

Child Development Coordinating Council Minutes March 12, 2014

Attending

Voting Members Present: Mary Groen, Erin Clancy, Colleen Dunn, Carla Peterson, Lance Roorda, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Betty Zan

Voting Members Absent: Julie Ingersoll, Peg Macek

Non-Voting Members Present: Tracey Mavis, Tom Rendon (joined at 11:15)

Non-Voting Members Absent: Jeanie Wade-Nagle, Cathy Wheatcraft

Staff to Council Present: Amy Stegeman

Staff to Council Absent: Diane Moore

Major Discussion Points

The meeting was called to order by Mary Groen, Council Chair.

Approval of January 15, 2013 Minutes:

Mary deferred discussion of minutes until a quorum was reached. This occurred when two members joined the conference call during the Preschool Updates section of the agenda.

The following edits were recommended: 1) *Discussion on the powerpoint handout on Diversity*, change immigrant to migrant 2) CDCC Member Updates, edit Mary's update, Early Childhood Leadership State Assessment subcommittee (change to state it *includes* C4K and work with TS GOLD).

Mary requested a motion for approval of the January minutes as amended. Betty moved to approve the January minutes. The motion was seconded by Erin. Through a roll call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Program Updates: Amy Stegeman

Preschool:

- College Community has been working on an action plan to achieve NAEYC accreditation. They received a visit in February and soon after were notified that they are accredited. All preschool programs are now accredited through NAEYC and there are no other action plans being implemented.
- The final quarterly payment will be sent to the grantees at the beginning of April.
- The Shared Visions report from the grantees will be migrating to a new portal due to technology changes implemented by the Department of Education. The report submission will be aligned with the A&A account used for submission of grant applications. Erin added that the A&A account can be used for the Iowa Childcare Training Registry.
- Grantees that are not within a school district submit information for enrolled children in order for the DE to create a unique ID number for each child. Since Grantees enter child information into the GOLD assessment system, these unique ID numbers can be created by accessing that information rather than have Grantees submit the information in two different ways. Amy met with IT Department of Education personnel and there has been a 70% match of child/ID data between GOLD and DE data; the 30% without matches are being worked through to create unique ID numbers. This will reduce duplicate entry of child information for grantees.

Parent Support:

- No current program updates reported for meeting.

Legislative Updates:

Amy shared the following:

- An update was given regarding the Department initiative, Collaboration for Kids (C4K), and universal screening tools available to Phase I districts (10% of districts were selected to receive training and tools for universal screening and progress monitoring).
- 2012 legislation did not provide early literacy funding, but in 2013, funding was appropriated for providing training and access to universal screening and progress monitoring tools. Now all schools are required to administer universal screening and progress monitoring for grades K-3.
- During Phase I, districts were given the option to participate and administer Universal Screening and Progress Monitoring tools. This would impact Shared Visions Preschool Programs, if they are part of a district funded programs.
- With the new legislation, all districts will have access to the Universal screening and progress monitoring tools and the State data system; if the district is a part of the C4K initiative, they would receive technical assistance as well.

Betty Zan asked about C4K and expressed some concerns. Her colleagues have shared concerns regarding the impact state level work is having on practice in the field. She said that early literacy has been called the bully on the playground because it appears to be pushing everything else out. She is also concerned we will see inappropriate practices in preschool as a result. She described one example of current practice in which a memo was sent from a school administrator stating that kindergarten teachers were to no longer have center time, dramatic play areas, etc. It was explained that this was to make room for the required literacy blocks of instruction. Further concern was expressed that early childhood representation may not be evident on the Reading Research Center's advisory committee and it may not have adequate representation for developmental learning and education of young children. The group discussed the possible submission of a letter to the Director of Education sharing these concerns. Betty offered to provide some examples of the impact the push for literacy is having on the early childhood field. Mary and Erin offered to discuss the option of a letter from the group.

Preschool Expansion

- There was a proposed bill to fund preschool expansion, SF 2268. It was supported by the Senate but not the House; it is no longer an active bill.

Child care assistance

- Erin reported there has been proposed legislation for children to be eligible for care assistance for 12 months. She would provide more information during updates later on the agenda.

Federal Head Start update from Tom Rendon (Shared At 11:15)

- 1) The omnibus bill passed with the results being an increase in Head Start funding. The sequestration impact of last year included a loss of 661 slots for children and 85 staff positions. It is difficult to make-up this loss with the Grantees cycle.
- 2) The Office of Head Start is offering a new round of funding with the specific purpose for Early Head Start to serve pregnant women and children ages birth to three. Details of the program and funding include: full day/full year; increased parent engagement opportunity; competitive process; award with highest point value achieved; includes childcare and will have to meet HS Performance Standards for Family Childcare (ratios, space, health and safety issues). Programs will be encouraged to level additional sources of funding; Linda Smith (Day on the Hill presenter) talked about the grant and the need to maximize dollars by partnering with private and CDFR funds (cover wrap-around for quality childcare). Webinars are available to help high quality submission of applications. Nonprofit and for profit entities can apply.
- Tom will forward the map of current Early Head Start grantees and webinar opportunities.
- Tom is planning to hold an Early Childhood Childcare partnership meeting to share information and help plan for the application. Tom will contact Chad Dahm to have DHS participation in this planning and will share at the State Childcare Advisory Committee meeting.

Update on Administrative Rule Revisions, Amy Stegeman

-Information was previously sent to current Grantees and the Council regarding the Administrative Rules revisions and how to provide public comment.

-Amy and Diane have worked with DE Senior staff to make the needed revisions and address recent audit findings. Chapter 64 and 67 both needed revised to align with one another. Due to audit findings, language in the rules needed to be edited for alignment of implementation: annual reporting; monitoring; use of current language; addressing new program processes prior to continuing programs; and the use of a competitive grant process. The competitive grant process would be on a 5 year cycle and was determined to honor both the law and the need to provide support for grantees to plan for more than one year at a time. An open application process would start in FY16 (2015-16) and there would be no change to the renewal application process for next year FY 15(2014-15)

There was a short conversation regarding the next steps. Betty commented that we will need to follow Administrative Rules for criteria to award grants. Carla mentioned that the landscape has changed for preschool programs available in Iowa, especially with SWVPP and Head Start. She commented that we may want to consider this when thinking about collaboration between programs. Council members wanted to put together a group comment in response to the rule revisions and public comment period. Amy will email Code and Rule to Council members and set up an electronic meeting to discuss a group response.

Audit requirements being addressed with Rule revisions:

- Competitive Grant Process
- Monitoring of Grantees
- Reporting Timelines

Parent Support revisions

- Edits will match the Preschool Rules
- A revision was made to align with Code regarding age birth to five years; the State Board requested a priority be placed on birth to three years which was completed.

Public comments are due by April 22, 2014. A public hearing will be held that day in the State Board Room of the Grimes Building.

Changes to Application/Reporting – Result of Audit Recommendations

- Guidance is needed regarding the budget. This work is underway and we will be providing better directions to increase Grantee's understanding of the use of funds. The on-line application will have this guidance built into the form instructions.
- An open application process will be developed for 2015-16 and we believe we will use the Iowa Grants system and some components of the current renewal application.
- Grantees will need to report progress on program goals within renewal applications after FY16.

CDCC Member Updates:

Erin: A brief legislative update was provided. Wrap around child care proposals for RFP process and applications available April 9; must meet quality standards (NAEYC, Level 3, 4,5, Head Start or QPPS).

Carla – There is interest in Mental Health certificate.

Lance-Statewide Coordinated Intake System will be implemented April 1, 2014. The website will be functioning. Posting of RFP for local coordinated intake system. Virtual Home Visitor project has taken a long time. Infant structure building in the data, how the contractors can access data and report better.

Tracy - no updates

Colleen – no updates

Betty – ECI State Board meeting voted on use of Early Childhood and School Ready funds. ECI voted to establish a study group to recommend benchmarks for area boards to achieve quality standards for preschool.

Cathy W. – CCR&R has piloted and is now finalizing the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) modules for family child care. On March 12th Tom Rendon will present at a train-the-trainer session.

Jeanie – no updates

Mary – The State assessment subcommittee is working with Teaching Strategies regarding Gold duplication of entry.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn

Erin moved the meeting be adjourned. Carla seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

Next meeting: May 21, 10-3 Grimes Building

- Parent Support information – Janet Horras
- Administrative Rules updates
- Application and reporting system
- Response from Council for C4K
- Application process for Grantees

The Council determined a vote by email will be needed prior to the next meeting regarding the public comment on rule revisions.

Future Meeting Dates

May 21, 2014 – In Person, 10:00am – 3:00pm Grimes Building

July 16, 2014 – Conference Call (optional) 10:00 – 12:00 noon