

**Early Childhood Advisory Council
June 18, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on June 18, 2015 at Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Jane Chandler, Marilyn Coffey, Ben Cundiff, Dreama Gentry, Paula Goff, Patricia Okeson for Audrey Haynes, Cindy Heine, Tommy Floyd for Terry Holliday, Rick Hulefeld, Linda Hampton for Mary Beth Jackson, Jennifer Miller, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Bill Scott, Ruth Ann Shepherd, Terry Tolan, Kathryn Whitmore, June Widman, and Tom Zawacki. The following members were not present: Tom Buford, Tom Burch, Tracy Haddix, Amy Hood, Daphne Hosinski, Kevin Nix, Nicki Patton Rowe, Anna Shepherd, and Rachel Yarbrough.

Approval of Minutes, March, 2015

On motion of Cindy Heine, second by Bill Scott, the minutes of the March 19, 2015 ECAC meeting were approved as amended.

Introduction of Meredith Scott & Dreama Gentry Rick Hulefeld

Rick Hulefeld introduced new ECAC member Dreama Gentry. Dreama is the Executive Director of Partners for Education at Berea College. Her role is to coordinate education initiatives in the Southeastern Kentucky counties across the continuum from early childhood to college success. He also introduced Meredith Scott, new project analyst at the Governor's Office of Early Childhood.

Workgroup Reports

Community Engagement Christian Motley/Bill Scott

Christian Motley reported that the CECC's are funded by tobacco settlement dollars. The GOEC helps them build on past successes, focus on quality outcomes for children and strengthen collaboration with community partners. The RFA was made available in March. Hazel Combs presented a webinar in April to demonstrate what was expected in the applications and give CECCs an opportunity to ask questions. The RFA toolkit also provided electronic resources like templates, forms and answers to their frequently asked questions. Applications were due in May. There were 82 applications that were each reviewed by 3 independent reviewers. The CECCS were assigned a tier based on their composite score, and each tier had a funding recommendation. Bill Scott asked

how we support the councils who are in the tier 3 category so that they might improve their applications. Christian explained that each tier three CECC was assigned to a staff coach to assist in rewriting its application. Plus the superintendent's toolkit brings new opportunities to improve applications. Bill Scott moved and Brigitte Ramsey seconded a motion to approve 2016 CECC funding as recommended. The motion passed.

KY ALL STARS updateJoe Roberts for Tracy Haddix

Joe Roberts provided an update on the KY ALL STARS. We now have a name and logo. KY ALL STARS is a cross cabinet agency initiative with the Department of Education, Division of Childcare and the GOEC and there is a joint ownership of the new Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS). There is a long commitment to quality in Kentucky. The goal is to increase program quality by using incentives and technical assistance to promote improved outcomes for children. Joe explained that the new system will support programs to continuously move toward higher quality. "We have been working intensely with a panel of national experts who have previously done this work with other states," explained Joe. Regulation changes have been made that include programs receiving childcare assistance in the rating system. HB234 also added all publicly funded programs into the rating system. (Formerly, school based programs in Kentucky have been excluded from a rating system.) There will be five levels of quality and common standards across program types. The new Kentucky All STARS will be piloted beginning in July to field test the model and measurements.

Public Awareness.....Cindy Heine

Cindy Heine reported on the two primary focuses for the workgroup, state level awareness raising and advocacy and Kentucky All Stars. There is a cross agency communication team meeting to develop a STARS communication plan by Aug 1, 2015. Public Awareness is also developing strategies to inform the public and the candidates about the importance of continued investment in early childhood programs.

Superintendents Toolbox Terry Tolan

Terry Tolan reported on the development of the Superintendents Toolbox, a web based resource for school leadership. The sections of the Toolbox are: Why do the Early Years Matter, How Does Our Community Compare, Who Can I Partner With, Where Do I Begin, and Who's Doing It Well. The is located on KDE's website. The workgroup felt that superintendents would be more likely to direct their staff to KDE's website for resources. The website walks you through how to begin at a local level and provides samples such as agendas for school board meetings. The toolbox will be launched at the KASA conference on July 16, 2015.

Updates

CCAP/STARS Linda Hampton for Beth Jurek

Linda Hampton reported that 81 percent of our CCAP providers are currently enrolled in the STARS program while 19 percent who are serving CCAP are not yet participating in STARS. As of August 15, 2015, it is mandatory that programs enroll in STARS in order to receive CCAP funding.

HANDS Expansion to Multigravida Families.....Paula Goff

Paula Goff discussed the expansion of HANDS through all counties of the state. The expansion occurs on July 1, 2015. State funds will be used to expand services through to parents of more than one child. Rick Hulefeld asks if data shows why home visitation needs to be funded for both multigravida and first time mothers. Paula explained that HANDS collects a large amount of data and does very well on meeting all the federal benchmarks. The data focuses on the effectiveness of home visiting overall.

Executive Director's Report Terry Tolan

Terry Tolan presented the dates of the Regional Ready Kids Conferences. The GOEC will be presenting at all five conferences on Kentucky All STARS, Born Learning Academies, and Kentucky Strengthening Families. Hazel Combs is also hosting CECC forums. GOEC staff will be onsite to assist at each location. In our RTT-ELC budget revision, the GOEC has proposed to develop a regional early childhood leadership academy in 5 regions of the state.

Conclusion and Adjourn

On July 2, 2015, the Kentucky Science Center is opening Science in Play, their permanent early childhood experience. The September 17, 2015 ECAC meeting will be held in Louisville at the Kentucky Science Center. Rick adjourned the meeting at 12:15.