



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 18, 2015
10:00 am – 12:00 pm • Rocky Hill

Paul Dworkin, Chair

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Angela Crowley, Christine Velazquez (on behalf of Ann Gionet/DPH), Eva Forrest (on behalf of Robert Zavoski/DSS), Heather Spada, Judith Meyers, Julie Bisi, Kareena DuPlessis, Melissa Mendez, Merrill Gay, Mhora Lorentson, Mona Scales, Myra Jones-Taylor, Paul Dworkin

Guests: Carlota Schechter (guest presenter), Sherri Sutera (UWC), Luz Rivera (OEC), Valerie Bryan (OEC), Laura Dunleavy (OEC), Diana Lejardi (OEC), Peggy Freidenfelt (OEC), Rosa Biaggi (DPH)

Recorder: Heather Spada

Welcome and Introductions

- All members introduced themselves and their respective organizations and roles.
- Myra Jones-Taylor introduced guest presenter, Carlota Schechter.

Presentation: Vermont's system for universal developmental screening

- Carlota serves as a consultant to Help Me Grow National. Her presentation focused on Vermont's working with HMG and what it has done with its state's systems building and integration around developmental screening (universal). The handouts she provided can be found at: www.vchip.org.
- Key presentation highlights:
 - VT braided their funding sources (federal, state government, private sector funding/initiatives)
 - Federal funding included: ECCS, Project LAUNCH (this was instrumental in this developmental screening initiative), and the Early Learning Challenge. Braiding these funding sources helped to facilitate systemic work vs. operating in silos.
 - They use an Integrated Family Services model. Services/referral connections can be made via HMG and then early intervention and prevention services are coordinated by local teams to provide or link to services.
 - VT has developed a universal referral form
 - VCHIP: goal is to move developmental screening beyond the medical home setting (via Project LAUNCH). The message is that there are no wrong doors – it can happen anywhere – ongoing monitoring of children's development can happen in many settings and HMG is the dedicated/centralized access point.

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- The data system is housed in the VT Department of Public Health: built an immunization registry which was a backup to the larger system (Shared Public Health Info Exchange) – this includes developmental screening information. The goal is to input screening results by whoever did the screening. However, they need legislative approval to roll out – it is approved for medical homes but not within other settings.
- Carlota was unsure of how engaged families have been in this whole process – as family access and family permission are main reasons for push back. VT has figured out how the system would work but it is not up and running yet.
- Advisory Committee members discussed implications for our ECCS work. Many elements are present here in CT and we are doing similar work to VCHIP. Perhaps we could share with them what we have.
- One data system model suggested for review: Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems. This is similar to our state ECIS. Also the AEM Corporation has a national technical assistance group that works with: Part C, Race to the Top and Early Childhood systems in states to help build capacity regarding data systems and outcomes:
<https://www.aemcorp.com/aem/interior/path: 3+industries- 4+Education>

Overview: Year 2 focus group summary

- Mhora reviewed the main points of the IMPACT report and then reviewed the 2015 focus group information gathered from 11 focus groups. The summary report provided only listed the new insights gathered from these 11 groups – the new insights will be used for informing and planning purposes in Year 3.
- It was noted that two changes be made to the document regarding the appropriateness and/or relevance of including groups comments about Care 4 Kids presumptive eligibility and family child care staff pay rates. *(Note: these changes were subsequently reviewed and removed from the document).*

Update: Screening Toolkit and Health Consultant Survey

- Angela Crowley provided a status update on the Developmental Screening Toolkit. The toolkit and accompanying PowerPoint resource are currently in development. Hotlinks for all resources will be imbedded in the documents. The PowerPoint is being written to the broadest audience possible in order to promote developmental awareness. An ECE program director has participated in reviews of content and design.
- She will provide an updated report presentation summary of the Health Consultant Survey at the January 13th Advisory Committee meeting. The survey was distributed electronically 7 times during 2014 and 2015 and completed by 96 participants.

Update: ECCS Progress Matrix subgroups

- Heather Spada reported that all 5 subgroups are currently meeting and working on their tasks of selecting strategies for the January 13th Advisory Committee meeting, and then creating the action

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steps and completing other information for review of the matrix details at the March 16th Advisory Committee meeting.

Other Business

- The new Child Development Infoline (CDI) has been launched - <http://cdi.211ct.org/>. All feedback is welcomed and can be sent directly to Kareena DuPlessis.
- Copies of the IMPACT report were made available at the meeting. Additional copies can be obtained by contacting Heather Spada. It was noted that Dr. Willis and Barbara Hamilton of HRSA have received copies.
- The meeting dates for the remainder of the 2016 grant year are: January 13, March 16, May 11, and July 20.

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