

**New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)
Membership Meeting
Hotel Albany, Albany, New York
June 4, 2012**

Members:

Evelyn Blanck	Robert Frawley*	Barbara-Ann Mattle	Monique Rabideau
Sherry Cleary*	Dana Friedman	Karen McGraw	Sandy Rybaltowski
Nancy Cupolo	Doris Fromberg	James McGuirk	Carol Saginaw
Rachel de Long	Ira Katzenstein	Mary McHugh	Maryanne
Christine Deyss	Kristen Kerr	Meg McNiff	Schretzman
Karla Digirolamo	Nancy Kolben	Anne Mitchell	Mary Shaheen
Denise Dowell	Lee Kreader	Donna Noyes	Meredith Wiley
Andre Eaton	James Langford	Sophia Pappas	
Maggie Evans	Myung Lee	Patty Persell	* Co-chair

Guests:

Robert Abrams	Ola Friday	Barbara O'Brien	Amy Rudat
Jocelyn Alter	Karen Kilbride	Lynnette Pannucci	Sam Stephens
Marsha Basloe	Lori King-Kocsis	Melanie Pores	Brittany Vogel
Kate Breslin	Cindy Lamy	Krystal Reyes	Taniesha Woods
DeSylvia Dwyer	Anita Murphy	Jocelyn Rodriguez	

Staff:

Dorcey Applyrs	Barbara Hogan	Jenn O'Connor	Stephanie Woodard
Elizabeth Belsito	Jeff Luks	Susan Perkins	
Regina Canuso	Renee Nasadoski	Bridget Walsh	

Updates

Communications Consultants: The Advocates for Human Potential have interviewed most of the ECAC membership to determine internal and external communication processes. Those not yet interviewed will complete an email survey that will be distributed this week. Survey forms need to be completed and returned to Fran Basche by June 14th.

Social-Emotional Development Consultants: The ECAC has hired the Children's Institute, Inc. of Rochester to develop and implement strategies to support professionals in meeting the needs of young children including:

- identifying model training modules on social-emotional development and infusing trainings into the ongoing professional development of the wide range of professionals that serve young children and their families;
- integrating evidenced-based curriculum and other program supports into early education programs to enhance their efforts to promote social-emotional development;

- supporting efforts to ensure that all children receive routine developmental screening including social-emotional development screening to identify children experiencing difficulties as early as possible; and
- compiling content for a website we will build to make all this information on training, program supports, and developmental screening readily accessible to people working with young children.

Sustainability ad hoc Work Group: A group has been formed to determine how we can keep our work moving forward beyond the current funding period that ends July 31st, 2013. The group includes Bob, Sherry, Mary McHugh, Kate Breslin, Jim McGuirk, Lee Kreader, Marsha Basloe, Patti Lieberman, Sophia Pappas, Stephanie Woodard, and Regina Canuso.

National Governors Association (NGA) Conference: Sherry Cleary, Nicolas Storelli-Castro, and Renee Rider were the NY State team who attended an NGA conference on states' Birth to Grade 3 Policy Agendas. Thirty-seven states were represented at the two-day meeting. The team prepared a two-page report on the conference and submitted it to the Governor's Office.

QUALITYstarsNY Implementation: Programs are being recruited in 7 targeted communities using Race to the Top (RttT) funding. It is expected that these funds will support implementation in 300 programs. ECAC and foundation funding will be used to implement the program in an additional 100 programs across the State, including field test sites. Winning Beginning NY is working with SED on a communications plan for the roll-out in community-based programs in July and in school-based programs in September.

Core Body of Knowledge, Early Learning Guidelines and QUALITYstarsNY standards: There has been great demand for copies of the *Core Body of Knowledge* and *Early Learning Guidelines* from throughout the early care and education community. Copies have been sent to all higher education programs with early childhood coursework, all Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, QUALITYstarsNY Quality Improvement Specialists, all Office of Children and Family Services licensing regional offices, and many other early childhood stakeholders throughout the state. To continue to meet the demand, the ECAC is making arrangements to sell the publications at cost, which we hope to keep under \$10 per copy including shipping.

Family Leave Insurance: Lee Kreader reported on a meeting in New York City about the campaign to make Family Leave Insurance universally available. To build on that initial meeting, there will be a webinar in July with the public health and early childhood communities. In addition, there will be a press conference in Albany on June 12, followed by legislative visits. To learn more go to http://www.nccp.org/projects/paid_leave.html.

BUILD Medical Home Meeting: BUILD invited the ECAC to send a representative to a national meeting focused on building patient-centered medical homes. Participants included health and early childhood educators. Kate Breslin attended for New York State. She found that New York State is very much ahead of many states in establishing patient-centered medical homes and health homes, but has not yet effectively incorporated early care and education programs into the effort. Kate is eager to work to ensure that New York is successful in building patient-centered medical homes for young children. She is also eager to explore the common links and lessons between building medical homes and building QUALITYstarsNY.

Screen Free Initiative: Dana Friedman reported on a national initiative to reduce the amount of time that children spend in front of television, computer, and video game screens. Studies show that children watch so much television in part because parents are afraid to let them play outside. Dana reported that the Early Development Institute participated in events held the last week in April/first week in May to raise awareness of the issues among parent groups and legislators. This initiative, funded through the Rauch Foundation, will be repeated next year, and organizers hope to obtain a Governor's Proclamation. Dana suggested that the ECAC might consider supporting a statewide effort to support this cause next year.

Introductions

ECAC Members and guests introduced themselves. Bob introduced new members Karla Digiralamo, Executive Director, New York State Community Action Association (who replaces Denise Harlow), Myung Lee, of New York City ACS (who replaces Melanie Hartzog) and Nicolas Storelli-Castro of SED, who could not attend. He also introduced Rob Abrams, Senior Technical Assistance Specialist, Project LAUNCH, Education Development Center who was attending the meeting as part of a site visit.

Early Education and the State Education Department - Anita Murphy

Anita Murphy, Associate Commissioner for Curriculum, Instruction and Field Services for the State Education Department, discussed how she has been working with colleagues at the State Education Department to effectively connect early childhood to the larger effort to improve public education. Coming from a middle school background, early care and education was new to her, but she recognizes how important early care and education is to laying a foundation for success in school. In particular, she is working to establish mechanisms to identify as early as possible children experiencing problems so that they are able to get the child and family supports needed, enabling children to do better in school. Toward this end, SED has held back the PreK Assessment Guidance document so that it can be aligned with the guidance for assessing children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. It needs to be broad enough to incorporate what we know about development. She felt it was important to wait until assessment guidance was developed for older students and then work backward –What do children need to know at every step of development? The goal is to build a system that allows for teachers and administrators to determine how children are doing over time.

As part of this effort, the school review rubric is being restructured to capture a more complete picture of all the factors that contribute to children's learning within a framework that is prevention focused and has a greater emphasis on integration of social emotional development and early learning. For the first time, the review process will be broadened to include early care and education professionals, afterschool programs as well as other student supports, and will start at the district level to determine if problems are occurring there that negatively impact school functioning.

The new school review rubric has five components:

- Parent involvement
- Social-emotional well being

- Classroom
- Curriculum
- Community/District

The new review process (rubric) is being piloted in priority schools. Priority schools were previously referred to as persistently-lowest achieving or PLA schools. All schools are encouraged to use the review rubric as a self-assessment tool to improve performance.

The State Education Department is also working to integrate the PreK Foundation for the Common Core with the Kindergarten through 12 Common Core Learning Standards. Sample English language arts and math units will be available at the end of the summer. Science and social studies will be released at a later date. These pieces, when available, will help provide a continuum of educational supports and expectations for teachers to follow.

Developing a Statewide Shared Services Alliance - Marsha Basloe and Kristen Kerr

Marsha provided an overview about the Shared Services Alliance concept and how it can benefit early childhood educators within New York by reducing costs and improving the quality of services. She described some examples of shared services, including:

- Credit card services;
- Human Resource Administration;
- Food and beverage purchases; and
- Program Administration documents such as handbooks and budgets that have been legally vetted.

She described a meeting that was held during April 2012 that included representatives of the ECAC and other early childhood stakeholders. During the meeting John Weiser, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Opportunities Exchange, provided information about the Shared Services Alliance concept and provided the group with a demonstration of the Shared Services Alliance web based application created for the state of Pennsylvania. Other examples of states and communities that use shared services include:

- New Jersey & Washington (state): These states purchased the application and are using it among their providers.
- New York State: Currently there are shared services projects being administered in Rockland and Steuben counties as well as New York City.

Kristen Kerr informed the group about a Shared Services Conference she attended, provided an overview of the shared services web based application, and demonstrated ways the application could support providers.

During the demonstration the group discussed the following:

- **Financial support of a shared services website** (\$50,000 per year and \$25,000 per year after the initial year): In Pennsylvania the Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) supported the cost of shared services website through increases in their membership dues as a member benefit.

- **Vendor Negotiation:** CCA Global negotiates the prices for the vendors that are available for shared services. CCA Global assembles a team to develop the shared services vendor list. Depending on the application level purchased by the state, the team can focus on national vendors and/or local vendors.
- **Issues:** Some issues that were identified during the discussions are as follows:
 - Marketing: How would the shared services application be marketed to the providers;
 - Storage: If the providers were to purchase goods in bulk the issue becomes storage;
 - Local Relationship: Many providers have a good relationship with their local supplier and may be apprehensive to use another vendor.

Next Steps for the Alliance include:

- Solicit feedback and thoughts from multiple stakeholders through:
 - Surveys
 - Focus groups
 - Presentations
- Explore how the technology may be used more broadly
- Develop a small group to continue work

To learn more about Shared Services, visit www.opportunities-exchange.org

Common Metric Briefing – Krystal Reyes

Sherry Cleary introduced the topic by noting that during the process of writing the Early Learning Challenge Grant (ELCG) proposal, it was decided that the Common Metric being developed by the New York City Early Care and Education Steering Committee would have value for the entire state of New York. As a result, it was included in the proposal as a statewide initiative. That proposal did not receive federal funding but, moving forward, the ECAC analyzed the proposal and created a plan to implement components that would serve to advance the mission of the ECAC, including supporting the development of the Common Metric. Massachusetts is also interested in the Common Metric and is in the process of contracting with NYU to conduct a study of the Common Metric in that state.

Krystal Reyes discussed the history of the New York City Early Care and Education Steering Committee, which was created in 2007 by the Office of the Mayor and includes representatives from multiple agencies. The overall mission is to ensure that all children, birth to age 8 are ready for success in school and life. To reach that goal, New York City partnered with New York University to look at how a child assessment system could be built in that would provide information on student progress and identify children experiencing difficulties. In looking at how early care and education programs are currently conducting child assessments, they learned that the three most common assessments in use in New York City are:

- Teaching Strategies GOLD

- Child Observation Record (COR)
- The Work Sampling System (WSS)

To allow programs to continue to use their assessment of choice, a decision was made to pursue development of a common metric that would enable them to compare results of each of the three assessments.

There are three phases in this project:

Phase I - (Completed) A feasibility study has been done which included getting all of the partners on board and in agreement, and data sharing agreements have been signed.

Phase II – The ECAC has joined with its New York City partners to identify the funds needed to move into this phase, which involves the creation and testing of a psychometrically validated common measure across all three early childhood education assessments. With ECACs involvement the project will be implemented in locations throughout the state including, but not exclusively, New York City. Teachers will be trained to administer a second assessment tool in their classroom at one point in time in the 2012-2013 school year. This will allow for about 3000 4 year olds to be assessed with two of the different tools, which will give researchers the data needed to see if they can create a Common Metric

Phase III - Development of a longitudinal study of the Common Metric on a large scale across early childhood programs, teachers and students. This study will allow for comparisons between gender, neighborhood and other socio-demographic variables, and will help determine, for example, the predictive power of the Common Metric for performance in first grade.

Winning Beginning New York Update – Jenn O’Connor

Update on Advocacy Efforts

- Winning Beginning NY (WBNY) will be working with the State Education Department to promote programs participation in QUALITYstarsNY in areas being targeted in the phase one activities being funded by the \$4 million in Race to the Top funds. Outreach activities will target community-based early care and education programs in July and programs operated by school districts in September.

WBNY Reorganization

- WBNY will transition from having the leadership comprised of the 4 convening agencies to a steering committee structure.
- The steering committee will include co-chairs TBD and will be managed by a coordinator. Job descriptions for steering committee members and co-chairs will be developed within the next few weeks. Since there is no funding to support the coordinator position, the steering committee will be an actively working committee. WBNY is looking for funding to support the coordinator and core activities.
- Candidates for the steering committee will be selected during the July 13th summer meeting.

Discussion of Flanagan/Nolan Bill

There are two bills presently being discussed in the New York Legislature that deal with measuring educational quality in early care and education settings. The Flanagan Bill (S5650-C) has been passed in the Senate; the Nolan Bill (A07591-B) is in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and since the bill does not include funding, it should be passed through the Committee easily. Then the bills will go to the Governor.

- WBNY advocated for the bills to identify OCFS and DOH as agencies with relationships to early care and education programs in addition to the State Education Department, which was originally the only state agency mentioned in the bills.
- WBNY specifically requested that the ECAC and QUALITYstarsNY be added to the bill but the sponsors declined to do so. However, the coalition is working to ensure the legislators are aware of the Cost Model and QUALITYstarsNY as existing tools available to evaluate quality and cost of early care and education programs.

Introducing the Build Cultural Competence Strategic Planning Project - Ola Friday, Jocelyn Rodriguez and Taniesha Woods

The BUILD initiative is supporting the development and implementation of a strategic plan to ensure that the standards for New York State's quality rating and improvement system, QUALITYstarsNY, are culturally and linguistically competent and responsive to children and families. BUILD technical assistance will be dedicated to more fully incorporate the Pathways to Cultural Competence Toolkit, developed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The presentation included an overview of the critical elements of cultural competence, with specific emphasis on issues relating to early care and education programs. Small group discussion at member tables focused on questions provided by the presenters. ECAC members will be contacted by the committee over the summer to seek their input and guidance. Members of the Quality Improvement Work Group who are supporting this initiative are: Cindy Lamy, Peggy Liuzzi, Kimlee Marquise and Elba Montalvo.

Next Steps:

The discussion questions will be sent to all ECAC members in the form of an electronic survey.

The presenters will return to the ECAC membership meeting in September for follow-up.

Next meeting:

Thursday, September 20, 2012; 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

Rooms 3 and 4; Empire State Plaza