

Early Childhood Advisory Council
September 20, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Call To Order

The meeting of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was called to order at 9:00 am on August 20, 2018 at the KHEAA Conference Room.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Senator Danny Carroll, Lesa Dennis representing Commissioner Eric Clark, Anita Dowd, Amy Duvall, Paula Goff, Linda Hampton, Amy Hood, Rick Hulefeld, Amanda Ellis representing Commissioner Wayne Lewis, Tamra Parker, Kristi Putnam, Tiffany Yeast representing Secretary Derrick Ramsey, Sally Shepherd and John Roden. The following members were not in attendance: Barbara Colter, Dreama Gentry and Representative Regina Huff.

ECAC Business Linda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Executive Director, KY Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC), informed the ECAC of Executive Order 2018-581 Reorganization of Various Education Boards & Councils.

Strategic Planning SessionStefanie Ashley

Stefanie Ashley, Facilitation Center, Eastern Kentucky University, began the facilitated portion of the meeting. Ms. Ashley started with an introductory activity. Ms. Ashley reviewed with members the strengths/weaknesses and opportunities/threats identified in the last meeting. Ms. Ashley facilitated the further development of goal areas related to the opportunities/threats.

Members and staff were divided into small groups to work on opportunities/threats. At the end, groups came together to discuss their ideas and give input on how some can be in the same goal area. Six goal areas were developed.

Approval of Minutes, June 14 2018

Motion to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2018 ECAC meeting was made by Rick Hulefeld, and second made by Amy Hood. The minutes were unanimously accepted by the Council.

Executive Director’s Update Linda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood, shared highlights of the 2018 Early Childhood Institute. Ms. Hampton reported that scholarships were provided from Race to the Top. Ms. Hampton led discussion around location, tailored tracks of training, size of 2019 Early Childhood Institute. Ms. Hampton spoke about the

Preschool Development Grant. Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood will be the designated entity to serve as the lead on the Preschool Development Grant. The first year of the Preschool Development Grant requirements are a needs assessment and a strategic plan.

Eric Mitchell, Communications Director, of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC), joined Ms. Hampton to announce the book launch/press conference of *Kids In Kentucky Who Is In Your Family?* The book was developed in collaboration with First Lady Bevin and the GOEC. The books and learning material kits will be distributed to the Department of Community Based Services offices who will distribute them to families. The book launch press conference will be Oct. 15, 2018 at Lakeshore Distribution Center in Midway, KY. Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Hampton invited the ECAC to attend.

Cabinet for Health & Family Services Program Highlight.....Paula Goff

Paula Goff, Part C Coordinator with Kentucky First Steps, presented program highlights on Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) and Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS). Ms. Goff spoke about a program under ECMH that provides health consultation in child cares providing technical assistance/training on health and safety. The purpose of ECMH to build the capacity to meet the mental health needs of young children and their families. ECMH receives \$1,000,000 per year. The funds are distributed to the 14 comprehensive mental health care centers. The mental health centers do consultation and training on social/emotional issues, evaluations/assessments of children birth-5 years and offer therapeutic services to children and their families. In the past year, 4,756 children and their families were served. In addition, provided 2,838 consultations to child serving agencies and provided training to over 1,000 early care and education staff in Head Start, child care, and state-funded preschools. ECMH has been able to increase the capacity to implement services based on evidence-based practices/programs. Ms. Goff presented the Connect the Dots (CTD) program. CTD summarizes social and emotional best practices into 4 easy-to-remember steps.

The next program Ms. Goff presented on was Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS). HANDS is designed to assist over-burdened parents/caregivers, improve health outcomes for both mother and child, and improve social outcomes for child and family. In FY18, 8994 families were served. HANDS receives \$9,000,000 from the Tobacco Fund. New program being piloted in Floyd Co. to address current needs is Healing Empowering Actively Recovering Together (HEART). HEART assists pregnant and parenting women with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). Tobacco Fund allowed for this program to be up and running quickly to meet the need.

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 Council received a Validation Study Interim Report to provide a summary of data collected. Ms. Heinemeier discussed the recommendations that came out of the Sustainability Study. The council received a Sustainability Recommendations brief and Sustainability Funding Chart. All documents, as well as the Compass Power Point Presentation can be found on the KY Governor’s Office of Early Childhood website www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Division of Child Care UpdateMelissa Banks

Melissa Banks, Interim Assistant Director of the Division of Child Care, presented uses for the increase of Child Care Development Fund. Ms. Banks gave an update on the distribution of Division of Child Care Tobacco Fund dollars. The Division of Child Care Power Point Presentation can be found on the KY Governor’s Office of Early Childhood website www.kidsnow.ky.gov Ms. Banks spoke about the Division of Child Care state plan. The Division of Child Care state plan can found at the following website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/dcc/Pages/default.aspx>.

Kentucky Department of Education UpdateAmanda Ellis and Malaika Williams

Amanda Ellis, Associate Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), reported that the KY All STARS regulation for public Preschool was passed officially. Ms. Ellis updated on the Preschool Partnership Grants. The results are on the KDE website. Out of 107 applicants, 53 were funded. Malaika Williams, Race to the Top Coordinator, KDE, reported on the KY All STARS within state-funded Preschool. The Kentucky Department of Education Power Point Presentation can be found on the Kentucky Governor’s Office of Early Childhood website www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Meeting adjourned 3:40 pm.