

New York State Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC)

Membership Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 6, 2010

In Attendance

Bob Frawley	Maggie Evans	Denise Dowell	Elba Montalvo
Sherry Cleary	Mary McHugh	Andre Eaton	Donna Noyes
Sandy Rybaltowski	Kristen Kerr	Dana Friedman	Patty Persell
Evelyn Blanck	Liz Hood	Doris Hill-Wyley	Sherone Sanchez
Lee Kreader	Chris Deyss	Barbara Hogan	Maryanne Schretzman
James Langford	Anne Mitchell	Ira Katzenstein	Susan Perkins
Nancy Kolben	Mark Jasinski	Dina Lieser	Marsha Basloe
Rachel deLong	Ingrid Allard	Jeff Luks	Renee Nasadoski
Jim McGuirk	Liz Belsito	Maggie McGlynn	Stephanie Woodward
Denise Harlow	Arielle Bernstein	Karen McGraw	
Jenn O'Conner	Kate Breslin	Fredda Merzon	
Doris Fromberg	Pedro Cordero	Janice Molnar	

Welcome and Introductions

Bob Frawley, Sherry Cleary (co-chairs) and Maggie McGlynn (facilitator) offered a welcome to the ECAC members, recognized new staff, and asked new staff and committee members to introduce themselves. New ECAC Staff include:

- Barbara Hogan who will support the Quality Improvement Work Group and
- Stephanie Woodward who will support the Finance Work Group.

Barbara and Stephanie are expected to formally join the ECAC by early January.

Two staff members who have already begun working in their roles for the ECAC are:

- Jeff Luks who recently joined the ECAC to support the Data Development Work Group, and
- Renee Nasadoski who, after serving as the Council on Children and Families for 5 years, has transitioned into her role as the ECAC Assistant Project Manager.

The Project Manager will be hired soon.

Innovative Strategies

As an example of how early childhood initiatives in New York can be informed by innovative strategies in other states, Sherry introduced a video about Children's Movement of Florida. (Technical difficulties prevented viewing of video, which will be shown at another time.)

Early Childhood Systems Integration Discussion

Doris Hill-Wyley and Janice Molnar led the discussion on steps New York State can take to minimize the transitions that children experience in early learning programs and strengthen the continuity of services within and between systems. This related to the ECAC goal for a Coordinated and Responsive Systems. Below are the major themes of the discussion. For a more complete list of discussion points, see the attachment: "Early Childhood Systems Integration Discussion".

After a group brainstorming session, Maggie defined “Four Places to Move”

1. Using communities where QUALITYstarsNY is being/has been field tested to pilot initiatives, serve as an incubators for best practice and use information obtained to inform state policy changes
2. Building and expanding on local successes
3. Increasing parent engagement
4. Working towards integrating early childhood education with physical and socio-emotional health systems

Follow-up:

- The Regents Parent Engagement Policy will be distributed to members

Winning Beginning NY (WBNY)

Jenn O’Connor, Kate Breslin, Kristen Kerr, and Marsha Basloe acknowledged new WBNY Conveners, outlined the current direction of the coalition, and discussed WBNY’s relationship to and expectations for ECAC. The group also showed a short film *Its Our Business*, which outlines the impact early childhood education has on NYS business. The video can be found on the WBNY website: <http://winningbeginningny.org>.

New Conveners:

- Kate Breslin, President/CEO Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
- Marsha Basloe, Executive Director, Early Care & Learning Council

Current Focus of WBNY Campaign:

- Promoting QUALITYstarsNY and identifying areas for improvement and expansion within the 13 communities
- Promoting professional development within early childhood development workforce
- Ensuring that the State is able to meet the Maintenance of Effort to qualify for funds under the federal home visiting initiative
- Developing an early care and learning continuum

Relationship between WBNY to ECAC

- WBNY is able to advocate in ways the ECAC can not
- ECAC can give WBNY direction for advocacy efforts
- Efforts of both groups should be aligned to capitalize on efforts of both

Expectations WBNY has for ECAC members:

- Ensure all members are actively promoting a common message about QUALITYstarsNY
- Work towards Universal Pre-Kindergarten program becoming a truly universal and full- day program
- Become a WBNY member and promote membership among others
- Increase formal work in regional throughout NYS

Follow –up:

- Sherry will email members the link to WBNY

Transition Planning

Bob discussed a general plan to communicate the role of ECAC to Cuomo’s Transition Team. There is no specific mention of early childhood issues discussed in any of the seven policy reports. (The reports included in members meeting minutes were incomplete and will be sent out to members electronically.)

Documents that will be sent to the new administration include:

- Letter from co-chairs outlining work of the ECAC
- ECAC Calling Card
- National Governor’s Association (NGA) Report *Building Ready States Report*

Maggie led a discussion to identify what message the ECAC will deliver to Governor Elect Cuomo and his administration. Much of the discussion focused on QUALITYstarsNY. Discussion points are listed in the attachment: “Transition to New Governor’s Administration Discussion”.

Follow up:

- Bob will distribute the NGA report to ECAC members and the transition team
- Bob will re-distribute relevant sections of the Cuomo campaign policy report to members
- Bob will send his prepared letter to the new administration
- Bob and Sherry will seek meetings with key Legislator and Administration members once those members are identified

Cross Work Group Discussion

Bob introduced the process for the next section of the meeting as an integrated discussion of the framework for the Data and Finance Work Groups and how the work of these two groups relates to the other work-groups. Finance Work Group co-chairs each led a group discussion about the development of the Early Childhood Cost Model and what elements of comprehensive system need cost estimates. The Data Work Group Co-chairs led a discussion about what are the high priority program and policy questions we need cross program data to answer.

Follow up:

- ECAC staff will compile notes from each breakout session and send to the co-chairs of the appropriate committee.

Next meeting TBA