

**NH Early Childhood Advisory Council Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 27, 2010**  
**Early Learning NH**  
**Two Delta Drive, Concord, NH**

The following people attended the meeting:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Charna Aversa     | ICC/SCHS                                    |
| Katie Brissette   | Early Learning NH                           |
| Jackie Cowell     | Early Learning NH                           |
| Deirdre Dunn      | ECCS  |
| Christine Durkee  | NH Dept. of Education                       |
| Patty Ewen        | NH Dept. of Education                       |
| Alan Greenhalgh   | NH PAC (alternate to Heather Brown, NH PAC) |
| Barbara Hemingway | Concord School District                     |
| Michelle Lewis    | ICC/Parent Information Center               |
| Ruth Littlefield  | NH Dept. of Education                       |
| Elissa Margolin   | Margolin Consulting                         |
| Julie McConnell   | NH Child Care Advisory Council              |
| Debra Nelson      | DHHS/Head Start                             |
| Gerry Santilli    | NH Head Start                               |
| Carolyn Stiles    | ESS/BDS                                     |
| Lisa Strout       | NHAEYC                                      |
| Tricia Tilley     | DPHS/Maternal and Child Health              |
| Ellen Wheatley    | DHHS/Child Development Bureau               |

The following people were unable to attend:

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Denise Brewitt | NH CCACHC |
|----------------|-----------|

1. Meeting Convened

A. Welcome and Introductions

- Materials available at the meeting included an agenda, the NH Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) recommendations, a copy of the statute “Improving Head Start for school readiness Act of 2007”, and a list of existing members of the NH ICC (Interagency Coordinating Council), NH CCAC (Child Care Advisory Council), NH CCACHC (Council for Children and Adolescents with Chronic Health Conditions), and NH ECCS (Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems).
- Jackie Cowell convened the meeting at 1:30pm with welcome and introductions.
- Jackie introduced Elissa Margolin of Margolin Consulting who will be facilitating these meetings each month.

2. How We Got Here

- Jackie went through a PowerPoint presentation which gave a brief background of past early childhood systems building efforts in NH.
- After realizing that three different Early Childhood System plans (NH ECCS, NH CCAC, and HB 86 taskforce) existed disjointed from each other work began to coordinate the ideas and recommendations of them.

- The target beneficiaries for this System are expectant families through children in grade three.
- NH was denied a large grant that would have allowed state officials to attend a symposium on early childhood at Harvard because we don't have a 0 – 5 policy agenda. This motivated us to hold our own large meetings where national experts and models were brought in and studied and ultimately a graph showing four distinct categories interconnecting to form one system for children became the prototype. Those four categories include: Early Learning, Family Support, Health/Mental Health/Nutrition and Special Needs/Early Intervention.

### 3. Getting to Know Each Other

- To help the group get to know each other better, we went around the room and said who we are, what we do now, and our earliest memory of what we wanted to be when we grew up.

### 4. Role of and Opportunities for the Council

#### A. Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007

- Debra Nelson went through a PowerPoint presentation which gave a brief background of the Head Start mandate her office received.
- There are certain positions that are legislatively mandated to be on the Council.

#### B. Role of the Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee is the selected group that will work from now until October 2010 to come up with recommendations and provide direction and leadership around what the official NH Early Childhood Advisory Council will be.
- There are over 30 states that have an ECAC in place from which we can learn what to and not to do.
- The Steering Committee will also act as the Council prior to the recognition of the formal entity in October.
- Members of the Steering Committee will make the commitment to meet once a month for about two hours from now until October and for any additional time that is needed to move the agenda and the plan of the Council forward.
- The end result will hopefully be a functioning Council that knows who they are, what they are charged to do, where they are heading, has the right people at the table, represents everyone equally and has systematic ties to decision makers.

#### C. Funding and Spotlight opportunities

- There is some funding available through the National Governor's Association but the group determined it was not yet at a point to apply for these funds.
- The Jessie B. Cox Foundation is shifting their priorities towards early childhood and we hope to apply for a grant to put on a public awareness campaign.
- There is an opportunity to apply for up to \$500,000 in federal funding by August 2010 but there is a lot of reporting that needs to happen prior to submitting this application. There will be a workgroup set up to work on this grant.

#### D. Sustainability of the Council

- It has been determined that this Council will need a full-time staff person.

### 5. Determine Meeting Calendar & Timeline

- Once we determine who will make up the official Steering Committee we will set a dates and times for the monthly meetings.

#### 6. Wrap-Up & Meeting Evaluation

- The NH Department of Education has just opened an Office of Early Learning. The Commissioner of Education has roots in the early childhood field and is focused on it.
- It was suggested that the State Advisory Council for Special Needs be a part of this discussion as well as a representative from the refugee population. It was also suggested that George Cushing from SAU 50 be involved somehow.
- Jackie would like an electronic or hard copy of a childhood photo of each Steering Committee member. These will get used in different presentations to reconnect the audience with what it was like to be a child.
- We need to know who is willing to make the commitment to sit on the Steering Committee as soon as possible. Let Jackie or Debra know at your earliest convenience.
- Let Jackie or Debra know if you are interested in participating on the workgroup for the federal grant.

Minutes taken by:  
Katie Brissette  
Director of Outreach and Support  
Early Learning NH