

## NH Early Childhood Advisory Council

Friday, June 18, 2010

2 pm – 4 pm

Early Learning NH, Two Delta Drive

*Meeting Summary*

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In Attendance:

Ellen Wheatley	DHHS
Patty Bradley Ewen	NH DOE
Carolyn Stiles	DHHS/FC ESS
Christina Durkee	NH DOE
Pat Cantor	NH CCAC/Plymouth State
Gerry Santilli	Head Start Directors Association
Ruth Littlefield	NH DOE/ICC
Katie Brissette	Early Learning NH
Jackie Sparks	NH ICC
Barbara Hemingway	Preschool Special Education/Dame School
Debra Nelson	DHHS/Head Start Collaboration Office
Heather Brown	NH Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Lisa Strout	NHCCAC Secretary, NHAEYC
Elissa Margolin	Margolin Consulting

### Welcome and Agenda Review

Elissa welcomed meeting participants and reviewed the progress made at the last meeting including: 1) the review of the ECAC statute and creation of the ECAC priority tasks; 2) agreement around the need to create a Strategic Report for the grant proposal (FundDevelopment & Sustainability Task Force); 3) report from the P-16 Report Task Force; and 4) Review of the vision, mission and principles. The objectives for the June meeting are: 1) Adopt working structure of committees and task forces; 2) Finalize Strategic Report; and 3) Adopt Guiding Principles, Vision and Mission

### May 2010 Meeting Summary

The summary of the May 2010 NH ECAC meeting was adopted.

### Reflections on Productive Collaborations

Elissa then facilitated a discussion on productive collaborations with the goal of identifying best group practices. Issues identified included: 1) Participation in committees and task forces; 2) Clarification of communication on work being done in committees with an effort to find that “sweet spot” of communication (where non committee members are updated, but not inundated with communication); 3) Preparation for meetings.

### Guiding Principles, Vision and Mission

Ellen Wheatley presented a final draft of the NH ECAC Guiding Principles, Vision and Mission to the ECAC for review. After some editing, a final draft was adopted (note that upon review the Planning Committee has minor edits to present at the July ECAC meeting):

**Vision for New Hampshire's Young Children and Their Families:**

*All New Hampshire children and their families are healthy, learning, and thriving now and in the future.*

**NH Early Childhood Advisory Council Mission:**

*The Council provides leadership that promotes a comprehensive, coordinated, sustainable early childhood system that achieves positive outcomes for young children and families, investing in a solid future for the Granite State.*

**Guiding Principles** - *The New Hampshire State Early Childhood Advisory Council is guided by the following principles:*

**Definitions**

- *The Council defines an early childhood system as a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable network of public and private supports, services, and programs for young children and their families.*
- *For the purposes of the Council, young children are defined as prenatal through Grade 3.*

**Families and Children:**

1. *Families should be supported by communities and be partners with stakeholders and service providers in designing, coordinating and evaluating supports, services, and programs.*
2. *Preventive approaches early in life provide a rich return on investment and are economically advantageous compared to costly remediation later in life.*
3. *Successful transitions for young children and their families sustain the foundation of healthy early childhood development.*

**Early Childhood Systems:**

4. *Early childhood systems utilize evidence-based and promising practices to deliver high quality services and programs to young children and their families that are developmentally and culturally appropriate, and are universally accessible.*
5. *Early childhood systems maximize efficiency and collaboration at both the state and local level, and are aligned with the strengths and individual needs of children and families.*
6. *Early childhood systems set high standards, self-evaluate and continuously improve.*

**The Council:**

7. *The Council will build on recent and ongoing early childhood planning efforts, research, and initiatives as well as lessons learned from national resources and input from stakeholders.*
8. *Communication, coordination, collaboration and partnership across all sectors of the community, both public and private, ensure the effectiveness and impact of services.*

**Committees and Task Forces**

There was discussion about the need to nurture and grow the productivity happening at the committee level. There was some discussion about the pros and cons of the permanence of committees. There were also requests for clarification on what committee and task forces currently exists and who is serving on what.

**ACTION:** Debra Nelson agreed to provide that update to the group.

The Outreach/Communications Committee was established and will include: Carolyn Stiles, Heather Brown, Ellen Wheatley.

### Strategic Report Update

The Fund Development & Sustainability Task Force presented an update to their workplan to create a strategic report, convene a public hearing and submit the ARRA grant proposal by August 1<sup>st</sup>, pending approval (Governor's Office, DHHS).

Lisa Strout, Jackie Cowell, Patty Ewen, Christina Tarness, Carol Michael, Denise Littlefield (DOE), Debra Nelson and Ellen Wheatley offered to assist with the development of the Strategic Report and solicit feedback from the broader group. Patty Ewen updated the group on the hearing process.

### P-16 Report

A representative from the ECAC attended the last P-16 meeting. The format of the P-16 (P-20) document is being revised and the ECAC will have the opportunity to re-pitch its recommendations.

### DHHS Request

Elissa shared an email from ECAC Steering Committee Member Dee Dunn requesting a letter of support for DHHS application for nearly \$600,000 grant award to conduct a needs assessment via the Affordable Care Act

(ACA) Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program funding. The point was made that other grant proposals will require support of the state's ECAC and this is the first of potentially many requests to come.

NEXT NH ECAC Meeting: Friday, July 16, 2 pm – 4 pm, Early Learning NH, Two Delta Drive, Concord