

Early Childhood Advisory Council  
September 21, 2017  
Meeting Minutes

**Call to order**

The meeting of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 1:10 pm on September 21, 2017 at the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), Frankfort, KY.

**Roll Call**

The following members were present: Christa Bell, Senator Danny Carroll, Anita Dowd, Amy Duvall, Tennant Kirk representing Dreama Gentry, Tracy Haddix, Joe Hamilton representing Secretary Vicki Glisson, Paula Goff, Linda Hampton, Cindy Heine, Wayne Lewis representing Secretary Hal Heiner, Amy Hood, Representative Regina Huff, Rick Hulefeld, Jennifer Miller, Tamra Parka, Amanda Ellis designee for Commissioner Stephen Pruitt, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Anna Shepherd, Amy Wooldridge and Rachel Yarbrough. The following members were not in attendance: Barbara Colter, Nicki Patton Rowe and Rita Williams.

**Approval of Minutes, June 15, 2017**

Brigitte Blom Ramsey made a motion to accept the June 15, 2017 minutes. Amy Hood seconded the motion. The minutes of the June 15, 2017 ECAC meeting were unanimously approved.

Chair Rick Hulefeld introduced the newest Council member representing the House of Representatives for the State of Kentucky, Representative Regina Huff.

**Director's Update..... Linda Hampton**

Linda Hampton, Executive Director of the KY Governor's Office of Early Childhood, introduced Holly LaFavers as the Race To The Top Project Manager. Ms. Hampton informed the Council that Kentucky has been approved for the Race to the Top No Cost Extension. Kentucky Race to the Top Grant is now extended through December 31, 2018 for the Race to the Top Projects 1, 2 and 4. The BornLearning project (Project 4) was carried over due to contractual reasons. There will be a 90-day close out of the grant ending on December 31, 2018. All funds must be liquidated by March 31, 2019. Ms. Hampton reported that all programs are on track and are meeting their percentages.

Ms. Hampton mentioned that at the last ECAC meeting there was a request to have an update on the Leadership Academy Cohort I outcome. However, OVEC will be sending out post program surveys next week, which will have the information that the Council is looking for. Once the GOEC receives those results, which should be mid-October, the numbers will be compiled and presented to the ECAC in December.

A Race to the Top Validation study began July 17, 2017. This will be a one year study and will end June 30, 2018. The study is being conducted by Compass Evaluation Research. Compass has secured a National Expert Panel to help with further validity. The panel consists of Gerry Cobb of the BUILD Initiative, Louise Stoney and Anne Mitchell of the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance, and Kelly Maxwell of Child Trends. The Race to the Top grant also requires a sustainability evaluation. Compass will be hiring a sustainability writer in order to complete this requirement. The ECAC will be incorporating these into the already existing subcommittees. Data, to be incorporated into the Enhanced Data Systems subcommittee; Finance, to be incorporated into the Program Investment subcommittee; Quality, specific to the professional development component, as well as the standards, which ties in to the work already happening in the Professional Development subcommittee; and Engaging Families. There are 22 data collectors that have been hired, within Kentucky, to collect the data. The purpose of the validation study is to ensure the All STAR quality improvement system is operating correctly and as effectively as planned. The sustainability plan will be informed by the validation study. Although the validation study does not end until June 30, 2018, interim reports will be provided throughout the year. The sustainability plan has an execution date of October 1, 2017 with an end date of June 30, 2018.

Ms. Hampton reported that the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee meeting went well with positive feedback.

**Kentucky Strengthening Families..... Tal Curry**  
Tal Curry, of Kentucky Strengthening Families, provided an overview of Kentucky Strengthening Families (KYSF). KYSF is a framework, a way of thinking, for how organizations can work with families using a strengths-based, family-driven approach. Programs and agencies all across Kentucky are using KYSF to improve outcomes for young children and families. The “Families” in KYSF means all families, caregivers, or anyone taking care of children. The mission of KYSF is strengthening families by enhancing protective factors that reduce the impact of adversity and increase the well-being of children and families through family, community, and state partnerships. The vision of KYSF is that all Kentucky children are healthy, safe and prepared to succeed in school and in life through families that are resilient, supported, and strengthened within their communities. Mr. Curry’s Power Point presentation is available on the KY Governor’s Office of Early Childhood website: [www.kidsnow.ky.gov](http://www.kidsnow.ky.gov).

Chair Rick Hulefeld proposed that the Kentucky Strengthening Families initiative replace the ECAC Supporting Families subcommittee. Chair Hulefeld called for a vote. A motion to accept was made by Cindy Heine. Rachel Yarbrough seconded the motion. The Council was in unanimous agreement.

**2017 Early Childhood Institute Presentation.....Linda Hampton**

The Early Childhood Institute (ECI) was held June 28-30, 2017 with 1,500 in attendance. Ms. Hampton reported that the conference was phenomenal. Ms. Hampton gave a special thank you to Lakeshore Learning for being the largest sponsor with their donation of \$25,000, as well as centerpieces for 150 tables. The GOEC offered \$70,000 in scholarships through the Race To The Top Grant to ensure provisions were made for those who would not have otherwise been able to attend. The featured nationally recognized keynote speaker was Mr. Geoffrey Canada, Founder of Harlem Children’s Zone. Other speakers included Dr. Walter Gilliam, Associate Professor of Child Psychiatry and Psychology at the Yale University Child Study Center, and Director of the Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy, and Dr. Roger Cleveland, Associate Professor of educational leadership and policy studies at Eastern Kentucky University. There were 150 professional development sessions offered during the week. There were 3,028 professional development hours issued for State Preschool through the Kentucky Department of Education and 14,471 Child Care hours issued. A total of \$61,000 was donated by corporate sponsors and \$9000 from vendors.

Dr. Wayne Lewis, Executive Director of Education Programs for the Kentucky Department of Education, thanked Ms. Hampton for her leadership, as well as her staff for their work in putting this spectacular conference together. Dr. Lewis said that this conference was outstanding and professional from start to finish.

Chair Rick Hulefeld asked the amount of money paid by participants who did not receive scholarships. Ms. Hampton told the Council that number would be calculated and emailed out to them. Chair Hulefeld mentioned that the response from people out in the field who attended this conference is that this was an amazing event. Anna Shepherd spoke up and mentioned how important it is to be able to offer the scholarships so that State Preschool has the opportunity to attend. Discussion continued regarding the GOEC holding the ECI in 2018.

**Kentucky Department of Education Update**

**Preschool Tier 1 and Tier 2 Grants ..... Bill Buchanan**

Bill Buchanan, KY Department of Education, spoke about the Preschool Partnership Grants. The partnerships grants were created through HB 303, to incentivize cooperative public/private partnerships between school districts and child care providers to develop full-day, high-quality early childhood programs for CCAP eligible preschool children. Tier 1 Preschool Partnership Grant RFP was posted on March 6, 2017 and awards were posted on May 23, 2017. There were 5 Tier 1 grants awarded. Tier 2 Preschool Partnership Grant RFP was posted on April 6, 2017 and awards were posted on June 27, 2017. There were 27 Tier 2 grants awarded. Tier 3 Preschool Partnership Grant RFP was posted on April 6, 2017 and awards were posted on June 27, 2017. There were 52 Tier 3 grants awarded. Mr. Buchanan presented a map showing where the partnership grant awardees are located. There are gaps where you do not see collaborative grants. This may be

because there are fewer childcare providers as there were in the past. There are 11 of the school districts already partnered with Head Start. Research will be done to see how areas who have not participated in the grant can be encouraged to do so. The next steps are to support the 2017-2018 grantees with partnership implementation, identify and profile successful preschool partnerships across Kentucky, and assist partnerships with building and sustaining high quality full day services. The Department wants the districts and partners to feel sustained. Chair Rick Hulefeld requested Amanda Ellis present an update at the December ECAC meeting.

**2016-17 Kindergarten Readiness Results ..... Sally Shepherd**

Sally Shepherd, KY Department of Education updated the Council on the Kindergarten Readiness screen. The Department is in the very early stages of working with KCEWS to make those prior settings, especially for Head Start and Public Pre-school, automatically populate. Currently prior settings are dependent on the parent report, as well as how well the intake person is making sure the parents are reporting all of the prior settings. It is important that the intake person understands the data they are taking and that parents fully understand the data that is being asked. Prior settings data can be duplicative because it is a year prior to entry, which means it is very possible for the child to have been in multiple settings before entering school. KDE has worked closely with Head Start to get the message out to Districts and to Head Start programs to be aware of the information needed for those case screens. Planning is in the exploratory stages. Ms. Shepherd gave an update on the case screen window, which is taking place right now. For case screen purposes, Districts have 15 calendar days prior to their first day of instruction and an additional 30 days after their first day of instruction to actually implement and screen children. After the initial time closes, they are given an additional 15 days to enter the data into OAS. All data must be entered by October 15, regardless of when the window closes, in order for KDE to have data by December. The data release is tentatively scheduled to be released at the next KDE meeting December 6, 2017.

The Department of Education PowerPoint presentation is available online at the GOEC website [www.kidsnow.ky.gov](http://www.kidsnow.ky.gov).

**Cost of Quality ..... Cory Curl**

Cory Curl of the Prichard Committee, gave an update on the Kentucky Early Childhood Cost of Quality Study. Kentucky is taking bold steps to increase enrollment in high-quality child care, public preschool and Head Start settings. One challenge to this effort is a lack of information regarding the actual costs of providing quality early care and education. Cost of quality estimates provide more detailed information to support sound budget decisions by state and local leaders. Ms. Curl's presentation showed a breakdown of the delivery for each child care program, including the purpose, history, funding for Kentucky and number of Kentucky children served. The two priorities that are being focused on are: 1) Increase quality of teacher-student interactions; and 2) support specialized needs of

children and their families. Ms. Curl's presentation is available on the GOEC website at [www.kidsnow.ky.gov](http://www.kidsnow.ky.gov).

### **ECAC Subcommittee Updates**

The PowerPoint presentation with each ECAC Subcommittee update can be found on the GOEC webpage [www.kidsnow.ky.gov](http://www.kidsnow.ky.gov).

- **Professional Development-** Jennifer Miller, Governor's Office of Early Childhood, presented on behalf of Nicki Patton. The Professional Development Subcommittee has met several times since the last ECAC meeting. Stephanie Ashley, of EKV, is helping facilitate the group meetings. The Committee has met together to decide how they would like to move forward. The work is very exciting. The Committee's focus is to create a comprehensive pathway to build a staff with knowledge and skill to promote quality and desired outcomes.
- **Birth to Third Grade Alignment** – Bill Buchanan, Kentucky Department of Education, and Tom Lottman, Children, Inc. gave an update on the Birth to Third Grade Alignment Subcommittee. The workgroup has three priorities: 1) Aligning Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Pre-K through Third Grade, 2) Supporting parents' SEL promotion Birth through Third Grade, and 3) Capturing and Using SEL Kindergarten Readiness Screen Data. The Strengthening Families provides a lattice for that SEL in the early years.
- **Program Investment Committee:** Bridgette Blom Ramsey, Prichard Committee, explained that the Council is tasked with submitting a plan to the Governor for recommendation of distribution of funds to Early Childhood programs. This recommendation is submitted prior to the Governor's submission of the biennium budget plan to the Legislature. The funds recommended by the Council come from the Tobacco Master Settlement Fund, of which 25% has been dedicated to Early Childhood. Ms. Ramsey's presentation gave an update on the Early Childhood Distribution of Master Tobacco Settlement funds for fiscal year 2018.
- **Data Systems-** Roxanna DelCampo, KCEWS and Cory Curl, Prichard Committee informed the Council that the Enhanced Data Systems subcommittee has been working on the early childhood profile and also looking at the early childhood workforce. In terms of the workforce, the committee is bringing in new data to have a better landscape of the early childhood workforce. The Enhanced Data Systems Subcommittee presentation gave an overview of the Early Childhood Profile Dynamic available at <http://kcews.ky.gov>
- **Mobilizing Communities** – Linda Hampton, Executive Director of the GOEC, reported that the 2017-2018 Community Early Childhood Councils (CECCs) will be funded at their 2016-2017 grant funding levels. The 2017-2018 grant year will be used for state level planning to implement recommendations included in the Community Early Childhood Council Evaluation Study. The transitional year will also allow the 2018-2019 grant cycle to align with the

state fiscal year. The CECC Evaluation Study has recommended a merger of the CECCs. The reduction of the number of CECCs will create more efficiency, less duplication and improvements in staffing. The new RFA will be released by mid-March 2018 with a submission deadline in early May 2018. Funding decisions will be announced by June 1, 2018 with a July 1, 2018 release of funding.

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

Christa Bell, Director of the Division of Child Care, informed the Council that Benefind is scheduled to go live October 1, 2017. Regional Provider forums took place throughout the month of August. Staff training began in August and will continue throughout the month of September. Increased access for families through all local DCBS offices (Family Support) will be provided, as well as access from home/mobile devices. Eligibility will be screened/determined for all assistance programs for which they may qualify. The Division of Child Care (DCC) will support provider functions including provider payments and claims. The Child Care Council has been a valued partner in this transition, and will continue. August 2017 CCAP unduplicated enrollment was 27,074 children in 14,705 families. CCAP expenditures for Fiscal Year 2017 totaled \$98,051,491. DCC anticipates that CCAP enrollment will plateau within the next six months as a result of all planned changes being fully implemented. Ms. Bell gave an update on the implementation of the background check requirements. A request for an extension was approved by the Administration for Children and Families. The state now has until September 30, 2018 to comply with new requirements. An ORI number has been received from the FBI. DCBS is planning a pilot with volunteers before rolling out the implementation. A regulation will be filed by the end of this year. A plan is staged for implementation based on licensure month of providers in order to get approximately 24,000 child care staff fingerprinted before September 2018. Licensed Head Start agencies will be included in the background checks as well. The initial convening of the Child Care Advisory Council will take place October 24, 2017.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.**