

Early Childhood Advisory Council
March 16, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 1:07 pm on March 16, 2017 at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, Frankfort, KY.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Christa Bell, Senator Danny Carroll, Barbara Colter, Anita Dowd, Amy Duvall, Tennant Kirk representing Dreama Gentry, Joe Hamilton representing Secretary Vicki Glisson, Paula Goff, Tracy Haddix, Linda Hampton, Cindy Heine, Wayne Lewis representing Secretary Hal Heiner, Amy Hood, Rick Hulefeld, Jennifer Miller, Tamra Parker, Amanda Ellis representing Commissioner Stephen Pruitt, Cory Curl representing Brigitte Ramsey, Nicki Patton Rowe, Anna Shepherd, Rita Williams, Amy Wooldridge and Rachel Yarbrough. The following members were not in attendance: Representative Tom Burch and Daphne Hosinski.

Approval of Minutes, December 16, 2016

With correction on page 8 to change Tier 2 implementation amount from \$50,000 to \$150,000, motion by Nicki Patton Rowe and second by Dr. Wayne Lewis, the minutes of the December 16, 2016 ECAC meeting were unanimously approved.

Director's Update..... Linda Hampton
Linda Hampton, Acting Executive Director of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council, welcomed the Council and all presenters at the table. She also gave special thanks to everyone in the audience for attending today. Ms. Hampton pointed out the beginning slide of the presentation today is entitled "Be My Voice", a powerful statement. She thanked everyone for being in attendance and for being the voice of the children whom we are serving. Ms. Hampton informed everyone that the Director's Report will be throughout the entire presentation, however she did want to mention to the Council that the Kentucky School Board Association invited the Governor's Office of Early Childhood to their conference and the Kentucky Association of Superintendents requested our office to present the welcome for the breakfast. She gave special thanks to Rachel Yarbrough for making that happen. This gave the GOEC the opportunity to put the early care and education system out there. The GOEC had a phenomenal panel presentation with Webster County Schools and Fayette County Public Schools. A diverse panel was chosen because a request was made by the Superintendents and the School Readiness Committee to start providing guidance and expertise within Rural and Urban settings. Ms. Hampton also shared that she and Kayla Jones of the GOEC, were invited to Owsley County to observe how they were operating their early childhood program. When they walked into the classroom there was a little boy who immediately went to his teacher and curled up in a little ball. Later, when given the opportunity, Ms.

Hampton asked the teacher about the child and the teacher responded that he was afraid they had come to take him away. At this point Ms. Hampton asked the Council to think about resources and technical support that we can give to our providers to be able to soften that experience. With the drug epidemic that is happening, there are so many things our children are seeing and observing today that are very new to their little eyes and they do not know what is happening in front of them. Ms. Hampton felt it is so critical for this Advisory Council to speak, to be the voice for the children. She then asked members of the council who are on the field to please be the voice to Frankfort, please be our voice to come and tell this council what is happening on the field and what continued things we can do through our offices and through the staff.

KIDS NOW Plus (KY-Moms MATR)..... Katie Stratton

Katie Stratton with the Department of Mental Health, the Adult Substance Abuse Treatment Services and Recovery Branch, reported that about 10-15 year ago the KIDS NOW Plus program started with the Council under the Kids Now initiative, with the Pride grant and has now moved into KY-Moms MATR. The press release has not yet gone out about the name change, it is being reported to the Council first. KY-Moms MATR (Maternal Assistance Towards Recovery) serves child bearing age women who are at risk for substance use or currently using substances during their pregnancies. This is a prevention and case management program. Maternal assistance prevention services are offered to reduce the risk for substance use during pregnancy. The program works with those women currently using, to get them into treatment either through case management or into a relocation program, transitional housing to be able to have a healthier lifestyle for their family and for their babies. The goal of KY-Moms MATR is to reduce harm to Kentucky mothers and their children by reducing maternal substance abuse during and after their pregnancy, while supporting the community mental health centers to provide case management and prevention services. Details of the program and the statistics of progress/success is in the KY Moms MATR presentation posted on the GOEC website.

Plan of Safe Care (CAPTA Requirements) Kris Shera

Kris Shera – Plan of Safe Care for Substance Exposed Infants, Adult Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Services Branch Division of Behavioral Health. Mr. Shera thanked Senator Carroll for his work on passing SB192. Mr. Shera believes that legislation like that Senate Bill and the work that Senator Carroll does really enables work to be done that makes a difference in the lives of the people across the Commonwealth. In 2003, a piece of federal legislation called CAPTA (Child Abuse Protection Treatment Act), set up a frame work for states to develop a plan of safe care to identify substance exposed infants and to connect them with the resources and support they need to ensure the child will go home to a stable, loving environment. This legislation was updated in 2010 – intent to add infant alcohol syndrome. Permanency and a stable environment are the best outcome for a child. The CAPTA legislation was once again updated in 2016 and the language, "illegal" (substance abuse) was removed, because alcohol is a legal substance and tobacco is

a legal substance that can also have a devastating impact on the development of a child in the womb. Opioid use among women of childbearing age has increased significantly over the past few years from 2% to 28% among the pregnant population. The percentage of removals and how it relates to alcohol or other drug related abuse from 1998 to 2014 has more than doubled. The national average for removal is 42%. Kentucky is right at the National average for removal under the age of one. Over the age of one, the national average is at 29.7%. Kentucky is right at the national average. Kentucky received a Technical Assistance Grant from the National Center for Substance Exposed Infants and used these funds to start a pilot project to create a model of Plan of Safe Care that meets the CAPTA requirements and supports the infant, mother, family and caregivers. The Power Point presentation will be on the kidsnow.ky.gov website.

Cost of Quality Update..... Cory Curl
Cory Curl of the Prichard Committee gave an update on the Cost of Quality study. In Kentucky leaders are taking steps to increase enrollment in high-quality child care, public preschool and Head Start settings. The challenge is lack of information regarding the actual costs of providing quality early care and education. The study's motto is "Study, Inform and Engage". The Study's objective is to develop and validate estimates that reflect the per child cost for pre-school and child care with a variety of blended settings. The goal is to develop those estimates and then put them in the hands of those who make decisions. Giving them better information to be able to make sound budget decisions. The cost of quality estimates will be available early fall 2017.

There will be two forms of methodologies to gather this information. Provider Cost of Quality Calculator (PCQC) (cost of Infant/Toddler Care), which is most expensive; and Cost of Preschool Quality (CPQ), (cost of high-quality pre-K). The Early Childhood Cost of Quality Advisory Group members are: Christa Bell, Jay Brewer, Sen. Danny Carroll, Dr. Amanda Ellis, Linda Hampton, Amanda Greenwell, Janet Masterson, John Roden, Patricia Tennen, June Widman, Julie Witten, and Dr. Rachel Yarbrough. Ms. Curl's presentation will be available on the kidsnow.ky.gov website.

ECAC Subcommittee Updates

The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Support Staff of each Committee, along with Bill Buchanan (Birth Through Third Grade Alignment Subcommittee), Angela Fultz (Data Systems Subcommittee-ECE-TRIS) and Roxana Del-Campo (Data Systems Subcommittee-Early Childhood Profile), gave an update through a Power Point presentation on the ECAC Committees that have met since the last ECAC meeting in December 2016: Supporting Families; Birth Through Third Grade Alignment; Mobilizing Communities; Data Systems; Program Investment; and Professional Development. The Power Point presentation is available on the GOEC website www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Race To The Top Update Linda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Director of the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) gave an update on the Race to the Top program. As she shared in the last meeting, Kentucky is on a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). The action plan that Kentucky submitted to the federal officers has been accepted and approved. There has been an increase within the spend, and within the rating process. The application cannot be accepted until Kentucky is off the CAP. Kentucky is being federally monitored through reports as well as federal calls. Ms. Hampton asked the Council members to read the CAP provided in their folders and email her with any questions they may have. Ms. Hampton announced that the office has obtained Red7e for communications.

Amanda Riley, with the GOEC, spoke about the Kentucky All STARS rating process background. All licensed child care programs entered the All STARS program at level 1, preschool programs entered at level 3 and head start programs entered at level 3. In the KY All STARS program, there are 1,949 1-Star facilities, 27 2- Star facilities, 491 3-Star facilities and 207 5-Star facilities. The numbers reflect both licensed and certified child care providers. Senator Danny Carroll asked how many licensed centers are a level 5 now? Christa Bell reported there are 32 licensed facilities at level 5. Cindy Heine asked if all centers who level up get a site visit? Ms. Bell said that programs will be visited 1 time every 3 years. The visit will be tied to their licensure date.

Ms. Riley told the Council that the monthly report that is provided to the federal agents monthly can also be shared with the Council by Diana Hutch. Dr. Rachel Yarbrough asked about the CAP and where Kentucky is on the time line in spending. Dr. Yarbrough understands the importance of the CAP and does not want a red flag on every other federal grant in Kentucky because this project has not done what is needed. Christa Bell reported that there is a pretty clear outline of where the money is budgeted, a good portion for licensed child care, pre-school and head start to have classroom materials if that is what it takes for them to move up in quality. There are trainings being developed that specifically include All STAR standards, classroom instruction and learning. The pieces that specifically support the domains of the KY All STARS so they can move up. Ms. Bell reported that although the program is a little behind in spending right now, huge strides were made in December and January.

However, all of the facilities were brought in at 1-Star and the vast majority of those facilities have completed their assessment, so Kentucky will start to see those programs move up in level. Each time a program moves up a level, they receive a financial incentive to make them want to move up in levels. The facilities also receive incentives if they enroll children from lower poverty homes.

Dr. Yarbrough asked how far Kentucky is in the spending. Ms. Hampton reported that 40% of the funds have been spent. Dr. Wayne Lewis reported that 36 million of the 44 million went to Project 2. Kentucky is behind because all facilities were just migrated into the system at the end of December 2016. This money could not be

spent until those facilities were in the system. Now the goal is to get the facilities advancing. Dr. Lewis told the Council that by the next time the Council meets, they will see great advancements in terms of advancement of programs moving up, so a lot more of the funds will be able to be spent

Linda Hampton told the Council she would send the Council the Budget Amendment so the Council will be able to see what was reported to the Race to the Top federal agents.

Born Learning Academies.....Katie Morris
Katie Morris, Born Learning Academy Director, Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Center reported that the program is in the process of funding the last 50 Academies, which will fill the Race to the Top requirement of implementing 150 Academies over 4 years. The intention of this program is to bring the Academy to the participants where they live. The pilot was very successful, and Race to the Top will be funding 10 community Born Learning Academies.

Leadership Academy Update.....Alicia Sells
Alicia Sells, Director of Innovation at OVEC gave an update on the Leadership Academies. The first regional training is tomorrow. The program used an online application service for the program that enabled them to glean a lot of information from applicants as they applied so they could tailor the training to the applicant's needs. Top priorities for Cohort 1 is mentoring, conflict management, team building and community connections and advocacy for children. The handout that was provided to each of the Council members can be found online at www.kidsnow.ky.gov. The diversity of this cohort: there are 116 participants and a wide representation. Some of the financial resources will be used for this program to pay substitutes for people to be able to attend and to travel. It is happening at no cost to all participants. Application for Cohort 2 is available now. The application can be found at the OVEC website. The participation in Eastern, KY is too low and Ms. Sells requested help in getting those people recruited. There will be much learned after the program is evaluated tomorrow. They will learn about the challenges that are keeping these registrants from advanced quality in their programs. Each attendee will be developing a professional development plan along with the mentor of their leadership plan. The Leadership Academies are open to everyone across the state in the early childhood field. Dr. Wayne Lewis reported that they have done a tremendous job and their achievement with the Leadership Academies has the possibility of actually being a national model. Ms. Sells told the Council that all of the information will belong to the state when this is completed.

Linda Hampton introduced Doug Williams & Aaron Longanecker with Lakeshore Learning. Ms. Hampton reported they have done an incredible job meeting the needs of our providers across the state of Kentucky.

Lakeshore Learning Update.....Doug Williams

Doug Williams, Vice-President of Lakeshore Learning Materials, gave an update on the work that Lakeshore Learning is doing in the state of Kentucky. He mentioned that it was great to sit in this room and hear so much great collaboration. The Lakeshore program statistics to date are: 557 sites served, 12,616 cartons delivered and 1700+ SKUs/products delivered. Lakeshore has served infant, toddler, preschool and school age students in Kentucky. A special project for children experiencing homelessness is in progress. Lakeshore has completed delivery expectations of each program 100% with no back orders. Lakeshore is not only getting everything to the providers, but they are doing it with high quality. They work a lot with community involvement. Mr. Williams gave “hats off” to everyone present, because he has found that success is always around community involvement and collaboration. He mentioned that Lakeshore attended the 2017 Mid-Year School Readiness Summit and it was great to hear what everyone is doing in their own communities with so much passion and excitement. Lakeshore gets involved with a lot of regional trainings and conferences for local providers, school districts and grant support. Lakeshore is building a new Distribution Center, over 745,000 sq. ft. warehouse on 59 acres of land in Midway, Kentucky. They are making an investment into the community that is going to result in a lot of jobs. From a service stand point, it will be great because this will make it possible to order product and receive the items the next day. The Lakeshore Learning Power Point presentation is available on the GOEC website www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Full STEAM Ahead: Incorporating STEAM in Block Play..... Pamela Fox

Pamela Fox, Director, Anderson County Early Childhood Regional Training Center, reported that the Regional Training Centers (RTCs) are very much in touch with what is going on in the early childhood community. In Anderson, the RTCs provided professional learning to 44 school districts. All learning content areas could be promoted and facilitated by using block play materials. The goal in offering the Block Play professional learning is to incorporate STEAM. Block play is required in the standards and the RTCs utilize the criteria in the new ECERS 3. Mathematics can be learned through block play, and children need the experience with unit block play. Ms. Fox’s presentation will be posted on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov

Division of Child Care Update.....Christa Bell

Christa Bell, Director of the KY Division of Child Care, prepared a presentation, based on questions she received at the last ECAC meeting in December, showing the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) enrollment data starting with 2013 through the present. In 2013 there were more than 43,000 children who received CCAP services. April 1, 2013 there was a freeze placed on enrollment due to budget constraints. In July, 2013 the income limits were dropped to 100% of the federal poverty level. The combination of the enrollment freeze and the income limits dropping caused the enrollment numbers to plummet in state fiscal year 2014 and then hit the lowest point in state fiscal year 2015. Beginning in 2014 the enrollment numbers plummeted and then hit the lowest point in FY15. In that fiscal year,

enrollment dropped to about 17,000 children receiving CCAP benefits. Overall the numbers dropped from 43,000 children receiving CCAP benefits to 17,000. 2016 enrollment numbers were pretty stagnant. Now the current fiscal year, 2017, the numbers show enrollment has started to bump back up and is on an upward trajectory. Once the freeze was lifted, enrollment numbers began to climb, and at the present the numbers are at the highest level they have been in the last 3 years. The actual data numbers are shown on the PowerPoint presentation Ms. Bell gave to the Council and can be found on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov. Ms. Bell mentioned that at the last ECAC meeting she spoke about changes as a result of the CCDF reauthorization. As of 9/1/2016 income limits were bumped up to 160% of the 2016 federal poverty level. This was quite a significant increase in terms of enrollment eligibility for child care assistance. The CCAP numbers are at the highest level of children being provided assistance since 2015 and the numbers are heading in the right direction. Increasing CCAP enrollment is a primary goal for the Division of Child Care (DCC) in 2017. There have been changes made as a result of the CCDF Reauthorization. The regulation changes now allow the use of CCAP for kinship care families without previous restrictions. CCAP benefits will now be included in Benefind and will increase the number of families who receive an eligibility determination. The DCC is also increasing parent and community education about CCAP.

Last meeting Ms. Bell spoke about the efforts to come into compliance with the reauthorization requirements for criminal background checks for childcare providers. Ms. Bell was happy to report that HB374 has passed the legislature and went to the Governor's office for his signature yesterday. She also mentioned that at the last ECAC meeting, she provided information about CCAP expenditures. The budgeted amount for this fiscal year was \$131,328,100.00. Through February 2017 the amount of \$63,866,001 has been expended. That is approximately 49% of the budgeted amount. Cindy Heine asked if there is any idea what happened to the 20,000 children who were bumped from the program. Ms. Bell responded that she did not have personal knowledge, but certainly would check into the history of the matter.

Chair Rick Hulefeld mentioned that Kentucky is serving about 60% of the children that were once funded. The funding has not gone down from the federal government or the State. He asked where the other 40% of the money is. Ms. Bell said that there is more than just the subsidy pay out amount. In the CCDF files there is also administrative funds. Ms. Bell offered to bring a further breakdown of funding to the next ECAC meeting.

Mid-Year School Readiness Summit Report..... Linda Hampton
Linda Hampton reported that the 2017 Mid-year School Readiness Summit took place March 10, 2017. The Summit was a major collaborative endeavor between the Governor's Office of Early Childhood, the Cabinet of Health and Family Services, the Dept. of Education and the Superintendent's Toolbox Committee that included many of those people sitting around the table at the ECAC meeting today. The Summit was a huge success. There have been 40 districts identified as "Trendsetters" in early

care and education. Ms. Hampton showed a presentation from the Summit. The presentation is available to view on the GOEC website, www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Ms. Hampton announced that the Early Childhood Institute will take place June 28-30, 2017 at the Galt House in Louisville. In the Race to the Top Budget Amendment, \$70,000 has been approved to put toward scholarships for individuals throughout the State to attend the training. More details about how the scholarship will work will be reported. The theme of the Early Childhood Institute is “Empower, Collaborate, Lead”.

Meeting adjourned 4:12 pm