



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
November 5, 2014
10:00am – 12:00 pm • Rocky Hill

Paul Dworkin, Chair

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Angela Crowley, Christen Cassidy (on behalf of Elaine Zimmerman), Christina Nelson, Deborah Watson, Eva Forrest (on behalf of Robert Zavoski), Heather Spada, Judith Meyers, Julie Bisi, Lisa Honigfeld, Lynn Skene Johnson, Merrill Gay, Mhora Lorentson, Myra Jones-Taylor, Paul Dworkin, 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 Progress Report

- The links to the ECE provider and parent online surveys were distributed on November 3rd. All survey links and resources are posted on the ECCS webpage.
- First round of focus groups will conclude next week. Recruitment for second round will begin in January.
- The Health Consultant survey became available online late August, and will remain as an ongoing/open survey option in order to maximize participation. The link will be redistributed on November 7th.
- The Interagency Subcommittee will meet on November 10th. Agenda items include request for subcommittee chair or co-chairs, as both Rosa Biaggi and Monica Jensen will be unable to serve in this capacity. The MIECHV program is now under the leadership of the OEC. Rosa will continue to participate as the DPH representative to this Advisory Committee.
- The CT ECCS web page has all surveys posted on its homepage. Heather will send the link and ECCS icon to committee members, so those interested can post this link on their respective organization's website. She will also send a brief explanatory paragraph that can be inserted into a newsletter.

Health Consultant Survey update

- Angela Crowley and Heather Spada reviewed PowerPoint slides that summarized the survey's development, content, distribution, results to date, and continuing activities.
- Angela reviewed the latest survey results summary, specifically noting the breakdown of answers

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per question. A total of 62 surveys were included in this report.

- Some comments and questions posed by committee members:
 - Noted that much of the health consultant work is driven by or tied to regulations.
 - It would be interesting to see what are preferred activities, what they wish they could do, or what they don't have the time to do but would like to. Inquire what is the most important part of their work ("top 5 most important tasks")
 - Look at the CSDE survey given out to public schools (for possibilities of survey enhancements)
 - Next steps involve linking systems together.
 - Specifically ask/add question: "Do you have the time to do what you need or believe is important?"
 - How do we know we have reached the most health consultants? How do we keep the status and resources current? Perhaps can obtain addresses from licensing and invite consultants to participate in taking the survey.
 - How to capture data and maintain over the long run and who should own that? Perhaps link to licensing and have consultants complete it once a year.
 - It would make sense that the health consultants would oversee and ensure the process of early detection and screening and surveillance in the child care settings. They (clearly) need support and resources to do this.
- Angela proposed the forming of an ad hoc subgroup to create a one-page recommendation for the Advisory Committee. She will lead the forming of this.

Focus Group – summary review, follow-up questions

- Judith Meyers introduced the next steps of the Evaluation Subcommittee, predominantly driven by Mhora Lorentson's current work. Mhora reviewed the focus group responses and thought it made the most sense to delve into the answers and topics raised. Goals and a strategic plan will be developed from the focus group findings.
- Mhora facilitated follow-up focus group with committee members. She addressed the final three questions that were not completed, as well as reviewed the focus group summary compiled from the September focus group. Committee members reviewed together and suggested changes and edits.
- A draft strategic plan will be presented at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Other Business

- It was requested that the focus on parent engagement be addressed more thoroughly, specifically requested that Elaine Zimmerman give her input. Christen Cassidy (CT Commission on Children) will follow up with this.
- Home Visiting COIIN developmental screening and surveillance map has been developed. It is a clear mapping and is designed to enhance early detection and linkage to services. Paul Dworkin will

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present and review it at the next meeting; it will be distributed to the committee.

- Other areas to look to in moving forward:
 - Potentially increasing the role of health consultants
 - Utilizing a more centralized database
 - Greater engagement with medical homes (CT-AAP, websites, waiting rooms, etc.)
 - Expanding beyond English speakers (how to reach out?). Looking at communication in general to diverse populations – use multiple approaches. Parents need to be engaged in culturally appropriate ways throughout the process of screening.

Meeting Schedule

- A preliminary 2015 meeting schedule will be distributed to the committee. Adjustment will be made if needed.
- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, **January 14th** from 10:00 to 12:00 at United Way of Connecticut

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