



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 9, 2014
10:00am – 12:00 pm • Rocky Hill

Paul Dworkin, Chair

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Christina Nelson, Heather Spada, Jessica Sager, Judith Meyers, Julie Bisi, Kareena DuPlessis, Melissa Mendez, Merrill Gay, Nancy DiMauro, Paul Dworkin, Richard Porth, Susan Graham

Guests: no guests present

Recorder: Heather Spada

Welcome and Introductions

- All members introduced themselves.
- Paul Dworkin noted Myra Jones-Taylor's appointment as Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood.

ECCS Progress Report

- ECCS performance report submitted to HRSA at end of May.
- Region 1 MIECHV/ECCS training meeting in Maryland on July 22-24th. Monica Jensen (plus other MIECHV staff) and Heather Spada will attend.
- The ECCS informational webpage is in early stages of design; Diana Lejardi (OEC) reviewed draft and gave recommendations. The webpage should go live by the end of the summer. It was offered by committee members to display the ECCS link on their agencies' websites to help promote awareness.

Interagency Subcommittee Update

- Help Me Grow Campaign: Deborah Watson sent her apologies that she was unable to attend and gave the following update to be communicated to the committee:
 - She will have a full report, but prefers to wait until the celebration event on July 18th. The following are highlights of the campaign: it was held in 9 communities statewide; 149 volunteers conducted the campaign; there were 27 community cafés, 18 ASQ registration events, and 9 screening events; Deb provided 23 trainings – 360 new users were trained and are beginning to screen this month.
- Norwalk Initiative/Grossman Foundation, Online ASQ: Kareena DuPlessis reported that a year's work has been completed in Norwalk. This initiative has been embraced by the community and displays collaboration. They have met on a number of occasions, including the data group. There have been many ASQ referrals via the HMG Campaign activities. They are currently working with home visiting

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groups to develop a common intake form. The next phase involves working with child care providers to complete the ASQ with families (timeframe to be determined). Score will be inputted into CDI data system; families will be assisted with gaining access to Help Me Grow. The ASQ-SE was recently purchased and they/CDI is looking to getting online access soon.

- Discussion took place regarding what it would take to do a local assessment of various communities around screenings practices to learn if there is anything worth emulating. The importance of looking at how children and families are being linked to services, and not screening in isolation, was emphasized. It would be beneficial to find out what critical strategies make a difference (specific activities and barriers).
 - Discovery communities were mentioned as a starting point.
 - Nancy DiMauro mentioned the yet untapped resource/collaboration with the existing statewide DCF/Head Start Partnership quarterly meetings. Discussed ways to incorporate efforts at this meeting, as well as promotion of CDI and HMG.
 - 2 commitments were made to address this disconnect: share lessons learned from the Norwalk Initiative and implications for statewide spread; and fix the disconnect between DCF/HS partnership and CDI/HMG. The next DCF/HS meeting is on July 25th.
- It was emphasized that the above mentioned discussion addressed what the ECCS grant is intended – to address obvious gaps, share best practices and lessons learned. This is the systems- building work in action.
- Other questions raised: What are the implications (activities, initiatives, etc.) in relation to systems building in the state? What are the implications for bringing services and/or initiatives to scale for maximum impact in the state? And then, how can we capture this information and disseminate to help other initiatives? (For example, is an organization-focused HMG Campaign versus a parent/grass roots-focused HMG Campaign more effective?)
 - Nancy DiMauro suggested that these types of questions could be presented at a DCF/Head Start meeting in a work group format to receive some answers.

Evaluation Subcommittee Update

- All surveys have been developed and are now being piloted
- Surveys should be ready to go by October 1st
- Focus groups: two were completed in June. A third had to cancel, but will be involved in the August/September round. 2 of the 30 focus group will be with Family Child Care providers (one in the Bridgeport/New Haven area via All Our Kin, and one in the Hartford area with assistance from the Hartford Area Child Care Collaborative). Heather will conduct some outside focus groups that are separate from those designated to Mhora. Mhora will conduct an Advisory Committee focus group during the September meeting.
- Health Consultant Survey: changes have been made and online version will be completed by end of

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July. Heather Spada is coordinating efforts with Mary Farnsworth (OEC, Strategic Planning Manager) in order to avoid duplication and decide best timing for survey distributions to the early childhood community.

- This will lend to the development of a comprehensive listing of health consultants for trainings, licensing, etc.
- How can we build a system for health consultants? (in order to strengthen linkages)
- Needs identified: linking medical homes to child care providers, Family Child Care and medical home linkages and support.
- It was noted that the utilization of health consultants work well in the Early Head Start/Head Start centers, but there is an obvious gap in other programs – it is not the same level of service.

Children's Mental Health Update

- Judith Meyers highlighted elements of the: Children's Behavioral Health Plan (PA 13-178) and the recent Legislative Task Force Report (pursuant to PA 13-3, Section 66):
 - Children's Behavioral Health Plan: the information gathering phase is near completion. It was a long process that involved several hundred people. The next public hearing is July 24th – the commission will be reporting along with agencies. They are: currently looking at key elements surfacing and drafting recommendations, pleased with the process (state offices are responsive to input and public forums), and moving forward in the process.
 - Legislative Task Force Report: looking at young adults and gun violence prevention (report released in June). There were 47 recommendations of which take a strong developmental stance. Three especially are emphasized: a longitudinal and developmental stance (from 0 to 25 years old), utilizing models of prevention, and early recognition/identification through assessment and treatment. Report mandates were given to PCPs to provide necessary screenings in office, as well as increasing access and affordability to intervention programs specifically for children identified as "at risk".
 - Rick Porth posed the question as to what should this committee's role be as reports and studies are released as they focus on our work? It was decided that an acknowledgement letter submitted to the task force would be a good option. Judith will consider appropriate language to include in constructing the letter and it will be run by Myra Jones-Taylor and the committee members who attended today's meeting.

Agency Updates

- No additional updates given.

Other Business

- Paul Dworkin suggested an agenda change for upcoming meetings; agency updates will be moved to

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the beginning of the meeting/agenda; when members introduce themselves, they will have the opportunity at that time to share one item as it relates to systems building.

- Lisa Honigfeld will present highlights from the new EPIC Module ("Keeping Children Healthy in Childcare") during the next meeting.
- Mhora Lorentson will conduct a focus group during the next meeting.
- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, **September 10th** from 10:00 to 12:00 at United Way of Connecticut

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