation, and then a desk audit will be done by the coaches. At that point, the coaches will reach out and schedule appointments to go out and meet with the providers to go over the assessment and see what areas of the standards and each of the five domains that they need improvement on to help bring them up to level. The staff that DCC is currently working with is still with the Kids Now program because that system is still running. It is business as usual, so they are still working on their deadlines and dates, but simultaneously they are working with bringing the providers into the migration of the Kentucky All Stars. It is a daunting task, but we are fully committed to make this a success. The consensus is that we are going to make this happen.

Sally Shepherd of the Kentucky Department of Education said the KDE system is in the same place as CHFS, but truly they have been collaborating with one another and it is great because it really is a mirrored system. It is the same process, it is just different programs submitting the application and getting the same TA but from a different person. The applications are being reviewed. If it does not have all the necessary information for the new program, they will go back and ask for the information needed for the standards so that it mirrors what is needed for migration. One thing KDE is doing that is a little different from CHFS is they are accepting all the applications, but are also working with JCPS Pre-school because they have every kind of configuration in their buildings that you can imagine, so they are helping us work through some of the issues as volunteers to go through that process.

The Kentucky All STARS website is live www.kentuckyallstars.org. The website gives the launch with all of the information to support the migration of the new standards and the 5-star rating system.

UWBLA - Katie Morris, with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, explained that the United Way BornLearning Academy is a succession parent engagement strategy that takes place in the schools at night. Families and caregivers come together for dinner and instructions through a Born Learning Academy lesson. All of the BornLearning academies are administered through Family Resource Centers, which are all over the state. Of the 163 registered academies for the 2016-17 year, 100 are funded through Race to The Top, and the other partners are Toyota and United Way. There are 15 more academies to add next year for the final year of the Race to the Top grant. United Way of Greater Cincinnati has been working with the original authors of the born earning academy to create a Born Learning Community pilot. This pilot occurred during the summer in Northern Kentucky in a housing authority. It took place every other week over the course of 8 weeks and held 4 different sessions. There was a lot of great success with the pilot so we are looking at that model for our next round of funding in order to be able to meet families where they are and the hope will be to engage them with a school BornLearning Academy session once that BornLearning Community program is over. The United Way of Greater Cincinnati partnered with a lot of great folks like Head Start, Pre-School and STEPS and saw a lot of families enrolled in pre-school and in those various programs, so it is hopeful that this will be a successful next step for BornLearning.

Strengthening Families – Blair Haydon, Strengthening Families Coordinator, stated that Kentucky Strengthening Families program truly is a partnership between the Governor's Office Early Childhood, the Department of Public Health, and the Division of Child and Maternal Health. The 3rd year strategic planning meeting is set for September 29, 2016 and involves the leadership team. There are organizations across the state and that is how we are embedding the Strengthening Families framework and the 6 protective factors across the state into organizations that touch families and children. We have 4 work groups that are compiled of volunteers

in many of those organizations. The Strengthening Families program is working to make sure families are included in all the things that we are doing. We have updated many of our messaging materials, and we now have a tab on our website (www.kidsnow.ky.gov) that is strictly for families and we are working to communicate with them. The biggest piece of the program right now is our Parent Cafes, and carrying those across the state. There are about 130 people trained to run Parent Cafes. There was a training held last week and there are 2 more scheduled, one in Paducah in November and one in Corbin in February. Those are both already full, but if you would like more information on those you can email Blair.Haydon@ky.gov. There is a lot of exciting work happening.

School Readiness Summit.....Kayla Jones

Kayla Jones with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood gave an update on the School Readiness Summit that will be taking place September 22, 2016 from 10 am – 4 pm at the Convention Center in Frankfort, KY. Ms. Jones passed out a handout (which can be seen on our website www.kidsnow.ky.gov). There are 15 teams participating and approximately 150 people attending summit. There will be a facilitator for each team. There will also be 6 RCCAs who will be floaters to help teams and facilitators to create their Action Plans during the Summit. The handout outlines the data teams and facilitators have been asked to review before they come to the Summit. Data is critical for the teams to be able to create their 30-60-90 day Action Plans for their county. Linda Hampton announced that the Summit is an entire revamp of the previous year. There has been a very high volume of positive momentum coming from these work groups. Superintendants and Assistant Superintendants are coming and were very involved in the design of their groups. At the same time the groups were being created, the Tier 1 and Tier 2 grants went out. So this helped bring it all together. The Division of Child Care was kind enough to provide incentives to these workgroups, to those who are on the licensed Child Care side, in regards to working incentives to help with the collaboration model. However, there will be a heavier focus in them utilizing the money specifically to assessment and screening tools.

Head Start – Jennifer Miller, Kentucky Head Start Collaboration Director, welcomed the new people on the Council and gave some background of her role as Kentucky Head Start Collaboration Director. In Kentucky we have 32 grantees for Head Start. Half of those grantees are with the Board of Education and the other half are with their Community Action Councils. Ms. Miller's role as the Collaboration Director is to work directly with those grantees helping them remove barriers, and linking resources in their community. In Kentucky alone, we receive about \$136,000,000 every year to serve our children. We serve roughly about 17,000 children each year across the Commonwealth. We work with those families and children who have the greatest barriers and some of the greatest needs to be served. Ms. Miller's role is to be that voice for those Head Start Directors, going out to see what their needs are in their communities, and to help them. Ms. Miller is also the liaison between all of the inter-agencies, the Department of Education, the Division of Child Care, etc.

Relationship and communication together are important. The Head Start program in Kentucky has a full utilization statute. School districts and head start programs, because they are serving the same community of children, must collaborate and work together so that they are serving as many low income children they can so that they are not duplicating services or supplanting federal dollars. The federal dollars must be utilized first before turning to the state dollars. Because of this, there are many conversations that sometimes have to take place. Ms. Miller and Bill Buchanan, with the Department of Education, must work directly with Superintendents. Mr. Buchanan and Ms. Miller Co-chair the full utilization meetings so that when they go into the districts they bring all the involved parties to the table, including the Superintendent, the Pre-School Coordinator and the Head Start staff, to talk about each person's role as it relates to full utilization, how to serve more children, how to remove barriers in the county and how to be able to grade the funding to save money and yet still provide the comprehensive services all are required to provide. They all work together to truly customize a plan for each community or district to move forward for the children in their particular area. Currently bi-monthly meetings are taking place with the Commissioner from the Division of Community Based Services and they are looking at those special populations of families who fall under foster care or a part of the homeless population. Those are categorically eligible children who we serve in the state of Kentucky. There will be a meeting in April to discuss how the needs of this special population can be addressed. Ms. Miller distributed two handouts, one on "Head Start Program Performance Standards Final Rule: General Fact Sheet" and the other, "A Look at Early Childhood Homelessness in Kentucky". Both of those are posted on our website: www.kidsnow.ky.gov. Ms. Miller will be attending the Homeless Conference in Washington, D.C. at the end of October and was invited to come back to the December ECAC meeting to give an update on that conference.

Due to time constraints, Rick Hulefeld requested Darlene Hoover, representative of the Division of Child Care to come back to give an update at the meeting in December.

Rick Hulefeld told the Council that it is a new time, but what has not changed is that all children deserve the very best we can create. It will be much work for all of us in our communities to come together to work with our families in order to be more effective in the lives of the children of Kentucky. But the results will be well worth the time and effort we put into it. He gave his gratitude to everyone.

Adjourned at 12:06 pm