



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph.D.
Commissioner

Meeting Minutes
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisory Committee Meeting
March 11, 2015
9:00am – 11:00 pm • Rocky Hill

Myra Jones-Taylor, Chair

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Christina Nelson, Eileen McMurrer (on behalf of Lynn Skene Johnson/Birth to Three), Eva Forrest (on behalf of Robert Zavoski/DSS), Heather Spada, Judith Meyers, Julie Bisi, Lisa Honigfeld, Kareena DuPlessis, Melissa Mendez, Myra Jones-Taylor, Richard Porth, Susan Graham, Tanya Barrett

Guests: no guests present

Recorder: Heather Spada

Welcome and Introductions

- All members introduced themselves and their respective organizations.

ECCS Year 1 Needs Assessment follow-up discussion:

- 3 areas for discussion to move toward strategies:
 - 1) Increasing developmental screening and surveillance
 - 2) Ongoing data collection (and ways to use it in the most beneficial way)
 - 3) Linking young children and families to services
- The following question were explored:
Development of a state-level infrastructure:
 - What strategies could be used to support communication that universal screening is positive?
 - What are initial steps for development of a strong public awareness campaign?
 - What are initial steps for development and enforcement of policies or regulations?
 - What needs to happen to develop a data sharing structure to facilitate local early care and education data management and sharing?
 - How can we increase coordination and collaboration of activities (at state-level), with inclusion of ELDS?

Communication and dissemination of information:

- What are ways to communicate the same message & provide cross-communication (i.e. with Help Me Grow, etc.)?
- How can communication be organized efficiently and in a coordinated way?
- What are some strategies to communicate with healthcare/pediatric providers?

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Provision of support and technical assistance to providers and parents:

- What are specific strategies to increase parent engagement and awareness?
- What are specific strategies to address professional development needs?
- How can we embed technical assistance support for those providing surveillance, screening and making referrals?
- What are ways to address resource limitations such as time, funding, knowledge, staffing, and procuring screening tools?
- How can we address the challenges of competing curricula and program requirements between various programs?
- What are ways to increase the usage of Child Development Infoline?
- It was suggested and agreed upon that the key recommendations be organized into a matrix for review and then prioritized for action planning.

ECCS Progress Report

- Discussion tabled due to time; the following contains updated summaries:
 - Interagency Subcommittee: Next meeting in April – continuing to recruit new members. The subcommittee is offering support in researching and compiling the Health Consultant toolkit.
 - Evaluation Subcommittee: Scannable parent surveys will be distributed through April to approximately 10 centers that fulfill the needed demographic information missing from November electronic survey. Subcommittee will meet in April.
 - Health Consultant Survey update/Year 2 activities: In mid-February, the summary report and resources sent to health consultants who completed the survey. The HC survey will be redistributed in March, June, and September. The Interagency Subcommittee is offering support in researching and compiling the Health Consultant toolkit.

Other Business

- One request: when members are unable to attend a committee meeting, we ask that you send a designee to attend in your place, if at all possible. Thank you to those who have been able to do this already.

Meeting Schedule

- **Next meeting**: Wednesday, **May 13th** from **10:00 to 12:00** at United Way of Connecticut

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