

**Early Childhood Advisory Council  
September 17, 2015  
Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:07 a.m. on September 17, 2015 at the Kentucky Science Center in Louisville, KY.

**Roll Call**

The following members were present at the September 17, 2015 ECAC meeting: Ben Cundiff, Jennifer Godbey for Marilyn Coffey, Paula Goff, Beth Jurek for Audrey Haynes, Cindy Heine, Sandra Hamon for Terry Holliday, Rick Hulefeld - Chair, Mary Beth Jackson, Jennifer Miller, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Nicki Patton Rowe, Bill Scott, Terry Tolan, Kathryn Whitmore, June Widman, Deborah Williams, and Rita Williams. The following members were absent: Tom Buford, Tom Burch, Jane Chandler, Dreama Gentry, Tracy Haddix, Amy Hood, Daphne Hosinski, Anna Shepherd, Ruth Ann Shepherd, Rachel Yarbrough, and Tom Zawacki.

**Approval of Minutes, June, 2015**

On motion of Rick Hulefeld, second by Ben Cundiff, the minutes of the June 18, 2015 ECAC meeting were approved as amended.

**Introductions..... Rick Hulefeld**

Rick Hulefeld introduces Rita Williams and Deborah Williams. Dreama Gentry, Tracy Haddix, Rick Hulefeld, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, and Rachel Yarbrough were reappointed to the ECAC board. Bill Scott is retiring from the ECAC board. Rick thanked Bill for his work on the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Jo Haas welcomed everyone on behalf of the Kentucky Science Center. The Kentucky Science Center's early childhood work goes back 7 to 8 years and has been due to PNC's generosity. There has been more than three million dollars donated to the Science Center to support the Science in Play Experience. The Kentucky Science Center is now serving 95 percent of counties in Kentucky and 92 percent of counties in Indiana.

Terry Tolan introduced special guest Dr. Walter Gillian from Yale University, co-author of A Vision for Universal Preschool. Terry welcomed Commissioner Teresa James.

**Presentation: RTT-ELC Project Officers .....Marsha Basloe and Anne Karasek**

Marsha Basloe shared that she has had the opportunity to follow Kentucky's State Advisory Council for a few years. She is aware of the great work and thanks everyone for their work. Marsha reminded the ECAC audience that President Obama's budget aims to create an educational system that is internationally competitive. It spurs innovation and insures that every child reaches his/her potential. It creates a quality 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce and invests in high quality early learning programs. In a very short time this administration has invested in State Advisory councils, Head Start, childcare, home visiting, Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, and the Preschool Development Grants. We have made a huge investment. Anne Karasek said, "Our partnership at the federal level reflects the investment that the administration has made. It also reflects the priorities of the states that we work with."

**Workgroup Reports**

**KY All STARS update ..... Joe Roberts, Linda Hampton, and Beth Rous**

Joe Roberts reported on the KY All STARS work, the largest project of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant for Kentucky. There has been a redesign of the tiered quality rating and improvement system which will be rebranded as KY ALL STARS. Beth Rous UK contractor for the RTT-ELC pilot, joined the ECAC meeting by phone to brief the ECAC on the pilot of the new rating system that is currently underway. A survey was launched on July 1. That survey went to every licensed provider and every pre-k program in the state to get their self-assessment of how they would be likely to rate on the new standards and to identify which areas they would need help to attain. The survey was completed by providers and it included the question of "Would you be willing to participate in additional questions?" Rick Hulefeld asked, "Is any part of this pilot looking at the end in mind of sustainability? How do we incentivize STARS in a higher rating?" Beth explained, "To a certain degree, if the standards are deemed as having the right indicators, then we will need to assess what structural supports we need to help people meet those standards." She added "You have to set up standards that people can meet, but also standards that let people strive for improved quality." Linda Hampton explained that the workgroup is trying to raise the quality of early learning programs in the state.

**Public Awareness ..... Cindy Heine**

Cindy Heine reported on public awareness. A subgroup is working on public awareness of the new STARS system. The Public awareness met with the National Governor's Association to put together a plan for transition. GOEC will be distributing Op Ed and key talking points to supporters in October.

**Superintendents Toolbox/ School Readiness Summit.. Terry Tolan, Rick Hulefeld**

Terry Tolan announced the launch of the superintendent's toolbox on July 17 at the KASA conference. There will be a School Readiness Summit for districts and community partners to apply and to bring a team. It is scheduled for November 18, 2015 at the Frankfort Convention Center. Jennifer Miller and Hazel Combs are planning the specifics to the summit.

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

We continue to have requests for the GOEC to come present at conferences. Brigitte and Terry are presenting at the Leadership Kentucky session on Kentucky education and the lecture by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. The Ready Kids Regional Conferences were almost as large as the conference in 2014. The 2016 Ready Conference will be July 11-13 at the Galt House.

**Conclusion and Adjourn**

Rick adjourned the meeting at 12:01pm. The next ECAC meeting will be held December 17, 2015.