

**NH Early Childhood Advisory Council**  
**Friday, February 18, 2011**  
**2 pm - 4 pm**  
**Early Learning NH, Two Delta Drive**  
***Meeting Summary***

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**In Attendance:**

Steering Committee: Carolyn Stiles, Michelle Lewis, Tricia Tilley, Christina Durkee, Charna Aversa, Ruth Littlefield, Barbara Hemingway, Ellyn Schreiber, Gerry Santilli, Debra Nelson, , Jackie Cowell, Lisa Strout, Ellen Wheatley, Patty Ewen, Julie McConnell,

Staff: Laura Milliken

Guests: Eun Kyeong Cho - UNH, Korrin Fernald – DHHS/DCYF/ HSSCO intern, Janinie Lesser –DFA/DHHS

**Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review, and January Meeting**

Elissa Margolin welcomed the group, reviewed the agenda and meeting objectives, and highlighted some key points from the meeting summary of the January meeting. The meeting summary was adopted with no changes.

**Bureau of Developmental Services Needs Assessment**

Carolyn Stiles, reported on the progress of Bureau of Developmental Services' needs assessment being conducted through a contract with UNH. EK (representing UNH) presented the e-survey and noted that the respondents to this survey are those who work with young children. A discussion ensued regarding the potential to add respondents suggested by the ECAC. Comments are welcome by going to the link at:

<http://unhsurveycenter.unh.edu/snapwebhost/surveypreview.asp?k=129675745747>.

Substantive feedback and survey distribution suggestions are due back to EK by 2/25/11.

Analysis of information collected will be conducted in March and a drawing for incentive prize is expected 4/1.

**35% Gap Initiative**

Janine Lesser distributed "The Development of Regional Community-Based Child Care Funds: The 35% Fund" (June, 2010). In her presentation she highlighted the following section:

The three prong initiative: use regional community-based planning to develop sustainability for early care and education by a) establishing regional shared services alliances; b) positioning child care businesses with the regional Planning Commissions and the Economic Development Corporations for planning and funding purposes, and for organization with community stakeholders into a Regional Coordination Council for Early Care and Education; and c) developing a sustainable fund that will meet the chronic 35% budget gap for those centers who meet state-established quality standards.

Janine is working with Patrick Herlihy and Mary Lou Beaver to develop Early Childhood Regional Planning Councils following the Transportation model.

**Updates from Task Forces and Committees**

**Planning Committee** (Jackie Cowell, Patty Ewen, Debra Nelson, Michelle Lewis, Dee Dunn, Pat Cantor and Katie Brissette): The Planning Committee continues to provide fiscal oversight. Since Early Learning NH has received the ECAC funds (from DHHS), a question arose about what is permitted and/or are there restrictions on interest collected. Debra is waiting for a response from ACF and will inform the Steering Committee. Laura Milliken is writing an introduction bio to be used for introductions and a public announcement of her hire

**Communications Committee** (Michelle Lewis, Ellen Wheatley, Carolyn Stiles, Heather Brown, Katie Brissette): No report

**Membership and Governance Task Force** (Lisa Strout, Carolyn Stiles, Ellen Wheatley, Jackie Cowell, Dee Dunn, Charna Aversa, Debra Nelson, Julie McConnell, Ruth Littlefield and Heather Brown): The M&G Task Force made recommendations for ECAC membership based on positions rather than individuals. Membership can be revisited. Ellen Wheatley distributed the proposed membership. The Mandated Positions are those required by the Head Start Act of 2007. The Additional Council Positions were identified following a long and thoughtful process. Concerns were raised about missing parent voice, attention to children with special needs, and CCR&R. The Steering Committee had a lengthy discussion about the proposed membership. Debra Nelson suggested we go forward with the list as presented with a total of 4 members-at-large and with the understanding that membership will be reevaluated in one year. The members at large will be determined by ECAC staff (Laura) and interested parties by 3/1.

### **Draft Scope of Work**

Laura has drafted a workplan based on the grant application, which she will review with Jackie and Debra. In addition, she will start working on planning the large Stakeholder Meeting. Carol Garhart offered space for the event and Jackie Cowell, Tricia Tilley, Debra Nelson, Patty Ewen and Lisa Strout volunteered to assist with planning the event.

### **“Air Time”:**

- Debra Nelson reported that she is working on the Head Start State Collaboration Plan and will be requesting assistance/input from early childhood partners.
- Carolyn Stiles distributed a flyer announcing the Spring Fling at the Discovery Center, NHTI Planetarium. The exhibit will be a showcase of the work conducted around NH with ARRA funds.

### **Conclusion**

The meeting ended with a quick review of action steps to follow.