

**Draft Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council
May 11, 2018, SCC – Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Building, Lincoln, NE**

Council Members Present: Laura Arp, Mary Barry-Magsamen, Teresa Berube, Sue Borchert, Carol Bowen, Amy Bunnell, Janelle Butler, Allison Cunningham, Julie Docter, Gwen Easter, Jamie Hazlett, Melody Hobson, Stephanie Knust, Krynne Larsen, Karla Lester, Joan Luebbers, Brenda McNiff, Cathy Mohnike Dawn Murphy, Mary Phillips, Suzanne Schneider, Paula Thompson, Missy Timmerman, Nicole Vint

Council Members Absent: Susan Adams, JD Flynn, Emily Kluver, Sen. Kolowski,

Also in Attendance: Council Facilitator, Eleanor Shirley; Council Staff, Karen Hoffman; Technical Assistants, Amanda Adams, Jennifer Auman, Amy Bornemeier, Lynne Brehm, Lauri Cimino, Pat Frost, Cole Johnson, Connie Shockley, Kim Texel, Becky Veak; visitor, Nikki Roseberry-Keiser

Council Meeting Convened

ECICC Facilitator, Eleanor Shirley, convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. After sharing some general information, Eleanor asked attendees to introduce themselves and share respective roles. Welcome was made to two new Council members, Suzanne Schneider, Service Provider-Child Care Center, and Melissa Timmerman – Service Provider-Public Schools, Early Childhood.

Approval of Minutes of February 23rd meeting

Council Chair, Dawn Murphy, requested a motion to approve the minutes. Following a request by Nicole Vint to make the following adjustment to wording on page two, paragraph three, “Negative adverse action may not be taken towards a family if there are less than ten days left in the month,” Mary Phillips moved and Melody Hobson seconded to approve the minutes as amended.

Roll call vote: 13-yes, 5-abstain, 0-no; the motion passed.

Yes: Arp, Borchert, Bunnell, Docter, Hobson, Larsen, Lester, Luebbers, McNiff, Murphy, Phillips, Thompson, Vint

Abstain: Berube, Hazlett, Knust, Schneider, Timmerman

Eleanor made an Open Meetings Act announcement, and noted where the Nebraska Open Meetings Act can be found online. Quorum mention was made, as well as an overview of what the day would look like.

Public Comment

Dawn Murphy invited public comment. Amy Bunnell reminded the group about the upcoming two-day, Nebraska Young Child Institute June 26 and 27 at the Kearney Younes Center. This is a multi-disciplinary conference focusing on issues for young children with special topics and focuses around trauma, healthcare, etc. Members may attend and have their expenses reimbursed and can see Karen Hoffman if interested.

Governor’s Biennial Report Work

Eleanor reminded the group that at the February meeting it was decided speakers would be invited to present update information about the following three topics: Early Learning Guidelines (ELG), the Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS), and the Workforce Commission. These updates will lend further guidance to the development of the next Governor’s Report.

Early Learning Guidelines Update

Katie Miller, Career Development Coordinator with the NDE Office of Early Childhood, presented a power point about recent updates that have been made to the Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines. Changes include combining two former

pieces into the “Early Learning Guidelines: Nebraska’s Birth to Five Learning and Development Standards.” It is research-based with an updated format that includes photos and imagery from several contexts. The piece has resources, research information, a glossary, and references. Possible future pieces that are in discussion include a companion document and an online version, an ELG 3-5 Parent Companion piece, and an interactive ELG web page. There will be a training for trainers in June/July, with printed pieces being made available following, as well as wider training opportunities. Katie’s contact information is Katie.miller@nebraska.gov, phone: 402-557-6889.

Nebraska Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)

Ben Baumfalk, Policy Research Analyst at First Five Nebraska, shared a power point with the group. The Early Childhood Data Coalition (ECDC) is a group of people who want to see the use of Early Childhood data move forward in Nebraska, with the ultimate goal of eventually developing an integrated data system to share across the state. The Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) is an integrated data system that aligns across agencies and can be used to answer questions that are important to various stakeholder groups.

Ben shared that when children are served by a number of different entities, the multiple interactions and relationships involved make the tracking of those services very complex but that doing so is important in determining whether a child is being helped. Data sharing and privacy are also a concern and there are models available to help do this. Recommendations revolve around data and data usage and include the possibility of unique child identifiers. Cost and efficiency of efforts were also discussed so they are seen as an investment as opposed to a cost. It was noted that the 2016 Governor’s Report recommends supporting the continued development of the Nebraska ECIDS project, and Ben shared ECIDS work that’s been done since that report. Having such a big plan but without funding is challenging, and requires state agency leadership and a willingness to share data.

These potential next steps were shared which it was agreed will help focus Council work on the next Report: ECDC reconvening, Grant from ECDataWorks, Community profiles, Governance body, Funding, and System Development and Implementation. Ben encouraged those who wish to be involved in the discussion to be in touch with him. His email: bbaumfalk@firstfivenebraska.org; FFN main phone: 402-261-9671.

Workforce Commission Status

Susan Sarver, Director of Workforce Planning and Development at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute, shared an update about the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission. This is a diverse group of 40 public and private-sector leaders from across many systems that were brought together by the Buffett Early Childhood Institute to develop consensus recommendations and create an implementation plan for strengthening and expanding Nebraska’s early childhood workforce. It is in year two of its work, with year one having focused on the “why” and helping people understand the importance of, not only early childcare, but that the workforce that cares for them needs to be skilled, informed and diverse. Parent and teacher buy-in is vital. To get this shared vision across the state the Buffett Early Childhood Institute has created a “blueprint” with the needed elements to enhance collaboration and engagement. Work groups within the Commission, each with a Buffett Institute facilitator, have very specific action plans in development with the hope to establish ownership across the state and have people think about what they can do in their *own* systems to help move this forward and make it sustainable.

The Institute has also created some key messaging and social media images that can easily be dropped into FB and Twitter. These can be used with the general public when talking about issues related to the early childcare workforce and why we should all care about it. These will be available soon on the Institute’s website and Susan encouraged the group to use and share them.

Comments were shared about the cost of providing quality childcare, in either a home or center-based setting, and the many provider roles and responsibilities. Providers in lower income areas are often challenged to meet rising standards

and maintain their numbers. Susan shared that childcare is a business as well as a place for children to grow and that a number of skills sets are required. The key is determining how to make it work for everyone and ensure we are doing the very best for our children.

Finally, Susan also shared about an upcoming conference in Omaha on June 20th for dual-language learners entitled “Promoting the Success of Young Children Learning English: Nebraska and National Perspectives.” Location is the Scott Conference Center and registration is free.

Governor’s Report continued

Eleanor continued work on the Governor’s Report by sharing a matrix document with the group. February discussions were recapped as well as the 2016 Report recommendations noting which have been met, which are in process, and which could be maintained in the next report. The matrix follows what the Council is charged to do in its By-Laws, as well as shows alignment between current federal and state statutes. Eleanor reminded the group of ECICC’s charge to advise and assist state agencies in the delivery of services, not to advocate or lobby. The Report is an opportunity to focus and create a message that goes to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the landscape of early childhood programs and services in Nebraska.

Eleanor took the group through the various information requirements the report must provide, which include these five points:

- Status of Availability of High Quality Services
- Recommendations on Unified Data Collection
- Status of Professional Development and Capacity of Higher Education
- Status of Comprehensive Early Learning Standards
- Opportunities for Coordination and Collaboration at State Agencies and Local Levels

Time was spent in table discussion to reflect on the three speakers’ presentations, and how that might help in writing the Governor’s Report related to these key areas. Notes were turned over to Eleanor. Next a possible draft outline for the Report was shared and tables asked to review and provide input.

During the working lunch, Mary Phillips shared a video from The Arc of Lincoln that included her daughter, Erin, who was a recipient of services. Mary was pleased to note that, Member, Carol Bowen was their first Services Coordinator. Karen made mention about reimbursements. Eleanor, then, opened back up the discussion about the draft outline, asking for input as to what might be missing from it. Comments were collected by Eleanor for continued development of the outline and considerations for language in the Governor’s Report.

Next steps for the report include the Steering Committee’s review of comments from today’s meeting; an initial draft presented at the August 17th ECICC meeting; final draft for review and last edits at the November 15th meeting; final Council approval at the February, 2019 meeting, and then a meeting will be scheduled with the Governor to provide the report.

Child Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization Update

Nicole Vint, Child Care and Development Fund Administrator, presented an update on childcare subsidies. The state plan is to be posted for public review May 25th, and will be available for 20 days before their public hearing on June 14th at the State Office Building in Lincoln. Public comments will be reviewed before the plan is submitted to federal government July 1st, and will go into effect the October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2021. Another subsidy update included the market rate survey which is federally required every two years; the next survey will include reviewing cost of quality and private pay rates. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will occur with information being collected and reviewed. Nicole also shared there are extra CCDF monies, but as they are uncertain whether they will be sustained, they are being mindful of how to best

utilize those dollars and what kind of investments to make. These funds could mean some grant opportunities for new, not yet licensed care providers to apply for funding and some new childcare providers in communities that don't currently have them. Nicole talked about some emergency grants being available for updating of some childcare facilities, as well as a quality grant to help licensed, subsidy providers add more quality to their centers. This information can be found on their website in the grant section. (http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/ChildCare/Pages/Grants.aspx) A question was asked where the neediest pockets are in Nebraska, to which Nicole replied there are 11 counties in central, western, and north in Nebraska known as "child care deserts." Information from the "Kids Count" report can be downloaded from here: <https://voicesforchildren.com/data-research/kids-count/>

Head Start (HS) Update

Joan Luebbers, Head Start State Collaboration Director, Nebraska Department of Education, shared some handouts about Early HS Childcare Partnerships, and the breakdown of recent increased funding to HS. There has been funding provided to assist with full-day, six hour HS requirements, as well as a cost of living increase for Early HS and HS programs. Stephanie Knust, Head Start Director Midland Lutheran College/Dodge County Head Start, then shared about the recent appointment of a new national Director of the Office of HS, following Cabinet appointment of a Secretary of Health and Human Services. Dr. Deborah Bergeron has a great deal of experience in Public School Administration. Joan discussed grant opportunities that are available and some eligibility requirements. Comments were shared about the timeline for heightened performance standards to be met and some related variables that include program hours, staffing numbers, room arrangements, materials, etc., all of which point to quality child-teacher interactions. Family fees and income eligibility were discussed. Communities can form a coalition with several smaller providers to apply for and utilize some of these grants. It was clarified that grants can have stipulations as to what type of program/s may utilize them, such as home-based vs. center-based.

Following Joan's update, Steph Knust took a moment to congratulate her for having been chosen as the 2018 "Nebraska Children's Champion" Award Winner by the Nebraska Head Start Association. Joan will be recognized at the Region VII Head Start Association conference in Kansas City next month.

Part C Update

Julie Docter, Early Development Network Program Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, gave a brief overview of Results Driven Accountability (RDA), a five-year accountability system from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that focuses on compliance and results. Julie also shared the status of implementation of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), with evaluation data to date. Seven Planning Region Teams were selected to implement three strategies for the State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR) and a Nebraska State Leadership Pyramid update was also shared. Nebraska is currently in Phase III of Pyramid Implementation.

Amy Bunnell, Early Development Network Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Education, continued the update saying that initial data from Nebraska is being shared with the Federal government, and that next steps include providing "Getting Ready" training for PRTs. "Getting Ready," developed by the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools (CYFS), is a research-based program that enhances school readiness for children birth to age five. IFSP Outcome data have been submitted and a number of outcomes have increased.

Cole Johnson, Program Specialist at the Nebraska Department of Education, finished the Part C updates discussing quality of the goals being measureable and something the family can work with and implement. Examples of child and family outcomes were shared. In the next six months there will be some qualitative evaluation information from Miriam Kuhn at UNMC regarding Home Visiting frequency, infrastructure of EI teams, and EI provider satisfaction.

Legislative Update – First Five Nebraska

Becky Veak, Director of First Five Nebraska, and ECICC Technical Assistant, gave an update about the last Legislative session. Nebraska's Constitution requires a balanced budget. Revenue is based upon incoming projections and economic indicators, and due to a \$173 million dollar deficit, the Governor directed state programs be cut by 2 to 4% across the board over the biennium. Consideration is being given to other ways to make some cuts. Becky discussed a number of bills and efforts that related to education in Nebraska, including an alternative pathway to teacher certification, economic development bills that focus on infrastructure in rural communities, and a bill that would have allowed Educational Service Units to hire mental health professionals. The latter bill was to be funded privately with no state general funds for the first few years, but was vetoed by the Governor.

Rooted in Relationships (RiR)

Lynne Brehm, Associate Vice President for Early Childhood Mental Health at Nebraska Children, and ECICC Technical Assistant, and Rosie Zweiback, Project Director at Munroe-Meyer Institute in Omaha shared some data about Rooted in Relationships (RiR). RiR is an initiative that partners with communities to implement evidence-based practices that enhance the social-emotional development of children, birth through age 8, in both home and center-based childcare settings. It was developed around early childhood mental health needs. Over a four year period there has been measureable progress seen in both settings, although center-based measures are clearer. Providers are being trained in using the Pyramid Model to implement RiR. Pyramid is positive behavioral intervention and support framework early childhood educators and caregivers can use to promote young children's social and emotional development and prevent and address challenging behavior. These Providers have reported a significant increase in their skills.

As a final note, Lynne also handed out a card with information about preschool expulsion and suspension, saying this is a growing area of concern and parents need information so they can understand what suspension is. The card gave some national data and where more information can be found. She further shared that, as a result of this program, they have created many different observation tools to assist in the evaluation of the effectiveness of Pyramid across community settings. For more information go to the Rooted in Relationships website at www.rootedinrelationships.org.

Eleanor thanked the group for its attention, and reminded the Council to send future agenda ideas and requests to Karen for bringing to the Steering Committee.

August Meeting Components & Adjourn

It was recommended to have a presentation regarding childcare licensing. The group will review an initial draft of the 2018 Report to the Governor.

Council Chair, Dawn Murphy, adjourned the meeting at 2:45p.m.

Next meeting: August 17, 2018 at the Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center, Southeast Community College, 301 South 68th Street Place, Lincoln

Meeting handouts:

May 11, 2018 draft agenda

February 23, 2018 draft minutes for approval

Organizational Matrix for Governor's Report

Draft Outline of Governor's Report

Why Nebraska should integrate data about services for young children

Integrated data supports children's well-being by answer key questions

Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission Key Messages

Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission Problem statement & Cross-cutting strategies

Workforce Commission Social Media Image Previews
Buffett Early Childhood Institute/Gallup Survey booklet
FY 2018 Head Start Funding Increase
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships
Rooted in Relationships 2016-2017 Evaluation Report
Rooted in Relationships information card
MIECHV Nebraska Home Visiting data
Nebraska Young Child Institute informational card
Step Up to Quality Quarterly Growth chart

**Upcoming Scheduled ECICC meeting dates:
(Note: all be at 68th & "O" Street location)**

- August 17, 2018
- November 15, 2018 – Orientation/Council only
- November 16, 2018