

Early Childhood Advisory Council
March 15, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Call To Order

The meeting of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 1:13 pm on March 15, 2018 at the Kentucky Higher Education AA (KHEAA), Frankfort, KY.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Christa Bell, Joe Hamilton designee for Interim Secretary Scott Brinkman, Anita Dowd, Amy Duvall, Dreama Gentry, Paula Goff, Tracy Haddix, Linda Hampton, Cindy Heine, Wayne Lewis designee for Secretary Hal Heiner, Rick Hulefeld, Brigitte Ramsey, Anna Shepherd, Rachel Yarbrough. The following members were not in attendance: Senator Danny Carroll, Barbara Colter, Amy Hood, Representative Regina Huff, Jennifer Miller, Tamra Parker, Nicki Patton Rowe, and Amy Wooldridge.

Approval of Minutes, December 7, 2017

Motion to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2017 Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting was made by Wayne Lewis, and second made by Tracy Haddix. The minutes were unanimously accepted by the Council

Ad-hoc Committee to Review ECAC ResponsibilitiesLinda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Executive Director of the KY Governor's Office of Early Childhood, and Chair, Rick Hulefeld, felt that now would be a good time to develop an Ad-hoc Committee, to allow Council members the opportunity to decide areas the ECAC should concentrate on during the next 2 years. It is time to start a strategic plan in order for the Early Childhood Advisory Council to have a better idea of the budget for the next biennium. Ms. Hampton announced that if any of the Council members were interested in being a part of the Ad Hoc Committee, to let Diana Hutch know by the end of March 2018. Cindy Heine volunteered to be a member of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Ms. Hampton presented the "Save the Date" card for the next 2018 Early Childhood Institute. The theme of the Institute is *Leading the Way for Kids of Kentucky*. Ms. Hampton would love the ECAC to attend the Institute so that the people of Kentucky can see the Council's presence. The next ECAC meeting will take place during the Early Childhood Institute on Thursday June 14, 2018, from 10 am to 2 pm. This will be a facilitated meeting to be able to develop a strategic plan. The plan will encompass the entire world of early childhood. The plan will cover all state agencies, but also will determine what the ECAC is seeing in each of the member's organizations and local districts.

First Steps Quality Improvement..... Paula Goff

Paula Goff, Part C Coordinator with Kentucky First Steps gave an update on First Steps Quality Improvement. First Steps has been in a system redesign since 2004. They are required to provide to the office of special education a state systemic improvement plan. The state systemic improvement plan sets the goal to improve the outcomes for children with disabilities and development delays. First Steps has been working on this plan since 2012. The plan is required to identify a state-identified measureable result. The measurable results show parents will change their self-perception of their ability to help their child develop and learn. The desired outcomes are: families increase their skills to address growth and learning, Early Intervention Service (EIS) providers demonstrate Evidence Based Practices and EIS providers are highly skilled in coaching parents/caregivers.

For the past few years, First Steps has been working on developing quality standards, the training to support those standards and developing a provider coaching process. Ms. Goff was proud of the fact that they have achieved developing those standards. There are six First Steps Program Standards: Family-driven, Individualized, Evidence-based, Natural environment, Team-based and Transition. Kentucky is the only state in the nation that has the Part C Systems, early intervention. Ms. Goff's presentation can be found on the KY Governor's Office of Early Childhood's website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Executive Director's UpdateLinda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Executive Director of the KY Governor's Office of Early Childhood, introduced Patricia Tenan with KY Youth Advocates and mentioned to the Council there is a book in each of their folders given to them about KY Youth Advocates.

Ms. Hampton spoke about the Early Childhood Development Fund Scholarships. The Early Childhood Development Fund Scholarships are funded by 1.2 million dollars from the Tobacco Fund and also funds from civil penalties throughout the state. The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) is in communication with the budget director proposing to utilize the civil penalty monies towards the scholarships. There have been a little over 300 scholarships denied because those applicants did not follow through with applying for financial aid they would have qualified for. As of today, funds have been disbursed to 772 students. The maximum amount that the Early Childhood Development Scholarship grants is \$1800 up to three semesters (not per semester, but up to three semesters total). Ms. Hampton read a statement in support of the professional scholarships from Council member, Nicki Patton Rowe, who was unable to attend today's meeting, but wanted her voice heard on this subject. The great news today was that KHEAA is still having talks to provide money for these scholarships.

Ms. Hampton updated the Council on the Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). At the last meeting it was agreed that members of the ECAC, the Kentucky Department of Education and the Cabinet of Health and Family Services would meet to develop an MOU between the entities to determine how the

new Quality Rating System would be unified through an agreement. The meeting has taken place and there is a draft currently being reviewed with members. Once that is complete, everyone will have an opportunity to view what was designed.

Ms. Hampton spoke about Marshall County and the incident of the shooting that occurred at the High School. Ms. Hampton brought to the Council's attention that there is a Council member very close to the situation. That Council member is Senator Danny Carroll. Internally, discussions occurred to decide what the Council could do not only for Marshall County, but also for Senator Carroll and the passion he has for the work he is doing in Marshall County. The desire was to find a way to thank Senator Carroll for all he has done. Ms. Hampton presented a poster-size picture board with a saying from Walt Whitman, "Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and the shadows will fall behind you". Two boards have been created One to present to Senator Carroll and one to be presented to Marshall County High School on behalf of the ECAC.

Community Early Childhood Councils (CECC) UpdateLinda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Executive Director of the KY Governor's Office of Early Childhood gave an update on the Community Early Childhood Councils (CECCs). She informed the Council that the list of CECC Grantee Awards will be released today. Ms. Hampton read the school readiness goals that the RFA was required to focus on. The current grantee awards will lead up to the CECC merge that will be taking place next year. It has been identified that stronger technical assistance (TA) needs to be provided to the CECCs. The total grant funds requested for 2018-19 is \$1,268,000. The total grant funds awarded for 2018-19 is \$1,162,350 (includes contingency amounts). The breakdown of the funds awarded is as follows: 38 Tier 1 grants at 100% totals \$780,000; 25 Tier 2 grants at 85% totals \$279,650; 5 tier 3 grants at 65% totals \$42,250; 7 tier 3 grants with contingency of TA totals \$60,450. The rating scale was as follows:

- 100-90 score = 100% funding
- 89-80 score = 85% requested funding
- 79-70 score = 65% requested funding
- 69-Below score = 65% requested funding if they agree to have TA

The announcement of awards will go out to the CECC Chairs and will be posted on the GOEC website later on this afternoon.

Ms. Hampton announced that Holly LaFavers will be the new CECC Project Manager. Currently, Ms. LaFavers is the Race To The Top (RTT) Project Manager. However, RTT is sunsetting.

Early Childhood Institute (ECI) 2018.....Linda Hampton

Linda Hampton promoted the 2018 Early Childhood Institute (ECI) taking place June 12-15, 2018. The theme is Leading the Way for Kids of Kentucky. Ms. Hampton thanked Lakeshore Learning for sponsoring the event. Ms. Hampton announced to

the ECAC that the next meeting will be taking place during the ECI on June 14, 2018. She mentioned that if any of the members are planning to attend, please let Diana Hutch know if they will need to arrive the night before. The KY GOEC will cover the cost of the room, as well as their expenses to attend.

Communications Update.....Katie Ryan Fotiadis

Linda Hampton, Executive Director, gave the Communications update. Ms. Hampton announced that Katie Ryan Fotiadis is the new Communications Director of the KY Governor’s Office of Early Childhood. The office is very happy to have Ms. Fotiadis on board. The Communications update presentation can be found on the KY GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Ms. Hampton also announced that the KY Governor’s Office of Early Childhood has been involved with a book project with Kentucky’s First Lady. There will be 5,000 books distributed throughout Kentucky as a part of the Summer Meal sponsors for the KY Vegetable and Fruit Incentive program.

Ms. Hampton spoke about guest speaking engagements. The children of the Head Start program within Lexington-Fayette became “authors”. The children wrote a series of books, with their parents. Ms. Hampton was invited to the event of the presentation of these books.

Ms. Hampton was also invited to speak at the Southern Early Childhood conference.

ECAC Subcommittee Updates

The updates from the Early Childhood Advisory Council Subcommittees presentation can be found on the KY GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Division of Child Care CCDF State Plan..... Christa Bell

Christa Bell, Director of the Division of Child Care informed the Council of a document contained in each of their folders that is a draft reprint of the state plan for the Federal fiscal year 2019 thru 2021. Ms. Bell emphasized that this is a draft. Ms. Bell wanted the council to have a copy of this draft so they would have an idea of the information that needs to be provided. This state plan, once finalized, and approved at the federal level, would go into effect October 1, 2018. Ms. Bell anticipates that there will be changes to this reprint. There is a required period for public comments and public hearing. The initial draft must be filed with the LRC April 1, 2018.

The hope is to create a stakeholder group that meets at least twice per year, even when it’s not state plan writing time, even after the plan is in effect during that three year cycle. The DCC will be filing the initial draft with the LRC on April 1st. The next Childcare Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2018. A public hearing to coincide with the Childcare Advisory Council meeting will take place. A public notice will be put out the 1st of April.

Ms. Bell informed the Council that 45.1% of Kentucky child care programs are of high quality.

Kentucky Department of Education Update

Bill Buchanan, Kentucky Department of Education gave an update on the KDE All STAR regulation. Mr. Buchanan reported the KDE is moving forward with two regulations. The Preschool regulation is accessible publicly at the KDE website at the Board of Education where you find the board minutes and Board of Education documents. Before the first reading, a draft of the regulation was reviewed by the local Superintendent Advisory Council, and it was received favorably. KDE's approach will be to integrate the P2r (Preschool Program Review Process) with KY All STARS. After the favorable reading, the Board of Education had an opportunity to review the draft of the preschool regulation, 704KR3:015, in February. A 2nd reading is planned for the summer. The desire is to make sure that KDE is in tandem with the Cabinet in terms of the regulation, because KDE wants to make sure they are committed to a unified system for KY All STARS. The administration, in terms of it's implementation and requirements, has similarities and differences between the Child Care Regulation and the Preschool Regulation. Some of which have to do with application, how a facility enters and progresses in the system, and of course subsidy (Preschool does not have subsidy). However there are a lot of similarities in terms of how the point structure works and the point that KDE has 5 stars. However, Preschool will be integrating the P2r process with KY All STARS, moving from a 5-year cohort system of evaluating all school districts to a 6 year cycle for all sites.

Brigitte Blom Ramsey spoke to the Council and said to be seen as the body that is established to ensure there is unification, it is important that this body have some opportunity to review regulations to achieve unification in the regulations. Ms. Ramsey would like to make sure this body understands how the regulations work together and are unified. The Council needs to have an opportunity to review regulations before they are filed, similar to the Local Superintendent Advisory Council (LSAC).

Linda Hampton suggested this could be the first steps of the Ad-Hoc Committee that was spoke about at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Hampton said this is a great conversation for the Council.

All STARS RatingsSally Shepherd

Sally Shepherd, Kentucky Department of Education gave an update on the Kentucky All STARS Ratings. There are five regional centers throughout the state serving preschool. This data is strictly preschool and licensed day care numbers. Anderson RTC has 63.9% of sites in the region that have either a 4 or 5 STAR designation. Thirty-nine sites in Jefferson County remain at 3 STARS. The Department is down to two Race to the Top consultants for preschool. All sites in seven districts chose not to advance in the system. The Department is working hard on those districts to try to find out why they are choosing not to participate, because there are a few other

regions that have similar barriers. Ms. Shepherd gave an update on the Ashland Region. 69.9% of sites in the region have either a 4 or 5 STAR designation. Twenty-three sites remain at 3 STARS. All sites in nine districts chose not to advance in the system. Berea County was the first site to be a 5-Star. Ms. Shepherd's presentation can be found on the KY GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Adjourned 3:40 pm