

Early Childhood Advisory Council

January 25, 2019

Minutes

Call To Order

The meeting of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was called to order at 1:04 PM on January 25, 2019 at the Kentucky Department of Education State Board Room.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Twila Burdette, Travis Burton, Senator Danny Carroll, Anita Dowd, Amy Duvall, Paula Goff, Linda Hampton, Amy Hood, Rick Hulefeld, Wayne Lewis, Tamra Parker, Mike Nemes representing Secretary Derrick Ramsey, John Roden, Sally Shepherd, Amy Smith and Sarah Vanover. The following members were not in attendance: Dreama Gentry, Representative Regina Huff and Kristi Putnam.

Approval of Minutes, December 7, 2018

The Council unanimously accepted the minutes of the December 7, 2018 meeting.

ECAC Chairperson..... John Roden

Chair, John Roden announced to the Council, in order to have complete transparency, since the time he was appointed Chair at the last ECAC meeting, he has been offered the opportunity to serve as the State of Kentucky’s Every Student Succeeds Act Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Project Manager for this planning year. The ECAC and the Subcommittees of the Council are going to be responsible for the oversight and implementation of the PDG. Chair Roden asked if there is any concern from the Council about him serving in the capacity of the Manager of the grant, as well as the ECAC Chair. Linda Hampton, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood, informed the Council that according to the Executive Director of Boards and Commissions, there is nothing within Statute or Regulation stating that a staff member is not permitted to serve as a Chairperson. The Council did not have an issue with Mr. Roden continuing as Chair of the ECAC. Chair Roden thanked the Council for its endorsement.

Executive Director’s Update..... Linda Hampton

Ms. Hampton announced that Kentucky has been awarded the Every Student Succeeds Act Preschool Development Grant (PDG), in the amount of \$10.62 million dollars. Kentucky is one of the states that received the highest award, along with five other states. Governor Matt Bevin designated the Kentucky Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) to serve the Commonwealth as the lead of the PDG. The GOEC will partner with the Kentucky Department of Education, the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, KY STATS and the Kentucky Head Start Association. However, Ms. Hampton noted that, while it was a requirement of the grant to partner with the state agencies, the GOEC and partnering agencies will engage stakeholders, local communities and all of the providers who provide early care and education services throughout the Commonwealth. A copy of the grant, as well as an overview of the grant was provided for all of the Council members. This information can be found online at www.kidsnow.ky.gov. The PDG, overall, is a planning grant for year one. Kentucky will have the opportunity to apply for year 2 through 4 of the grant in the fall, for an estimated \$26 million.

Ms. Hampton introduced a new logo for the KY Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC). The new logo incorporates a tree trunk symbolizing strength, health and growth. The leaves on

the tree help support the idea of life and growth. The circles in the logo symbolize children, and the State of Kentucky is being held up by the strength of the children. The new GOEC logo can be found on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Ms. Hampton announced there will be some changes within the ECAC Subcommittees. Due to PDG requirements of Communications and Marketing, a new Communications Subcommittee will be added. Erin Mitchell, Communications Director for the GOEC, will lead the Subcommittee. Ms. Mitchell will be seeking members from the Council to volunteer to be a part of the Subcommittee. Chair John Roden will be talking with the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the ECAC Subcommittees to discuss the responsibilities to implement.

Validation & Sustainability Update Sarah Heinemeier and Kate Irish

Sarah Heinemeier, PhD and Kate Irish, MSW, with Compass Evaluation and Research, gave an update on the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant Sustainability Plan and KY All STARS Validation Study. The goal of the report is to review validation and sustainability study findings in the context of the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), as well as identify next steps and strategies for consideration under the PDG. Ms. Heinemeier spoke about the Project Activities of the grant, the Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan, Parent Knowledge and Choice, Sharing Best Practices, and Improving Quality. Questions and discussion ensued. The Compass PowerPoint presentation, along with the final report, can be found on the GOEC website www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Child Care Regulations Sarah Vanover

Ms. Sarah Vanover, Director, Division of Child Care, provided the Council with the Amendment to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), a proposed regulation that is currently open for public comment. There are additional components that will not begin until Summer 2019, which include the workforce piece for full-time students who would receive a waiver from work in order to receive CCAP so that they can be supported to go to school. The waiver will allow a student to utilize up to 60 months of schooling with CCAP benefits. The waiver is not 60 months of uninterrupted schooling. There are provisions that give a student the option to start and stop if circumstances arise that a student must leave school. Once the student leaves school, they have a 3-month period to pursue a job or provide documentation that they are in the interview process in order to meet the qualifications of CCAP. The elements of eligibility are: going to school full time, working at least 20 hours per week, or in the interview process to obtain a job. However, there is a maximum of 5 years or 60 months of enrolled school time.

Ms. Vanover responded to a question asked at the last ECAC meeting regarding families who are working alternative schedules. There is a policy in place in the CCAP office for alternative schedules. If a parent or guardian works a 3-day on 3-day off type of schedule (working 12 hour shifts for those 3 days) they may contact the CCAP office for information and support to uphold that alternative schedule to be permitted to sustain CCAP. In the alternative schedule, the 12-hour day is covered as long as the center is open. A child is permitted to attend the facility from open to close. The only hour limitation in CCAP is when dealing with a 24-hour facility. A child is not permitted to stay at a facility more than 16 hours in a day.

Meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm