



**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**  
**September 9, 2015**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 pm • Rocky Hill**

*Paul Dworkin, Chair*

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members present:** Angela Crowley, Ann Gionet, Eva Forrest (on behalf of Robert Zavoski/DSS), Heather Spada, Judith Meyers, Kareena DuPlessis, Melissa Mendez, Myra Jones-Taylor, Paul Dworkin, Richard Porth  
**Guests:** Monarae Scales, Wheeler Clinic/Elm City Project LAUNCH; Project LAUNCH members: Christine Velasquez, Crystal Sessa, Tirzah Kemp  
**Recorder:** Heather Spada

**Welcome and Introductions**

- All members introduced themselves and their respective organizations and roles.

**ECCS update**

- HRSA MIECHV/ECCS Tri-Regional Forum: Kareena and Heather gave an overview of July’s forum. Highlights include: collaboration with CT MIECHV team, creating displays featuring ECCS work and participating in networking with other states, ECCS breakout discussions with other states and with HRSA Project Officer, and exclusive meeting with Dr. Willis to discuss the future of ECCS. Systems development was emphasized.
- Paul Dworkin commented on the big picture regarding ECCS and its future. Potential emphasis from HRSA to continue in the area of developmental screening, especially in integrating existing systems to do developmental promotion, early detection, and referrals and linkages.
- Discussed importance of forging connections with MIECHV and HV COIiN and the HV Consortium, as the prominence of home visitation will be an explicit part of the process. It is important to integrate systems of facilitators (i.e. health consultant, home visitors, etc.) for developmental promotion on a continuum of services. There are a various initiatives to connect: Birth to Three, Home visitation, the Infant/Toddler agenda for the EC Cabinet, SIM grant/DSS, screening for adverse events. It was reiterated that the connection is always the challenge – not to operate in parallel processes
- Paul Dworkin asked for feedback for Dr. Willis as he is reforming the new ECCS grant. He will communicate this group’s feedback directly to Dr. Willis.

**ECCS Progress Matrix:**

- An overview of the Project Matrix objectives and five Priority Areas was given, as well as the process for further design. Each of the five objectives has a designated planning document with a planning

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table that lists existing strategies. Each of the action agendas was reviewed and the group was requested to volunteer to join one or more of the five subgroups, and welcomed to serve as a lead or co-lead.

- Other organizations and individuals were recommended to be part of the objectives subgroups. It was recommended the childcare organizations weigh in on Priority Area 1.1. Subgroup members were encouraged to invite other colleagues to weigh in as needed.
- Heather Spada will place names on the planning matrix and send to Myra Jones-Taylor for review and to add any other individuals from the OEC as needed. The completed subgroup information will be emailed out to leads within two weeks so drafting work can begin.

### Other Business

- 2016 meeting schedule will be sent to Advisory Committee members at the end of the month.
- November's meeting: scheduled guest, Carlota Schechter will bring information on Vermont's vision and preparation for universal developmental screening.
- Angela Crowley will provide a status update on the Developmental Screening Toolkit and its accompanying PowerPoint presentation/informational walkthrough.
- All feedback/comments regarding the IMPACT report draft are due by Friday – please email to Heather Spada.

### Meeting Schedule

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, **November 18** from **10:00 to 12:00** at United Way of Connecticut

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