

Early Childhood Advisory Council
June 15, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 1:10 pm on June 15, 2017 at the 300 Building, Frankfort, KY.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes, March 17, 2017

With correction on page 4 under Race to the Top update, third paragraph, strike the word "a training" and show there are multiple trainings, upon motion by Representative Tom Burch, the minutes of the March 17, 2017 ECAC meeting were unanimously approved.

Chair Rick Hulefeld introduced the guest panel for today's meeting, Casey County Superintendent Marion Sowders, Superintendent Dr. Henry Webb, Superintendent Rob Clayton and Webster County Superintendent Dr. Rachel Yarbrough. Chair Hulefeld thanked them all for coming. He also thanked all of the Committee members for the work that is being done on the various ECAC Subcommittees.

Director's Update.....Linda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Acting Executive Director of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council, thanked everyone in attendance. Ms. Hampton reported that the Federal Representatives are allowing Kentucky to apply for the No Cost Extension. Although the Race to the Top grant ends December 31, 2017, Kentucky is requesting to extend the grant through December 31, 2018. Based upon the conversations that have taken place with the federal representatives, it does appear Kentucky will be approved. Ms. Hampton was happy to report that the work in Kentucky is progressing. All Agencies have been working together in a cross-sector collaborative way on the Grant and the work is being completed as promised.

Ms. Hampton reported Kentucky, as a whole, has spent 46.14% (\$20,461,571) of the grant. There are 53.86% remaining funds to be spent, which is a little over \$23 million. Ms. Hampton and all of the partnering agencies are confident that it will happen. Ms. Hampton recognized Lakeshore Learning and mentioned that they

have been a huge help to Kentucky. She gave kudos to the Cabinet of Health and Family Services, the Department of Education, the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet and the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood for coming together to make sure the work is completed.

Christa Bell, Director, Division of Child Care, reported that on the Division of Child Care side, there is financial incentive to providers who move up in level. With each level they get an increase in financial incentive. The providers then receive another incentive if they are a CCAP provider. The idea is to provide high quality care for everyone, specifically for the children served by CCAP.

There is money in contract through the University of Kentucky for the Division of Child Care staffing for the raters that support the work of Race to the Top. There is money earmarked within the contract for professional development for the State of Kentucky. To date there have been 1,862 professional childcare workers trained through the training initiative. 38.6% of those workers were employed by a Level 1 Program and 43.6% were at a Level 2 Program. That is roughly a little over 81% staffed in Level 1 and 2 programs. The Professional Development initiative provides professional support to those programs in order to help improve their quality level.

The Lakeshore Learning classroom materials have been providing the opportunity for every classroom in the state to have access to the materials that will help them have a higher score in the environmental rating scales, which will help them move up in quality level. In the last 6 months, one of the challenges for the program is the lack of current screening assessment and curriculum. This will be the focus in the next 6 months. The professional development program will also continue so that when those programs receive the needed materials, there will be professional training for them. The focus over the next 6 months will be on tying trainings to the screening assessment and curriculum materials being provided. The training will be more than just introductory to the curriculum, it will also be tied to professional development. There is not a finalized list of trainings that will be provided, however a group of staff from UK is helping work on that. Ms. Bell welcomed feedback on suggestions in that area.

Linda Hampton let the Council know that a component of the work being done by the ECAC Professional Development Subcommittee, is the framework. The committee is looking at the Continuous Assessment Guide and the state framework, cross walking over to see if it is still a conducive list, and what different screening and assessments, and curriculum have come to Kentucky since the last time that list was introduced.

Christa Bell mentioned that programs are being created that will be sustainable. All Stars and Kids Now will simultaneously change from one program to the other and once All Stars goes into operation some of the funding from the Kids Now program will go toward the work of the All Stars program. There will be sustainable funding, however funds will not be available to offer financial incentives at the level being

offered right now to get the facilities in. There will also be funding for programs to ensure there will be quality professional development that ties to the standard that continues to be available.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS - Linda Hampton spoke on the Quality Improvement Grants, monies given from Race to the Top Grant as an opportunity to the 2017 Summit Teams. The Cabinet for Health & Family Services and the Department of Education did a review of the Quality Improvement Grants. There were 76 applications received. Through the cross agency committee, 37 grants were issued. However, within the 37 grants all 76 applications were funded. Some applications had shared fiscal agents so all were able to be funded. The amount of the total funding was \$1,099,590. The contracts start July 1 and end December 31, 2017.

BORN LEARNING ACADEMY - 65 Born Learning Academies (BLAs) were awarded \$365,000 in total funding. 50 of those Academies were traditional, meaning the BLA was housed within the school. 10 were Community Grants. A new, innovative way to form Born Learning Academies. These Academies are coming out of the Housing Authority. In Northern Kentucky, a BLA meeting occurred off-site from the school, in a Housing Authority. It was a great success, with a larger turn out than the schools. The new innovative plan is being piloted through Housing Authorities. 5 of those were refunded.

HEAD START MOAs – This work is being done through the Data subcommittee, spearheaded by Cory Curl, from the Prichard Committee. There are 26 signed agreements with Head Start grantees. The MOA is for data sharing, trying to find a way at the state level to integrate federal Head Start data into our system. This will round out the information on the children of Kentucky. There will be a signed MOA for every Head Start grantee in our state for data. Ms. Hampton congratulated the subcommittee's work on this.

RACE TO THE TOP VALIDATION STUDY – Ms. Hampton reported a Vendor has been obtained for the Validation Study. The Vendor is expected to begin work on the study July 17, 2017. The contract will end December 31, 2017. At that time the contract will be extended through the end of June 2018. Interim reports from the Vendor, with updates at several touch points throughout the work will be submitted and sent to the Council so they will be aware of everything happening in the study.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES – The Leadership Academies (Cohort 1 and Cohort 2) are another component of Race to the Top Grant. Cohort 2 has 129 participants. The Leadership Academy is a cross-sector and is made up of Child Care, Head Start, State Preschool, and different positions such as teachers and administrators that are connected with a professional mentor to help take them through their planned early childhood experience in whatever position they are in. The Cohorts have been extremely successful. Cohort 2 will take place at the 2017 Early Childhood Institute

on June 27, 2017. The results from Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 will be given at a future ECAC meeting.

CECC UPDATES – The GOEC has contracted with Vendor Alisa Ghazvini to evaluate the CECCs. The evaluation will take place July 1-31, 2017. The RFA will be finalized, and posted in mid-August. The evaluation of the CECCs will be one month, including surveying, interviewing and looking at data from the last two years. The vendor will share a Proposal of Recommendation of what should be included in the next RFA. In conversation with Finance regarding the contract, it was concluded the CECC Contracts will have to begin November 1, 2017 instead of October 1, 2017. Ms. Hampton mentioned that Chair Rick Hulefeld will be introducing an actionable item regarding the Mobilizing Communities Subcommittee to meet regarding this matter. Decisions will have to be made in early August regarding the timeline and the end date of the CECC Contracts. Ms. Hampton assured the Council this evaluation does not mean the termination of CECCs. This is truly an evaluation of the Councils, the services, the data and the outcomes. At this point, Kentucky has funded 76 CECCs.

Chair Rick Hulefeld spoke to ask for a vote on an actionable item. The request is for the ECAC to allow the Mobilizing Communities Subcommittee to have decision-making authority on the Council's behalf at a meeting in early August to go through the report and recommendations of the Evaluator. The final report and findings, along with the recommendations will be shared with the ECAC, but Chair Hulefeld is asking that the Subcommittee have decision-making authority in order for the RFA process to be completed.

Linda Hampton mentioned an alternative option. The alternative would be to call a special ECAC meeting in August for every member to attend to review the report.

If the subcommittee is authorized to accept the report and recommendation, the full ECAC will receive copies of the report and recommendations. The criteria for the evaluation will be shared with the Council so that they will have an understanding of how the CECCs will be evaluated.

If anyone from the ECAC not currently on the Mobilizing Communities subcommittee would like to join the subcommittee, they may see Linda Hampton after this meeting to let her know.

A vote was taken for the following two options: a) To allow the Mobilizing Communities Subcommittee to make decisions on behalf of the ECAC, allowing Council members to give input before the decision is made; and b) To call a special session of the ECAC for every Council member to attend in August.

Option A passed by majority.

Chair Rick Hulefeld gave a special thank you to Linda Hampton for the work she is doing on the CECC project. When thinking of the number of years and amount of

money that has been given to the CECCs, it is time to take a strong look at the evaluation, upgrade the ask, and get stronger outcomes. Chair Hulefeld believes what will be found is that some Councils have been amazing, some almost amazing, and some just dreaming about amazing things. It is necessary to take a look at this, and be a little more selective for the good of the children. Chair Hulefeld said he is grateful to see the forward movement on this and thanked Ms. Hampton again for her work.

A request was made for the Council to see the criteria by which the CECCs will be evaluated.

KY STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ORAL HEALTH – Linda Hampton has been asked to be a part of the KY Strategic Plan for Oral Health, representing the ECAC and the Early Childhood Community in KY. The last time the Cabinet for Health and Family Services updated the plan was 2006. The oral health plan is in the process of being reviewed and the Strategic Plan will incorporate what is best for state of Kentucky. Ms. Hampton has asked for the ECAC to be utilized because oral health is so critical within early childhood development. The request was granted. The ECAC will be asked to share information in messaging, and also on the policy side, what is the best practice component through the lens of early childhood. The next Kentucky Strategic Plan for Oral Health meeting is in September. More information will be forthcoming.

COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES – Ms. Hampton reported on the ECAC Subcommittees and thanked everyone for the outstanding work that is coming out of the subcommittees.

Tobacco Oversight Committee Report (Audit)..... Linda Hampton
Ms. Hampton congratulated the ECAC for a perfect audit. She reported that the audit was very successful.

Ms. Hampton took a moment to thank her staff. She mentioned that the great work that has happened could not have been done without the staff. She also thanked all of the Partners.

Birth Through Third Grade Alignment Bill Buchanan, Tom Lottman
Bill Buchanan, Kentucky Department of Education and Tom Lottman, Children Inc. presented on behalf of the ECAC Birth through Third Grade subcommittee. Members of this subcommittee were competitively selected to participate in the Birth to Third Grade Alignment conference in October of 2016. The focus was on recommendations for aligning social-emotional learning (SEL) for preschool through third grade. Experts spoke about some of the new signs and approaches to social emotional learning. Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Lottman recently shared the information with the KAS meeting and summit. The information was divided into two parts: 1) What is social emotional learning, and 2) How should this learning be

implemented. The presentation is posted on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

A panel of superintendents, Superintendent Marion Sowders, Casey County, Dr. Henry Webb, Floyd County, Superintendent Rob Clayton, Warren County, and Dr. Rachel Yarbrough, Webster County, spoke and gave different points of view on the importance of Social Emotional Learning in Early Childhood and the impact on the outcomes in education. They spoke on the importance of closing the achievement gap before it starts.

Kentucky All STARS Campaign..... Red7e
Claudia Grisanti, from Red7e announced to the Council that their company has been working with the GOEC on promotion of the KY All STARS branding and media campaign. Together, Red7e and the GOEC worked closely to establish the most effective and impactful strategy to promote the importance of early childhood education to all stakeholders and audiences. The plan is to create awareness around the Kentucky All STARS program. Their message will be to let the public know that Kentucky All STARS is a way to identify quality early childhood education providers, and to encourage child care providers to become a part of the All STARS program. The messages and branding will also encourage parents/guardians to seek out child care providers that are part of the All STARS program. Red7e has updated the Kentucky All STARS logo. Ms. Grisanti showed examples of the new logo, the signage, the social media ads, the social media video and Toolkit deliverables that have been created.

Ms. Grisanti explained to the Council, this plan is the launch of the Program only to make sure people are aware of Kentucky All STARS. There will be a lot of communication about getting the rating system into an ad. The plan is to “hook people” first and then get them to learn more about the rating system. This is going to be a phase approach. It will be hearing captioned.

A question was asked concerning promotional items available to buy that would promote the Stars program. Ms. Grisanti replied there are no promotional items available to purchase at this time. However, Red7e can always provide the assets needed to create those pieces. They are happy to help this campaign to go far and above.

It was mentioned that the current colors on the brand, the pink on the orange, would be impossible for a person with a color deficiency to read. The suggestion was made to change that combination.

Red7e is creating a toolkit for providers so that it is consistent with all child care providers. The campaign launch will be Monday June 19, 2017. The creation of political influencer print ads will be November-December, creative refresh will take place in November and results and reporting will come in March 2018, when the

campaign comes to a close. Ms. Grisanti's presentation is available on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Linda Hampton asked to speak about the Early Childhood Institute. It is going to be a massive event. This is the first time in history we had to close registration 35 days prior to the Institute due to the amount of people registered. There were a little over 1500 people. Each Council member received an ECI bag and journal that will be given to every registrant at the Institute. The value of each bag, with useable items inside, to each registrant is around \$50. The announcement of the main keynote speaker will be coming soon. Lakeshore Learning is hosting and sponsoring a reception one evening. We have received almost \$20,000 just in donations alone for centerpieces that will be give-aways to the registrants. There will be 150 tables each day and someone from each table will have the opportunity to go home with the centerpiece. Ted Waters and one of his associates will be coming for the Pre-Conference Head Start Track. Also, Walter Gillium will be a guest speaker, as well. This is a National level type conference that we are getting ready to give for the Commonwealth, and most importantly to our teachers and those who are in early childhood. Diana Hutch sent around a sign-up sheet for ECAC members to fill out if they plan on attending the Institute.

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

Christa Bell, Director of Child Care, gave an update on the progress of CCAP enrollment. As she stated in the last two meetings, one of the primary goals in the Division of Child Care is to focus on increasing the CCAP enrollment. Since the last time Ms. Bell presented the information to the ECAC, the enrollment has continued on an upward trajectory. As of the end of May, the number is up to 26,531 children enrolled in CCAP, which is the highest enrollment since January of 2014. The numbers are continuing in the right direction. Ms. Bell will send the presentation to Diana Hutch so that it may be posted on the website, and made available to the Council. Ms. Bell spoke about the funding to support CCAP. The CCDF funding alone is insufficient to support CCAP at the level of enrollment in State FY13. At that time when the enrollment was high, around 43,000, it was not only CCDF funding that was supporting that enrollment, but there were TANF carried forward dollars that were rolled in that supported both CCAP and Kinship Care monthly stipends to families. When the decision to freeze CCAP enrollment was made, there was also a discontinuation of those monthly stipends to the new Kinship Care families. The ones that had already been approved and put in place before the freeze, have continued. However, that program was discontinued, so any new families who would have qualified for Kinship Care from that point forward were not given that \$300 per month per child stipend. The funding source both to support some portion of CCAP and Kinship Care came from carried forward dollars. Around 2014 there were significant budget cuts. The Department for Community Based Services had roughly an \$86 million budget cut during that time period. Due to budget cuts the TANF carried forward dollars were depleted. The TANF carried forward dollars dwindled from \$96.7 million in State FY2009 to \$0 in State FY2014. According to DAFM records the budget for the Division of Child Care has decreased by approximately \$39 million over the past five years. This is not only a Kentucky

phenomenon, but has been a challenge for many states across the nation. The state of the economy over the last 5 years on a national level has had an impact on the states. Ms. Bell gave a handout "Average Monthly Number of children Served in CCDBG, 2006-2016". This handout will be posted on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Ms. Bell announced that the transition to Benefind "go live" date for CCAP is scheduled for October 1, 2017. Plans are in place for providers and families. The schedules for staff training are in place, which will include regional forum programs that will start taking place in late July and throughout August to be sure providers have all the information about Benefind and what it will mean for them. It will improve access for families and clients. Roughly 93% who receive CCAP also receive some other type of assistance, so it makes sense for families to have one point of access for all of the programs for which they may qualify. Any client who comes in to be screened for eligibility for one type of assistance, will be screened for eligibility for the other programs for which they may qualify. This will further increase our CCAP enrollment. Primarily because of access.

Ms. Bell spoke about the implementation of background checks. There are new federal requirements for fingerprint based background checks of employees of child care programs. This is to be in effect by September 30, 2017. In Kentucky, HB374 was passed in this year's session to meet this federal requirement. The Division of Child Care is now awaiting approval from the enacted bill from the FBI, as well as assignment of Kentucky's ORI number. This week a request for extension was sent to Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The Division waited to submit the request because Kentucky is on track to have this implemented by the deadline. However, because of the delays with getting the approvals back from the FBI, it would be nearly impossible to get roughly 24,000 people fingerprinted by the end of September. So the extension has been requested. Ms. Bell does not anticipate it will take a full year until September 2018 to be able to implement this. The regulation has been drafted and will be filed once the final approval from the FBI has been received. The equipment is already in place across the state in local DCBS offices. A plan for staged fingerprinting based on licensure month of provider has been drafted. DCBS has a plan to fund the administrative costs to ensure the cost to providers remains close to current costs. The background checks will be good for five years and include a "rap back" feature which means if one of these people commit a crime in Kentucky, the Division of Child Care will automatically be alerted and that information will; be passed on to the child care provider.

The Division of Child Care (DCC) is continuing to develop plans to increase provider numbers. Also creating a plan for transition to ECERS 3. The transition will be slow because the ratings on ECERS 3 tend to be a little lower than ECERS are now. Therefore the transition will probably not be until later in 2018. However, the plans are being developed now. The Child Care Advisory Council letters went out May 25th to the members who were previously appointed to that council to confirm they are still interested in service. All the responses have not been received as of yet.

There is one known vacancy that will need to be filled with a new appointment. However, the council will convene in 2017.

A request was made for the chart of the STARS ratings be sent to the Council quarterly. Ms. Bell agreed.

Kentucky Department of Education Update Sally Shepherd

Sally Shepherd, Kentucky Department of Education reported on Tier Grants from 2016 & 2017. The districts that received grants were given a lot of support as they requested it. The Department is transitioning and getting those folks to spend all their money from those grants. Tier 1 Grants from 2017-2018 have been posted. The Grants can be found on the State website. Tiers 2 & 3 are currently in the process of being reviewed. Those Grants should be finished and reviewed next week, unless there are problems. The Grants will go through finance and they are aware that it needs to be done quickly. The numbers of the grants will be reported at the next ECAC meeting .

Chair Rick Hulefeld thanked Ms. Shepherd for all of the work being done on these Grants. He took time to thank everyone who attended the meeting today. He told the Council that work will be done on the ECAC agenda to leave more time for feedback.

Meeting ended 4:11 pm