

Early Childhood Advisory Council

March 21, 2019

Minutes

Call To Order

The meeting of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was called to order at 1:06 pm on March 21, 2019 at the Kentucky Historical Society, Brown Forman Room in Frankfort, KY.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes, January 25, 2019

The Council unanimously accepted the minutes of the January 25, 2019 meeting.

Executive Director's Update..... Linda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Executive Director of the KY Governor's Office of Early Childhood, introduced Content Experts that have been retained to support the work of the Preschool Development Grant (PDG). Sarah Heinemeier and Kate Irish with Compass Evaluation and Research, Karen Ponder with the BUILD Initiative, Oscar Fleming of North Carolina University at Chapel Hill, Elizabeth Gaines of the Children's Funding Project, Amelia Vaughn of the Children's Funding Project, and joining by phone, Lori Connors-Tadros, Ph.D., of the Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO).

Ms. Hampton announced that the Governor's Office of Early Childhood secured another grant for the State of KY. The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) project, *"Integrating and Advancing State Prenatal to Age Three Policies"*, in the amount of \$25,000. The grant monies are being leveraged with the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) and will be a large piece of the 2019 Early Childhood institute.

Ms. Hampton recently had the opportunity to be interviewed by Renee Shaw on KET's Connection television program, to share about not only Early Childhood and the Kids of Kentucky Books, but to also talk specifically within the area of alignment and within workforce, as well as re-emphasizing the fact that Early Childhood truly is the bedrock of human capital. Ms. Hampton announced that KET will have an Early Childhood Forum panel conversation in April. KET has requested the ECAC be a member of the audience and informed the Council members they will be receiving an invitation soon. Ms. Hampton said that KET wants to do a series dedicated to Early Care and Education.

Ms. Hampton announced that the 2019 Early Childhood Institute (ECI) theme will be "Believe in Me KY". This year the registration will be capped at 1,000 registrants because there will be high level training provided. Holly Lafavers, of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood, shared that there will be specialized tracks this year according to the registrant's position. The registrants will be placed in specialized tracks that will further their career.

The tracks offered at the 2019 ECI will be:

- Leadership
- Developmentally Appropriate Practice
- Infant/Toddler
- Special Ed
- Classroom Management
- Foster/Adoptive Care
- Working with Family

In addition, trauma informed care will be provided at this year's conference. More information will be forthcoming. Registration for scholarships to attend the 2019 ECI has been opened. There will be 250 scholarships awarded that will be funded through the Preschool Development Grant. No one from an organization that is already provided Professional Development funds will be eligible to apply for a scholarship. As of yesterday, there were already 453 applicants. Diana Hutch, of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood, has sent the ECAC an invitation to "Hold" June 19th for an opportunity to be a part of an intimate discussion with leaders of Early Care and Education, as well as the policy side of the house. Renee Shaw, with KET, will be facilitating the event. ECAC will work with Diana Hutch or Hannah Coulter to register for the conference, June 19-21, 2019. There will be a pre-conference day that will include Community Early Childhood Council (CECC) training, and Head Start Specialized Tracks. The GOEC is currently working with the Adult Education program to be included in the pre-conference event.

Ms. Hampton announced that a School Readiness Summit will take place April 29th, focusing on the area of "transition". She explained that whenever we talk about transition, it is not only transition from public pre-school to kindergarten, but also about transition from pre-natal all the way into entering school. Each Summit team will be asked to create an Action Plan to ensure children are transition ready.

The Community Early Childhood Council (CECC) RFA application has been released. The merger of counties has been delayed and will not be implemented this grant period. The local communities will be given the opportunity to have discussion and decide if they want to merge with the community next to them. The applications were scored this week. Most would have been disqualified, simply for not following instructions. The decision has been made to provide one more year of training and working with the local communities before changing the process. An additional week has been allowed for the CECCs to resubmit corrected RFAs. Currently, 67 applications have been submitted, however it is anticipated there will be a few more submitted. One of the pieces at the ECI pre-conference event will be to train the CECC Chairs on how to submit applications and our office will continue to give strong TA for an additional six months to ensure they will be prepared for next year.

Ms. Hampton informed the Council that HB 392 passed the Legislature. Within the Bill, it was recommended that the Early Childhood Advisory Council, which also includes the GOEC, move to the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. Under former Governor Beshear, the GOEC was put into an Executive Order instead of Legislation. To make it permanent, the Council and office have been put into Statute through HB 392. Both will now be "cradle to career".

American Heart Association.....Shannon Smith

Shannon Smith, with the American Heart Association (AHA), told the Council that the AHA’s mission is longer, stronger, healthier lives. This starts at the early stages of life with physical activities and healthy eating. Ms. Smith gave the Council a handout stating that the Nutrition standards outlined in 922 KAR 2:120 and 922 KAR 2:100 are similar to the standards outlined in the federal Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP), although the federal standards are more detailed and offer more guidance to centers. The American Heart Association proposes the Cabinet delete individual requirements and standards and insert a statement that centers must comply with the standards outlined in the federal CACFP regulation. This would make it clear that the standards are the same. Therefore, addressing equity at all centers. Additionally, if the federal regulation is referenced, it would not require the Cabinet to open the state regulation anytime the federal regulation is changed. Although the new regulations reference compliance with the federal CACFP regulation, they do so only for the centers that are participating in the federal program, which falls short of meeting the American Heart Association’s recommendation and ensuring equity at all centers. Discussion ensued. Linda Hampton, Executive Director of the KY Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (KY GOEC), requested to have this work put into the ECAC TQRIS Subcommittee to look and see if there is alignment within the current standards. Diana Hutch of the KY GOEC, will forward Ms. Smith’s contact information to the ECAC. Ms. Smith’s handout can be found on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Preschool Development Grant Sarah Heinemeier

Sarah Heinemeier, Ph.D., of Compass Evaluation and Research gave a brief update on the Comprehensive Needs Assessment attached to the Preschool Development Grant (PDG). Ms. Heinemeier covered a summary of 10 bullet points that establish the Needs Assessment of the federal requirements and announced that the ECAC Data Committee will be responsible for the bulk of the work. Ms. Heinemeier’s presentation can be found on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Strategic Plan Activity..... Stefanie Ashley

Stefanie Ashley, Facilitation Center, Eastern Kentucky University presented the Strategic Plan that has been developed by the ECAC Executive Committee. The work has been done in close contact with Compass Evaluation and Research with the Needs Assessment, along with John Roden, Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Manager. The Goal Statements in the Strategic Plan are goals the Council would like to achieve by the end of 2024. The Strategic Plan supports the needs within the Needs Assessment. Discussion ensued. The Strategic Plan can be found on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

What is an Early Childhood System? Karen Ponder

Major Concepts and Considerations

Karen Ponder, of the Build Initiative, spoke about advancing the Kentucky Early Childhood System. Ms. Ponder stated she is honored to be a part of the future work. Ms. Ponder mentioned that family options are important and that parents are the most important people. If the Early Childhood System is not high quality, it does not meet the needs of the children.

Ms. Ponder stated that people get so caught up in the planning, they forget about the action. They forget to actually do something. Ms. Ponder's presentation included top-level lessons learned regarding families, partnerships, equity, State and local partnerships, Workforce preparation, prior work, and data systems. Ms. Ponder stated that accountability is critical for long-term success. Ms. Ponder will be involved in the PDG work by working with the ECAC Subcommittees. Ms. Ponder's presentation may be found on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Using Implementation Science to Achieve Systems Oscar Fleming

Oscar Fleming of North Carolina University at Chapel Hill, spoke on using Implementation Science to achieve systems goals. Through his presentation, he introduced Implementation Science, explored systems implications for Implementation, and introduced the Active Implementation Frameworks. Mr. Fleming's presentation may be found on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Using Fiscal Mapping to Plan for Sustainability Elizabeth Gaines

Elizabeth Gaines of the Children's Funding Project, spoke about fiscal mapping Early Childhood systems. Ms. Gaines introduced Amelia Vaughn of the Children's Funding Project, and told the Council that Amelia will be working with Kentucky more actively. Ms. Gaines reviewed the fiscal mapping process and how it can be applied to early childhood systems. Ms. Gaines' presentation included information on the value of tracking this type of data, as well as giving examples of fiscal maps. Ms. Gaines' presentation may be found on the GOEC website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

**Preschool Development Grant Lori Connors-Tadros, Ph.D.
Federal Perspective**

Lori Connors-Tadros, Ph.D., of Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO), joined the meeting by phone. Ms. Connors-Tadros spoke from the Federal perspective of ensuring every child is successful. Ms. Connors-Tadros covered the 1994 GA report and told the Council to remember that the PDG is a systems grant. Ms. Connors-Tadros told the Council that she loves the content that Kentucky has in their Needs Assessment, and mentioned that the Council has to prepare for their report to Congress. Ms. Connors-Tadros said that in order to be successful, it will take common sense and common ground, and also discussed the true cost of Preschool. Ms. Connors-Tadros told the Council that Kentucky has areas of strength, but also has some areas to work on. Discussion ensued.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.