

**Approved minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
November 17, 2017, SCC – Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Building, Lincoln, Nebraska**

Council Members Present: Laura Arp, Teresa Berube, Carol Bowen, Amy Bunnell, Allison Cunningham, Julie Docter, Gwen Easter, Melody Hobson, Emily Kluver, Stephanie Knust, Joan Luebbers, Dawn Mollenkopf, Dawn Murphy, Julie Rother, Nicole Vint

Council Members Absent: Susan Adams, J.D. Flynn, Sen. Kolowski, Cathy Mohnike, Christy Pelton, Salene Ulrich

Also in attendance: Council Facilitator: Eleanor Shirley; Council Staff: Karen Hoffman; Technical Assistants: Jennifer Auman, Amy Bornemeier, Lynne Brehm, Lauri Cimino, Cole Johnson, Connie Shockley, Kim Texel, Becky Veak; Presenters: Traci Nair, Brandee Lengel, Catherine Gekas Steeby

Council Meeting Convened

ECICC Facilitator, Eleanor Shirley, convened the meeting at 9:10am a.m. and introduced Allison Cunningham, newest ECICC member, and acting Chair, Julie Rother. Introductions by the group were made.

Public Meetings Notice

Eleanor noted that the public meetings notice was posted in the room.

Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2017 Meeting

Motion was made by Hobson and seconded by Murphy to accept the minutes of the August 18, 2017 meeting. Motion passed by roll-call vote: yes-10, no-0, abstain-3

Voting yes: Berube, Bunnell, Docter, Easter, Hobson, Luebbers, Mollenkopf, Murphy, Rother, Vint
Abstain: Bowen, Cunningham, Knust

Approval of Today's Agenda

The first three items were re-ordered, and approval given by consensus.

Update on Council Appointments/Re-appointments

Have had three new member appointments in 2017, with 11 vacancies remaining, and some members whose terms were to have ended in November of 2016. Emails have been sent to those applicants whose contact information was available to thank them for their interest and stating the Council continues to await appointments. As such the annual November Orientation has been rescheduled until February 22nd, with the hope that the Council will be at full capacity by then.

ECICC Communications

Melody reminded the group of its vote in August to send a letter to the Governor encouraging appointments to be made. The letter was sent and Karen will share it with the Council via the GoogleDrive link.

A previous letter was sent to the Governor in response to a July meeting at which the 2016 ECICC Report to the Governor was given. The letter accompanied a brief prepared by First Five Nebraska that addressed questions the Governor had asked about educational assessments in Nebraska. Discussion was had that Nebraska currently has no Kindergarten entry assessment to determine the level of functioning of all children entering Kindergarten. There has been no response or follow-up questions. Julie added it might be helpful in the future to develop a similar informational sheet to share with potential ECICC applicants. Joan mentioned there is a current brochure entitled "Ready for Success" that is also available and encouraged members to review. Karen will bring copies to the February meeting.

In the theme of communication, it was also mentioned that the NDE website has been updated, and that the ECICC website is also in the process of being updated.

Family Story

Following recognition of the Family Story Ad Hoc committee for its work in developing support documents and a framework for the Family Story, Joan, introduced a Lincoln parent who shared her story about her daughter and kindergartener who has Prader-Willi Syndrome, or PWS, a rare genetic condition that affects many parts of the body. Among other affects, the parent shared how PWS influences the hypothalamus and impedes the body's ability to feel full after eating. She has been part of the Early Development Network in Lincoln, Early Head Start and Head Start, having served on the Advisory Council and as its Chair.

This single parent and shared that having a child with special needs can be a lonely experience. She felt she received help and tools from EDN at just the the right time, and then reached out to Early Head Start, who provided further services and education. These connections have helped her feel like a better parent.

Weight can be an issue for children with PWS, so information is included as part of her daughter's IEP, so staff are aware of the syndrome. When asked whether she uses respite services, she said it's difficult because there are so many details to go through before leaving her daughter with a care-giver. But agreed that would be a really helpful resource. She also shared a wish for a respite center or daycare for ill children who need extra help and attention. PWS has a number of risks, and care-givers must be aware of them.

When asked about her daughter's development in other areas, the parent replied she's very social and loving with her peers. They are working with a behavioral specialist for boundary work. She also receives services to improve fine motor skills to address low muscle tone and to address delays in her speech and writing. The Council shared its gratitude to the parent for sharing her story.

Part C Updates

A power point showed Nebraska data that will be submitted to the Federal Office of Special Education for the FFY 2016 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017). Amy Bunnell shared the data for indicators 1 through 3, noting how it is collected, and Nebraska's targets and results. Julie talked about indicators 5 and 6, and how well Nebraska is doing locating children aged birth to three with disabilities. The next indicators are about the referral process from Part C to Part B and required timelines that are to be met. Annual monitoring includes one-third of Nebraska's 29 Planning Region Teams (PRTs) throughout the state.

Part C Annual Performance Report

The Annual Performance Report (APR) is due to the Federal Office on February 1, 2018, and a motion was requested to approve the ECICC Vice-Chair signing the final Performance Report Part C Certification form. Copies will be posted to the EDN website and link emailed.

Motion was made by Mollenkopf and seconded by Hobson. There was no discussion and then motion passed by roll-call vote: yes-13; no-0; abstain-0.

Voting yes: Arp, Berube, Bowen, Bunnell, Cunningham, Docter, Easter, Hobson, Knust, Luebbers, Mollenkopf, Murphy, Rother

Resetting Part C Targets

Cole Johnson continued Part C updates with information about resetting Part C targets regarding the "Child Outcome Summary Statement 2", which demonstrates that children are meeting age expectations in their development. The Federal Office requires states to set goals for outcomes, and the goal is to be able to show that early intervention (EI) is working and children are making progress. Targets can be revisited and reset, so the Council is being presented with two possible methodologies which were discussed at an October 26th Stakeholder meeting. They include using 1) the low score, or 2) an average of the two lowest scores. Cole shared what the new targets would look like respectively and the Council was asked for feedback only as a vote was not needed.

General discussion was had and comments shared. It appears that other states are using a wide variety of options and there is no set guidance from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). A comment was shared that it takes a

while for patterns and stability to appear with the use of tools. Starting with a lowest score could provide greater variability. Consensus was that the lowest score would be used.

Public Comment

Julie Rother invited public comment. Amy Bunnell held up a Save the Date card for the Nebraska Young Child Institute occurring in Kearney next June, saying that ECICC would pay for Council members to attend. Three national keynote speakers will attend, and there will be many breakout sessions with a number of tracks for multi-disciplinary people. Registration is not yet open, however, members can let Karen know if interested.

Eleanor shared about the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA), which provides email updates and information. Karen will add information about ECTA to the ECICC website and provide relevant information to Council members, should they choose to sign up for periodic emails.

Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program Update

Jennifer Auman is the administrator for both Federal and State funds, and shared an update about this evidence-based, family-centered program, where it operates and how it serves Nebraska families. There are currently four state and three federal sites, with one overlapping. The program seeks to work collaboratively within the Home Visiting (HV) community to reach families and identify targeted needs. Efforts work towards getting community stakeholder involvement and include increasing access and utilization of early childhood mental health services in Nebraska.

There is concern about the program's future since MIECHV federal funding expired 9/30/17. If it is not reauthorized before year-end, federal funding could end. Many organizations are also looking at approaching the federal programs and their senators and representatives. Approval passed the House before 9/30/17 with a narrow margin, but did not get onto the Senate floor. With the current political environment, the future is unknown. The MIECHV website can be found at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/MCAH/Pages/HomeVisitingHome.aspx>

Working Lunch - T.E.A.C.H. Program Update

At the August ECICC meeting, Brandee Lengel, Director of T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood Nebraska, provided a Workforce Compensation Grant update. She was invited back to share a T.E.A.C.H. Program update during the working lunch that included a power point and a flyer.

Head Start Performance Standards Update

Joan Luebbers shared a power point and a handout that listed Head Start Programs, eligibility criteria, and a service area map. Given current Federal funding activities, it is believed that Head Start is not going experience a decrease in funding. There is optimism that some funding caps may be lifted and Head Start may even see some increases.

Steph Knust mentioned the reauthorization of Head Start in 2014 was finalized in 2015. Childcare subsidies also went through reauthorization, and Head Start performance standards regarding parenting interventions needed to be in place in 2017. Steph noted the Circle of Security program as an option to train parents with parenting skills to support their children.

2016 Governor's Progress Report - Recommendation #3: Inform, Engage & Collaborate with Nebraska's Families, Public, and Private Stakeholders - Sixpence

Amy Bornemeier, Sixpence program Director, shared information and a power point. Sixpence is comprised of public and private partnerships, individualized intensive support, and evaluation, and came into being with the idea of a \$1 investment yielding a \$6 return. Amy discussed risk factors and that protective factors, such as high-quality Early Childhood programs, are positively affecting child outcomes. Sixpence utilizes Child Care Partnership (CCP) Grants, which are similar to Early Head Start grants. Several slides demonstrated progress with CCP, and a map showed locations and grantee support. Sixpence has also been asked to go into communities and assist with funding requests. Specific needs addressed the language to use, current and future workforce needs, etc. Communities for Kids Approach is to engage stakeholders, connect resources, and explore funding opportunities.

Dividends Nebraska Update

Becky Veak, First Five Nebraska Director, shared about this statewide group of business leaders who are interested in early childhood. What started out as the “Nebraska Early Childhood Business Roundtable” revamped its name and logo design, and remained a group of business leaders from around the state who believe early childhood is a good investment. They examine what it takes for a community to thrive, and believe having quality childcare helps attract businesses, jobs, increases productivity, and anchors talent in communities.

This group helps inform public policy and looks for advice from FFN about effective policies in Nebraska. When a business leader’s voice is needed, they provide legislative testimony. The group was instrumental when Sixpence was created, as well as when LB507, the bill authorizing Step Up to Quality, was introduced.

Website: www.dividendsnebraska.org

Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) Update - Year Two Evaluations

Lauri Cimino shared a power point and update from the second year of SUTQ work. Data for the report was collected from focus groups, surveys, meeting with coaches, and from the Nebraska Early Childhood Professional Record System (NECPRS). The 2016 NECPRS numbers include both registered programs and employees. Lauri presented some current enrollment numbers for participating programs. The intent of NECPRS is to have a professional resume and record housed online. A portable resume means users can quickly and easily access and print out needed documents.

Some comments/suggestions included: brochure translation, which is part of a strategic plan; providing SUTQ information, such as an Indicators of Quality brochure, to state Planning Region Teams; will some child outcome data follow kids from a program into a school-aged setting? Lauri answered they would love to do this, and the report findings included a suggestion like this. Staff have discussed offering the state umbrella price for TS GOLD, the assessment tool Nebraska uses for measuring outcomes for children with special needs from birth through kindergarten, but that work has not yet been completed. A comment was made about quality indicators and supporting data that are attributable to school readiness. The thought is it would be beneficial to measure the impact beyond enrollment, compare programs that have had a coach to those that did not, and determine a potential outcomes measurement tool.

Lauri ended her presentation with a video from a KMTV 3 news story that talked about what a quality childcare center looks like and how SUTQ has played a part. Website: <https://www.education.ne.gov/StepUpToQuality/>

Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Update

Catherine Gekas Steeby is the Interim Deputy Director of Policy and Communications, Medicaid and Long-Term Care at DHHS. CHIP, sometimes referred to as Title XXI, has existed since 1997. Catherine shared a power point and talked about how it differs from Medicaid, that it was last reauthorized in 2015 for two years and, as of now, has not yet been extended. While the House and Senate have both taken something through committees, the House passed its bill which seeks a new way to pay for CHIP; the Senate is not in agreement and wants to reauthorize. Nebraska has enough funds to last through Spring 2018. Under the ACA, benefit levels for children continue and cannot change until September 30, 2019. Joan shared that CHIP is still enrolling families, and a freeze has not been implemented.

2018 Governor’s Progress Report – Beginning Thoughts

Eleanor shared that it is time for the Council to begin thinking about recommendations and areas of focus for the next Governor’s Report, which will be due in 2018. Copies of past reports were brought and available for review. (They are all on the ECICC website, as well.) Eleanor read the recommendations from the most recent 2016 report and asked the Council to consider how we did with them, do they need to be amended, changed, etc. Becky commented that the report needs to be streamlined and consumable, and recommends we think about Workforce (WF) shortage as a potential area of focus. WF is more than turning out workers from higher education. It includes SUTQ, an existing program, as a pathway to WF. She suggests streamlining and combining recommendations in this way.

Think about foster care, transportation, Special Education or Childcare services. Think about what you don’t know now that you might want to get some information about. Eleanor encouraged the group to let the Steering Committee know and they will try to fill that information gap.

February General Meeting Components

Eleanor asked for February agenda suggestions, affirming that the Council will plan to have table-by-table discussion about the 2018 Governor's report. Julie mentioned possible election of officers. The Council is hopeful there will be more appointments by February.

A motion was made by Luebbers and seconded by Arp to adjourn the meeting at 2:53pm.

Handouts and power points shared:

8/18/17 meeting minutes

11/17/17 meeting agenda

Nebraska IDEA Part C APR FFY 2016 ppt

Nebraska Part C APR 2016-17 handout

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nebraska ppt and handout

Head Start ppt and brochure/map

Sixpence ppt and handout

SUTQ ppt

Nebraska Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) ppt

Nebraska Young Child Institute Save the Date card

**Upcoming scheduled 2018 ECICC meeting dates
– all at this SCC location.**

- February 22 (scheduled ECICC Orientation)
- February 23
- May 11
- August 17