

Early Childhood Advisory Council
December 16, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 1:10 p.m. on December 16, 2016 at the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, Frankfort, KY.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Christa Bell, Representative Tom Burch, Senator Danny Carroll, Barbara Colter, Anita Dowd, Amy Duvall, 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, Tamra Parker, Amanda Ellis representing Commissioner Stephen Pruitt, Nicki Patton Rowe, Anna Shepherd, and Amy Wooldridge. The following members were not in attendance: Daphne Hosinski, Jennifer Miller, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Rita Williams and Rachel Yarbrough.

Welcome New Members.....Rick Hulefeld

Introduction was given by Rick Hulefeld of newly appointed member, Barbara Colter of Manchester, KY. Special honor was given to Albert Fox of the Kentucky Governor’s Office of Early Childhood. Albert is retiring after many years of public service.

Approval of Minutes, September 15, 2016

The minutes of the September 15, 2016 ECAC meeting were unanimously approved.

Director’s Update.....Linda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Acting Executive Director of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council, explained that the date of this Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) meeting was changed due to the fact that the Race to the Top Federal Monitoring visit took place on the regularly scheduled date of the ECAC meeting and told the Council she will give a report later, according to the agenda. Ms. Hampton welcomed the ECAC members and the following guests: Sally Shepherd and Malaika Williams, from the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Program Standards, the team from Lakeshore Learning that we have been working with on Race to the Top and Allyson Shelton, Executive Director of the Kentucky Head Start Association. Ms. Hampton introduced a new staff member of the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC), Amanda Riley. Amanda is the appointed Project Manager for the Race to the Top. Ms. Hampton welcomed Joe Hamilton, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS), representing ECAC member Secretary Vicki Glisson. Ms. Hampton also introduced and welcomed Christa Bell, State of Kentucky Child Care Director.

Ms. Hampton reported that there have been many meetings taking place in regard to Race to the Top. The information of what took place at the last ECAC meeting went out very quickly and the volume of calls and requested meetings for the GOEC to be a part of have increased tremendously in regards to effective collaboration amongst cross-programs: state-funded preschool, child care and Head Start programs. Many people are asking how to participate together in the new quality rating improvement system. Ms. Hampton had the opportunity to attend the Kentucky Department of Education Board meeting and reported that it was nice to hear how active their Board members were and how excited they are about the new quality rating improvement system. In that meeting they stated they are eager to learn more of what happens in the child care community, what can be done with Race to the Top, for example, and how they can help in regard to the child care community, ensuring they are ready for screening so that the children are ready to transition over in to the school.

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

Christa Bell, Director of the Kentucky Division of Child Care, gave an update on the Division of Child Care budget and expenditures up to date for this fiscal year. The Child Care Assistance Program budget for state fiscal year 2017 is \$131,328,100. As of the end of November 2016, they have expended \$39,101,891. As of November 2016, there are 24,078 children who are CCAP recipients. The amount of allocated Tobacco Dollars is \$6,493,400. Thus far, the division has expended 1,055,933, and those funds were used to support the STARS Quality Rating Improvement System program in the annual achievement awards for providers. The Division of Child Care has been heavily involved in Race to the Top. Ms. Bell also updated the Council on the DCBS reauthorization. The Division has devoted all of the changes to eligibility and redetermination requirements that came as a result of the Child Care Development Fund reauthorization Act of 2014. This includes tracking data on the homelessness population for the first time. The Division continues to work on the new background check requirements for child care providers. They have been working with the Kentucky State Police to try to get those changes implemented by the September 30, 2017 deadline to meet the Child Care reauthorization requirements. Ms. Bell will update on this at the next ECAC meeting,

Chair Rick Hulefeld mentioned that the 2015 legislative session established the Child Care Advisory Council. 18 months have passed and a meeting has yet to occur. Chair Hulefeld requested Ms. Bell carry that message back to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services because the Child Care Advisory Council is to be the public voice for child care providers.

Ms. Bell agreed to do that.

2016 National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth “Shine On” Conference Update.....Malaika Williams

Malaika Williams from the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Program Standards, presented to the ECAC. Ms. Williams shared Kentucky data and homeless experiences.

According to section 752(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 1134a(2)), the term “homeless children and youths”-

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and

(B) includes—

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

Children and youth are considered homeless if they fit both part A and any one of the subparts of part B of the McKinney Vento definition.

Ms. Williams spoke about children in Kentucky and what the numbers are within the Commonwealth. In 2013, Kentucky had a population of 321,158 children under 6. The number of children under the age of 6 that were identified as homeless was 34,077. This is 1 in 9 children in Kentucky under the age of 6 experiencing homelessness. In 2015, from birth to age 14 in all counties there were about 49,000 students identified as being homeless. Ms. Williams distributed a handout “A Look at Early Childhood Homelessness – Kentucky”. This handout and her PowerPoint presentation can be found on the GOEC website www.kidsnow.ky.gov. Ms. Williams gave an update from the 2016 National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth conference. She spoke about highlights to consider when working with homeless children. In the end it is definitely about collaboration, making sure that you stay informed.

Representative Burch suggested this information get to the legislators in order to get this matter on the agenda. He believes that the majority of legislators do not know Kentucky has children sleeping in cars or have no shelter. He said once people know, they will try to do something about it.

Linda Hampton spoke and said that she, along with others, had the opportunity to attend the Race To The Top Grantee meeting a few weeks ago. Ms. Hampton and Joe Hamilton, attended a session on Early Childhood State Advisory Councils. From the session it should be a priority of the state advisory council to focus on the at-risk population. Ms. Hampton requested that the ECAC think about how they would like to put focus on the at-risk population and then provide recommendations.

Chair Rick Hulefeld requested that if any of the Council members has an idea about next steps that the Council can do, to please email those ideas to Linda Hampton at the GOEC. A vote will be brought forward at the next ECAC meeting of the best of the council's thinking after the opportunity to hear ideas from each of the council members.

Kentucky Head Start Update.....Allyson Shelton

Allyson Shelton, Executive Director of Kentucky Head Start Association, gave an update on Kentucky Head Start. In 2014-2015 there were 82,870 children in poverty under the age of five. Of those, only 45% of three and four year olds had access to Head Start and only 4% of children under three had access to Early Head Start. As of last week, something new that has been accomplished is that Family Workers in Head Start will be required to receive The Family Development Credential (FTC Credential). Not only can family service workers obtain the credential, but Ms. Shelton will also be able to train the trainer within the program itself. In the future, leadership training will be offered, not to obtain the credential, not to be a trainer, but to learn more about it. A hand-out was given with information regarding this new credential. The hand-out can be found on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov. Ms. Shelton mentioned that the NIEER report was released this past week and Kentucky and Vermont were the two front runners across the nation. She gave thanks, and congratulations, to Kentucky. However, Ms. Shelton stated that high quality is important and over 72% of Head Start teachers nationally have a BA or advanced degree, but salaries remain dismally low compared to pre-K teachers. Ms. Shelton also said that from her perspective as a Head Start community, she would very much like to partner with the state and with other family engagement initiatives such as Strengthening Families or Toyota Born Learning Academies for collaboration, because the Head Start program is the founder of family engagement. They are ready and willing to make this happen and Ms. Shelton believes it will happen.

Race To The Top UpdateLinda Hampton and Amanda Riley

Linda Hampton mentioned that at the last two ECAC meetings, in-depth updates were provided to the Council in regard to what is happening as a state with Race to the Top. Kentucky has been placed on a corrective action plan. Kentucky had their

federal monitoring review on December 15, 2016. The focus of the monitoring visit was the corrective action plan submitted by Kentucky. Ms. Hampton told the ECAC that, as a council, they need to hold us accountable. Ms. Hampton expressed with the federal officers that the ECAC will be incorporated into the Corrective Action Plan. Based upon the visit, Kentucky is required to submit a revised Corrective Action Plan to show month-to-month spend and programs advancing in the KY All STARS. The plan is due January 9, 2017. Ms. Hampton reported that there has been movement since the summer when the last report was given to the council, however there still needs to be much more movement and that is definitely what the agencies are actively working on right now.

Dr. Wayne Lewis, Education and Workforce Cabinet, said the two metrics that the federal project officers are interested in how we are spending the dollars and the number of programs that are advancing to higher levels in the system. Kentucky is going into the 4th year of a 4 year grant and has spent roughly about a quarter of the dollars. Although all publicly funded programs are in the KY All STARS, Kentucky is not making good progress of all of those programs advancing to higher levels. There are a high number of child care programs at a level 1. The state-funded preschool and Head Start programs are advancing in levels.

Christa Bell, Division of Child Care Director, shared the recent numbers show there are 667 providers at level 1; two providers at level 2; 123 at level 3 (most of those are head start programs); 8 providers at level 4; and 13 providers at level 5.

Chair Rick Hulefeld addressed Ms. Bell and said that it was his understanding Race to the Top money was so that the Cabinet could hire people who could go out and verify, or somehow that they would be part of the verification process. It is also his understanding that there is a backlog. For example, Mr. Hulefeld has 40 locations that have applied and he has not been able to get a single one of them through yet. He questions whether or not the Division has enough staff. His locations have done the self evaluation and have done everything on their part they are required to do and Mr. Hulefeld is frustrated as to why they haven't gotten through. He requested Ms. Bell to help him understand this problem.

Christa Bell stated the Division of Child Care is trying to move programs in and up as fast as they can. There were raters hired and are available. The Division is also designing a desk audit process. If you have an environmental rating score that is valid and current within the last 3 years, you may not necessarily have to be rated again to verify your accurate level within the All Stars program.

Chair Rick Hulefeld spoke and said "Basically we have the ability to be good and ought to be good, and the children we are serving need us to be good. However, no one can tell me anything because there is nothing coming back. But you are saying you have enough staff, and this is not a staff problem?"

Christa Bell told the ECAC that the Division is going to hire some additional staff. They do not need additional raters, as there are an adequate number of raters. Ms. Bell informed all that the Division wants to hire a project coordinator on the child care side and will hire at least 2 or maybe 4 additional support staff. However, Ms. Bell stated that at this point the number of staff is not an issue.

Malaika Williams, Race to the Top Preschool Coordinator, reported they have 63 centers at level 4 and 44 centers at level 5. Currently the Race to the Top consultants are reviewing and revising their process. They are tracking time and effort. The consultants are making presentations, and making site visits. The consultants are trying to make it as simple for their sites as possible and trying to expedite the process to make the target of the Kentucky Department of Education.

Sally Shepherd reported the Kentucky Department of Education is making very good process.

A request was made that at the next meeting numbers and processes be given on paper to the Council.

Linda Hampton responded and said that is exactly why this is being put into the corrective action plan, to ensure transparency to the ECAC and public. Ms. Hampton asked Diana Hutch, Administrative Specialist of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood, to make note that we do not have to wait until the next meeting. As soon as the corrective action plan is hopefully approved, the Corrective Action Plan will be emailed to the ECAC body prior to the next meeting.

Dr. Wayne Lewis thought this was a great request. It is the place of this body to hold the staff accountable. Dr. Lewis encouraged the council to continue to press us even further to make sure that things are going the way they are supposed to be going.

Chair Rick Hulefeld mentioned he remembers where we were at the last meeting and how Dr. Lewis said we were in a very serious position. It sounds like we are not yet out of the woods, but that we have made some real progress. Chair Hulefeld thanked Dr. Lewis and Linda Hampton for moving the Council, and agreed on behalf of the Council to accept the responsibility of holding the Project Leaders and coordinators accountable

Lakeshore Learning Presentation.....Bobby Hawke

Bobby Hawke, Lakeshore Learning Regional Vice-President of the Midwest gave the presentation. Mr. Hawke introduced the Lakeshore partners who have attended this meeting today, Jarid Klein, Sr. Vice President of California and Aaron Longanecker, Field Representative. Mr. Hawke came to give an update of who they are behind the scenes and talk about their partnership with us in Phase 1 of the Race to the Top classroom makeovers. Lakeshore Learning was founded by a single mother in 1954 in Omaha, Nebraska, who moved to California with her 2 sons. Over time she opened up a store on Lakeshore Avenue and had a number of different

teachers come into her store and wanted her to start providing educational materials they could use in the classroom. Mr. Hawke was happy to announce that Lakeshore Learning is still family owned and operated today. The third generation grandsons are at the helm and currently Lakeshore is exclusively making & developing materials for early childhood . Lakeshore provides the materials to meet the exact needs of the community. They have recently had the opportunity to study the Kentucky All Star standards. They studied the TQRIS system and designed the materials with what is being done currently in the state itself. In Phase 1 they had the opportunity to sit down with experts on both sides of the table. Mr. Hawk was happy to announce that at the Ready Kids Conference in July 2016 there were 50 classrooms that were awarded to programs within Kentucky and Lakeshore just recently completed Phase I. They delivered to 51 different classrooms in 23 different locations that were awarded throughout the state. They have delivered over 4000 materials to those locations. This was a collaborative effort with the GOEC to be able to receive a classroom makeover that was supported by the Race to the Top dollars. It is an honor for Lakeshore to partner to outfit these environments. The communities have been very happy seeing the progress taking place with these classroom makeovers. Mr. Hawke was very happy to announce that Lakeshore is expanding and building a distribution center in Midway, Kentucky. The Lakeshore Learning Power Point presentation is available on line at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

ECAC Committee Updates.....Linda Hampton
Ms. Hampton, along with the GOEC Support Staff of each Committee, gave an update through a Power Point presentation on the ECAC Committees that have met since the last ECAC meeting in September: The Tiered Quality Rating & Improvement System; Professional Development; Supporting Families; Birth to Third Grade Alignment; Mobilizing Communities and Data Systems. The Power Point presentation is available on the GOEC website www.kids.now.ky.gov.

The Council will continue to get updates on these committees at the next meeting. Ms. Hampton announced to the council members that if there are any committees they would like to be a part of please notify the GOEC office.

Kentucky Department of Education Preschool Partnership Grants
Sally Shepherd, from the Kentucky Department of Education, gave an update on the Preschool Tier 1 and Tier 2 Grants. As an overview, the purpose of the grants was to incentivize public and private partnerships between child care and public preschool in districts. A 2-tier system was developed for the grants.

Tier 1 was for planning and the amount of the grant was up to \$25,000. Districts were the fiscal agent, but they needed partners in their community or they could use this money to find those partners. In some districts there were actually situations where child care was seeking out the districts in order to be their partner.

Tier 2 implementation was for up to \$50,000 and the grantees had to implement. They had to actually serve children, so they had to add children's services or add quality. There were 24 Tier 1 grants and 45 Tier 2 grant across the state. All of the MOAs have been signed and the first half of the money has been disbursed.

When the grantees submit their spring report they will receive the next quarter amount of the grant funds. When their final report is submitted they will receive the last quarter of the funds. The required reports are still being developed in order to make sure that the forms are more than just reporting. The hope is to actually be able to use that information to report back to the legislators, to this council, to our communities and to the State. The reports should be more than just verifying the grantees met deliverables. The hope is to actually be able to utilize the data, so it is taking a little more time to create reports that will be useful. KDE is working with the Prichard Committee to help figure out some of the data standards and what information would actually be useful so that it can be reviewed over time rather than just the one-time grant award period.

All partnerships received a survey Monday. This survey contained 9-10 questions and basically asked what they need from KDE, what they want regarding professional development opportunities, and what our office can do to help assist them, both individually and as a group. Also, this is an opportunity to gather information to be able to set up some networks for those with common needs, wants and interests across the grant. If those groups can be compiled, then they can work together through networking opportunities to help each other. If the survey shows grantees with certain needs and those needs are available in some other high quality areas, those groups can be put together so they can receive that networking help and professional learning from one another.

The main focus of Tier 1 professional learning will be how to build and sustain those partnerships. The focus of Tier 2 will be systems development, how to carry it out to make it a part of your system. For professional learning two webinars were created. The first webinar took place last week and was very logistical. The next webinar will be January 20, 2017 and will focus on Tier 1. January 30, 2017 webinar will focus on Tier 2. All webinars are open to both Tier 1 and Tier 2 Grantees. The webinars will be interactive so that Grantees will have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have. There will be follow-up webinars, based on the survey results, in April and May. information will be provided at the School Readiness Summit taking place in March, at which some of the Grantees will be participants. There will also be information, sessions and training opportunities provided at the Summer Early Childhood Institute.

Chair Rick Hulefeld requested that the next time Ms. Shepherd appears before the Council that she share what data is going to be collected that would create the case for why these kind of partnerships need to continue.

Ms. Shepherd agreed and stated that the goal is to find out how to sustain and build in that structure of sustainability over time. How the partnerships will continue to remain ongoing when the Grant funds are depleted.

Amanda Ellis, Associate Commissioner Office of Teaching and Learning mentioned that the hope is to capture models of examples, which is why we want to make sure that our evaluation of the implementation is not just counting, but really is meaningful.

Sally Shepherd let the Council know that a Preschool Partnership Grant webpage was created and is located on the KDE website. It can be found on the Preschool Primary page. Any information or resources received pertaining to the Partnership Grants is available on that page.

Mid-Year School Readiness Summit.....Kayla Jones

Kayla Jones, of the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood, announced that the 2017 Mid-Year School Readiness Summit is scheduled for March. The plan is to invite the 2015 and 2016 Summit Teams for a total of 40 teams, as well as incorporate Tier Grantees. During the Summit time will be provided for teams to revise their action plans as well as provide an opportunity for teams to participate in breakout sessions to include topics that will increase community mobilization and provide technical assistance for Tier Grantees. The Superintendents Toolbox workgroup will meet in January to finalize the details.

Conclusion and Adjourn.....Rick Hulefeld

Chair Rick Hulefeld thanked everyone for attending this meeting. He stated that “We are working on the right thing. We are trying to make a difference. However, we are not there yet. We have a lot of great ideas and we have a lot of energy, but there is much work still to be done. Keep dreaming”.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:52 pm.