

ELNH Network Meeting
Thursday, January 10, 2008
1-3pm
Two Delta Drive, Concord

Welcome and Introductions

Christine Casserly, Rochester Child Care Center & PEEL; Julie McConnell, NH Community Loan Fund; Anne Grassie, Dover Children Center & PEEL; Wendy Monroe, Great Bay Kid's Co. & PEEL; Annette Hope-Ross, Great Bay Kid's Co. & PEEL; Kathy Torrey, Child First; Julie Sackett, Lakes Region Child Care; Brenda LaFratta, Early Enrichment Center; Brooke Stebbins, Maternal and Child Health Bureau DHHS; Jim Doremus, White Birch Community Center; Kim Bruneau, New Hampton Child Care Center; Laura Scott, Land Use Consultant; Samantha (Sam) Clark, ELNH; Gerry Santilli, Rockingham Community Action Head Start; Renee Santos, Easter Seals Child Care Resource & Referral (Manchester); Jane Marquis, ECAP @Nashua Adult Learning Center; Jessica Martin, Barrington Community Child Center; Ellen C. Wheatley, DHHS/DCYF/CDB; Ellen Edge, Keene State College CDC, NHAEYC; Jackie Howe, North Conway Day Care Center; Nancy R. Coville, Bearcamp Valley School & Children's Center; Carol Garhart, Holy Cross Early Childhood (Manchester); Katie Brissette, ELNH; Angie Fitsimmon, Education Consultant/DANYA, Tree house Nashua, and Lisa J. Strout, NH Association for the Education of Young Children.

Note Taker- Lisa Strout

Early Learning NH Website Questions & Discussions- Jim Toye (Ameritrade) & Brooke Stebbins

The website committee posed three questions- #1. Common Categories of information?, #2. What websites are you using? & #3. How often do you go to the ELNH Website?

Jane Marquis took full notes-

Partial Answers to #1- Regulatory; Health/Safety; NHCCRR funding/child care; Special Needs; Advocacy Issues; Professional Development/ Training/Conferences; Job Openings; Funding Sources; Business & Administrative Questions; Legal Issues; Emergency Preparedness; & Special Management Tools.

Partial Answers to #2-NAEYC; Zero to Three; NH Center for Non-Profits; Child Development Bureau; NH Child Care Resource & Referral; Children's Trust Fund; Preschool Technical Assistance Network; & Centers for Disease Control.

Partial Answers to #3- majority 0 but ranged up to three

Ideas to consider- Online Central Community Blog; Links to "Quality resources" and "hot topics;" sharing Resources/Policies; and Advocacy Marketing Materials... Contact Brooke Stebbins with additional ideas.

Lessons learned from PEEL's Shared Services work- Panel (see attendance) of members PEEL (Partnership for Effective Early Learning)- Better Together!

Organization funded by United Way to create shared systems to increase efficiency. A group of directors heard Louise Stoney at a past ELNH Conference and said "that was us!". They held a meeting in Concord to discuss more. From this meeting interested "stakeholders" mainly in the Seacoast area (but not exclusive- anyone from around the state in a private, public, or head start is welcome to join- Seven directors currently active) decided to create a "logical model." They educated their Boards and stakeholders through events to raise awareness.

Recently they took on a project to create a 19 page document that outlines their model. They have utilized these principles as they took on the food vendors- invited seven or eight vendors to talk about "what they could do for us." They are currently in the planning process of school supplies- Five centers should get a higher discount than just one center.

As they continue to choose areas where they can be successful, they are looking at future avenues such as Substitute Pool/Temp agency; Insurance; Financial Services; Merging organization work; and QRIS. Contact any PEEL member for more information

Quick Overview of Early Learning NH Advocacy Committee Work- Jim Doremus

Quality Rating Information System work is moving along- the group decided to bring in a Facilitator and National Consultant to help move forward. Next Meeting, February 14, 12-1pm.

Call To Action- to be discussed at February Meeting, Gale Hall- WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL TO REVIEW

DHHS's Child Care Redesign & Stop Gap Plans- Jackie Cowell

The contract centers had a meeting regarding the proposed tuition assistance rate sheet. This "more realistic" rate sheet (one must be approved by July 2008) is tied to voted on 2007 legislative monies. As the rate sheet would be appropriated differently than the approved monies, the legislature needs to be asked to get monies allocated as some rates will go above and below the 5%, not across the board as approved. At this time, the proposal has gone to the Governor and the Legislatures.

Early Childhood System Building- Jackie Cowell

As the redesign/stop gap is merely the "patch," an effective system is being created with the assistance of numerous DHHS employees, a consultant from NCCIC- Reeva Sullivan Murphy, etc. Meeting notes will be distributed monthly and centers/interested individuals can weigh in on the information.

Legislative Update Handout- Jack Lightfoot

Jack is unable to attend. A report was emailed and will be forwarded from Katie.

Other Updates-

Child Care Resource & Referral- May 17th next conference "Refresh, Renew, and Reconnect for Quality" Interlakes Regional HS, Meredith NH. Keynote: Jeanine Fitzgerald

NHAEYC- Professional Development Committee is distributing our annual survey. Topic this year focuses on professional development needs of the early learning program. A copy will be distributed. The Admin Conference is filling up quickly. Brochure can be found at www.nhaeyc.org. Friday afternoon will include Table Talks- Organizations are welcome to attend this session (open from noon to eightpm) for free and share their resources and network with other ece organizations. Keynote: Paula Jorde Bloom. The Spring Conference is scheduled for April 19th, Keynote: Ooey Gooey Lady, Lisa Murphy. Information available soon

Nancy Coville- Shared her concerns regarding Mercury- children's shots, flue shots, isolating gene-autism. Would like ELNH to look at Bill.

Laura Scott- A survey is going out nationwide. It will address why they are not using child care in their planning with land survey. Results will be reported at the National Planning Association's annual conference to be held in Las Vegas late April. They will be addressing Child Care Planning/Economic Development at that time.

Additionally, Samantha Clark will be doing Cooperative Work for the semester while Katie is out on maternity leave and two UNH interns will also assist.