



**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**  
**July 20, 2016**  
**9:00 am – 11:00 am • Rocky Hill**

*Paul Dworkin, Chair*

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members present:** Angela Crowley, Dawn Clavette, Eileen McMurrer, Grace Whitney, Heather Spada, Jessica Sager, Judith Meyers, Julie Bisi, Kareena DuPlessis, Kim Nilson, Lisa Honigfeld, Merrill Gay, Mhora Lorentson, Mona Scales, Myra Jones-Taylor, Paul Dworkin, Tanya Barrett

**Recorder:** Heather Spada

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Many words of appreciate were shared by members for the efforts and work accomplished during this grant’s tenure. Heather Spada was complimented by the Committee for an outstanding job for ECCS coordination and data collection efforts.
- In addressing the disappointing news of the ECCS Impact grant not being awarded to CT, Myra Jones-Taylor conveyed her conversation with Dr. Willis (HRSA/ECCS) last week. He said it truly pained him not to award CT. He said circumstances changed, leading to reduced funding so there was not enough money to fund all of the quality applicants. Only 10 states were awarded instead of the originally proposed 15.
- As a matter of follow up: as requested during May’s meeting, Heather Spada invited Minakshi Tikoo from UConn to give a brief presentation (with Q&A) regarding the Heath Information Exchange and potential for HI Exchange connection between the ASQ/Child Development Infoline and a child’s pediatrician. Given that we have to revisit the means for ECCS work progressing due to the grant not being awarded, we postponed Minakshi’s presentation. She was very understanding and opted to schedule a meeting at a more convenient time for us.

**ECCS Activity Completion**

- Final HRSA report due October 17, 2016. It will be submitted by Kareena DuPlessis.
- Toolkit & training segments – link will be sent out with these meeting minutes; videos posted by next week.
- Progress Matrix: some work continuing with subgroups, but waiting for next steps to determine how the work can be maintained. Some finish dates have been adjusted to later in the year.

**Feedback Survey Results – Final Report and Issue Brief (CHDI)**

- Mhora Lorentson gave an overview of the feedback survey results regarding the early childhood community’s responses to the Progress Matrix/Action Plan objectives. She reviewed the process, survey results summary, and the recommendations given by participants who answered the three open-ended questions. This was followed by discussion. CHDI will release a 2-page issue brief with a summary of this Year 3 final report, as well as a summary of

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the Progress Matrix and plans to move forward, highlighting embedded work with existing organizations/initiatives.

### Continuing ECCS Efforts

- A majority of the meeting involved discussing potential means for ECCS work to continue, what can be maintained in the meantime, and the logistics of this maintenance. Specifically: How can this be embedded into current work with OEC, CDI/United Way of CT? Who will take the lead and continue? Ideas voiced included:
- Look into Project LAUNCH, State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) at DPH, and Learn the Signs. Act Early.
- The Progress Matrix is already part of the OEC, and Myra Jones-Taylor shared her desire for outside accountability to stay on their toes with the ECCS Progress Matrix and attach it to what already has legs. For example, look to connect with Ann Gionet, especially in collaborative effort with the Act Early initiative and media; also, CDI – Norwalk and Manchester’s online ASQ work – looking at systems.
- In terms of accountability: continue the Advisory Committee and meet for another 6 months to implement the plan. This would require someone to coordinate it; maybe look at an internal workgroup at the OEC to review the Progress Matrix and its recommendations in order to move the work forward.
- We don’t yet have a merging of systems in CT and need a targeting of information for true integration and sharing across sectors. We (CT) mainly have a communication problem vs. an implementation problem. Our plan and ECCS work reflect the broader understanding that goes beyond developmental screening to a comprehensive process.
- Other continuing efforts suggestions:
  - There may be opportunities to build on the work with at least select communities to implement a number of recommendations in the “Blueprint for Women and Child Health” in Hartford through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, as well as some federal and local funding in the greater Hartford area.
  - We may change the way in which we go about the work. Look at expanding Hartford and look at Norwalk.
  - Have a learning community of communities – i.e. New Haven is involved in this.
  - Must hand this off to continue in a clear way – should we meet again? Need a deadline to secure funding – don’t want to lose steam and focus.
  - Reduce the proposed budget needed to \$200,000 to only fund the project director position and state coordination work.
  - What are potential funding sources? Maybe CCDF, RJ Woods, Seedlings Foundation, Grossman Family Foundation, and others were mentioned.
- **Immediate next steps were summarized by Myra Jones-Taylor, as:**
  - **Good work has been accomplished so far.**
  - **We need an entity to carry it on and figure out the best plan to continue this work in the fall and beyond.**
  - **We need funding – who can be potential funders?**
  - **If possible, find “interim” funding in the meantime for a part-time coordination to maintain and continue essential pieces of ECCS work until larger amounts of funding can be procured to implement the proposed work.**
  - **Hold an Advisory Committee meeting in September to look at viable funding sources and practical steps for continuing ECCS work would be the next step. Members who voiced potential funding**

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**sources were asked to explore those possibilities in the meantime and then bring details to this next meeting.**

### **Other Business**

- Heather Spada will send out an email confirming the date, time and location of the agreed upon meeting in September at United Way of CT.
- Myra Jones-Taylor mentioned a website with toolkit and information packet that is all prepackaged to infuse into multiple systems (it is integrated with WIC, child welfare and pediatric health care providers). It is from the Georgia Department of Public Health, "Talk With Me Baby" initiative (<https://dph.georgia.gov/talkwithmebaby>; <http://www.talkwithmebaby.org/>).

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