

NH Early Childhood Advisory Council Steering Committee
Meeting Summary
Friday, February 19, 2010
Early Learning NH
Two Delta Drive, Concord, NH

In Attendance:

Gerry Santilli	NH Head Start Association
Julie McConnell	NHCCAC Co-Chair, NH Community Loan Fund
Pat Cantor	NHCCAC Co-Chair, Plymouth State University
Alan Greenhalgh	NH Parent Advisory Council (PAC), alternate
Charna Aversa	ICC/SCHS
Elissa Margolin	Margolin Consulting
Heather Brown	NH Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Chairman
Carolyn Stiles	ESS/BDS
Dee Dunn	ECCS
Lisa Strout	NHCCAC Secretary, NHAEYC
Ellen Wheatley	DHHS/DCYF/Child Development Bureau
Barbara Hemingway	Concord School District/Dame School
Michelle Lewis	ICC/Parent Information Center
Debra Nelson	DHHS/Head Start Collaboration Office
Jackie Cowell	Early Learning NH
Patty Ewen	Department of Education/Office of Early Childhood
Toni Ellsworth	IMH/Rise for Baby and Family

Regrets:

Tricia Tilley DHHS/DPHS/Maternal and Child Health

I. Welcome and Approval of January 27, 2010 Minutes

Jackie welcomed the group and asked for approval of the 1/27/10 minutes. Childhood photos and a 300 word count biography were requested of ECAC members.

II. Report on 2010 National Smart Start Conference Online

The group discussed their impressions of the 2/18/10 National Smart Start Conference. Comments included:

- The Keynote Speaker, Joan Lombardi, talked about Early Childhood as the umbrella issue for all related organizations
- It was heartening to hear professional development being discussed on the national basis
- Several themes appeared to be coming down the pike including making connections across generations; nurturing new leaders; promoting appreciation of nature; collecting information on the Early Childhood workforce
- Some heard inconsistent definitions of the term “early childhood”. At first, it was very inclusive. As the meeting went on, however, it became less inclusive.
- The Engaging Families presentation spoke of true partnerships, but fell short of true family engagement.
- It was helpful to see examples from many other states and see how they orient around national goals.
- There was some information regarding the federal funding for Early Childhood Councils and encouragement to every state to access federal funds for Early Childhood Councils. There still seems to be a match requirement, which for NH is \$1.2 million over 3 years. We will need a sustainability group to address the funding issue.
- The group discussed recent funding opportunities including Race to the Top.

- NH did submit a grant in this competition and Early Learning was included in the application. Word should be received in April.
- There was significant discussion around the barriers and opportunities around new data tracking systems and how this group can inform and improve implementation
- The information from the 7-hour conference will be available online.

III. Review/Finalize Charge, Roles, & Responsibilities

The group discussed the enabling legislation and clarified that the current steering committee will serve as the NH ECAC for now. They were reminded of the proposal and participants list submitted to the Governor. After a long discussion, the group agreed that:

- The Steering Committee presented in the proposal would serve as the ECAC for now.
- The Steering Committee would take this time between now and October 2010 to propose the structure, make up and workplan of the future ECAC for NH.
- The Steering Committee will meet on the 3rd Friday of every month from 2pm to 4pm.

Relevant comments informing the decisions above and future steps included:

- There was a suggestion that the group develop a dictionary of terms. Once we can communicate with ourselves then we can outreach to the community. This might be an important step before developing data systems. When contemplating data systems or other work, it's helpful to remember that 30 states have systems in place we can look to.
- Although the group agreed to the makeup of the Steering Committee for now, there was recognition that the current group lacks a Principal, Teacher, and families of children in special education.
- Because of the existence of several established groups, we will need to understand the best role of this ECAC relative to other groups and collaboration opportunities
- Early Learning NH will continue to play the coordinating role of the Steering Committee.
- We will need to honor decisions and stand by them in order to make the work go forward.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 19. 2pm – 4pm

- Elissa will facilitate
- Debra will propose protocols for communication