



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

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Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph. D.
Executive Director

Meeting Minutes Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisory Committee Meeting

May 14, 2014
10:00am – 12:00 pm • Rocky Hill

Paul Dworkin, Chair

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Angela Crowley, Elaine Zimmerman, Grace Whitney, Heather Spada, Jessica Sager, Judith Meyers, Julie Bisi, Kareena DuPlessis, Lisa Honigfeld, Lynn Johnson, Melissa Mendez, Merrill Gay, Monica Jensen, Myra Jones-Taylor, Nancy DiMauro, Paul Dworkin, Richard Porth, Robert Zavoski, Rosa Biaggi, Susan Graham, Tanya Barrett

Guests: no guests present

Recorder: Heather Spada

Welcome and Introductions

- All members introduced themselves

ECCS Progress Report (Kareena Duplessis and Heather Spada)

- ECCS performance report is nearing completion – to be submitted to HRSA by May 23rd.
- The two MIECHV benchmarks that are reported on (statewide data) for this year are #1: percentage of infants born preterm, and #5: Percentage of children birth to age 3 in poverty (household income below poverty level – 200% below FPL).
 - It was suggested that since 185% of the median income is used by many programs in the state, it could be beneficial to see where this measure falls into regarding the poverty level and the above reporting of 200% below FPL

Interagency Subcommittee Update (Heather Spada)

- Rosa Biaggi and Monica Jensen have volunteered as co-chairs
- Highlights from the most recent meeting (April 21st) were given
 - One example: Michelle Levy (OEC) reviewed the revised Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS), noting that it is aligning and connecting with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, as well as linking to the EPIC module efforts via Lisa Honigfeld/CHDI
- One focus of effort will look at how what is being learned from the Norwalk Initiative and Project

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LAUNCH and scale it up to a more statewide approach.

- It was requested that this subcommittee report out on any newly combined/coordinated efforts as a result of the subcommittee's focus and work
- It was requested to add a question to the evaluation survey for early childhood providers that asks about screening efforts that are occurring
- It was noted that there is a larger early childhood info data system being compiled by OEC
- CT has an open (de-identified) data system: data.ct.gov
 - Julie Bisi can upload information on this site if needed
- Some questions raised by committee members:
 - Should it include more members to ensure adequate representation?
 - Is there any avenue for data sharing?
 - Is there a way to collect whether or not there are others who are conducting screening coordination?
 - How can the ECCS Interagency Subcommittee be supportive in data sharing and interfacing with the Advisory Committee?
 - How can we help the OEC strengthen their position in data sharing?
 - There are many efforts happening at once, is there any way to align better?
 - How can we market what we/ECCS grant are doing? Through OEC?
 - This was placed as an agenda item for the next Advisory Committee meeting

Evaluation Subcommittee Update (Judith Meyers and Lisa Honigfeld)

- All surveys have been previously sent to the Advisory Committee and reviewed on a decent level by the Evaluation Subcommittee, but information is needed for expanding survey to family child care.
 - Lisa has previously spoken with Jessica Sager for recommendations. Those given were to align and adapt a subset of questions, conduct a language audit of the existing survey and to have participants identify if they are from Early Head Start (to see their understanding of screenings in this subset).
 - Also suggested that surveys to family child care providers be provided via mail and electronically
 - It was noted that public schools are included and will be identified as such in the survey
- Surveys will be distributed online via UWC and Care-4-Kids, plus some mailings.
 - Discussed ways to promote survey link: on UWC site, publicize widely using the online link, partner with various parent supports (FAVOR, CT Family Support Network, CT Parent Power, etc.) to reach out,
 - Also – ask child care providers to reach out to parents and/or distribute surveys to parents
 - Noted that it should be made clear to parents why their input is invaluable in this process/survey information, what will happen with the collected information, and where they can find the resulting information.
 - Also noted, to be sensitive to the language used in the parent survey – engaging them as the experts on their children; keep it family-driven, not engaged only
 - UWC will provide a Spanish translation of the parent survey
- Lisa will follow up with piloting the parent survey based on suggestions she has received
- In using the term “developmental surveillance” within the surveys: acknowledged that it is widely used in pediatric literature, but some concern that the term will not sit well with parents and early childhood education providers. At the very minimum, the term will be used, accompanied with an explanation to define its meaning. It was suggested that the phrase “following children’s developmental progress over time” be used.

- Recommended that the term be introduced at the upcoming focus groups to ask how parents, early care and education providers and family child care providers would say/describe this term
- CT Family Support Network and Help Me Grow meetings could be places to gather this information, too
- Website design specific to ECCS was discussed and agreed that it would be a critically positive move. It would be a central place for updates and ongoing information regarding ECCS project activities and links for information and tools (i.e. surveys). UWC will begin designing and work with the OEC; intend to provide a direct link on OEC's website, as well as on UWC's website. Advisory Committee will be updated with progress.

Health Consultant Survey (Angela Crowley)

- Angela highlighted various aspects of the draft survey (distributed at the meeting and sent via email prior to meeting for review)
- Information from this survey will eventually be used as a statewide listserv when licensing goes under the Office of Early Childhood
- Upon completion, Angela will distribute list and Heather will place on the ece listserv – this is an online survey, only. Beau Anderson of UWC's Community Results Center set up the online version.
- Suggestions:
 - Add: hours per week consultants are engaged in this role
 - Add: range of services that they provide
 - Be sure to include Head Start Health Managers in the survey distribution

Agency Updates

- Check out the March 2014 release of screening tool information and guides via this ACF link: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/watch-me-thrive>; the initiative is called *Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive*. Included with these minutes is the Community Guide.
- **Myra Jones-Taylor:** regarding the Office of Early Childhood, legislation was passed; in interest to this group, a new priority (priority group 7) has been created for Care 4 Kids to support the Early Head Start-Child Care federal grant recipients. It will especially help smaller programs who without it would have to bear the cost of extra expenses as family incomes fluctuate, etc.
- **Lisa Honigfeld:** informed that the Survey of Wellbeing of Young Children (SWYC) tool is best used in child health settings as a screening tool only, and can be integrated into our work
- **Elaine Zimmerman:** 1) a plan is in the works to create a two-generational strategy for children their families to get out of poverty, involving school readiness and work readiness. We are the first state to do this; 2) there is a bill regarding school climate with mental health sections – germane to this group is the “3 to 3” piece: up to three schools can do an age 3 to grade 3 module regarding social emotional development/competence. It was noted that Project LAUNCH is implementing a 3 to 3 via the Second Step curriculum.

Other Business

- Suggested agenda item for next meeting: look at where we are promoting the work of ECCS
- Requested that the most updated surveys be resent to committee (to be included with these minutes)
- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, **July 9, 2014** from 10:00 to 12:00 at United Way of Connecticut