



# Task Force on Early Childhood Assessment

## Meeting Notes

**September 11, 2012**

**9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**West Des Moines Learning Resource Center**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kate Bennet, Mike Bergan, Charlie Bruner, Mike Bunde, Mahlon Carothers, Cindy Chettinger, Jim Christensen, Cindy Duhrkopf, Pam Elwood, Scott Frohlich, Lou Ann Gvist, John Hosp, Kere Hughes-Belding, Leone Junck, Celeste Kelling, Gayle Luze, Scott McConnell, Barb Merrill, Kristen Missall, Jaci Pins, Stacie Prevo, Kathy Readout, Jennifer Schreck, Joyce Vermeer, Pam Vogel, Jeanie Wade-Nagel, Vickie Williams, Betty Zan, Colleen Anderson, Erin Clancy, Lisa DuBois, Michelle Hosp, Kimberly Johnson, Penny Milburn, Diane Moore, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Caitlin Suginaka, Amy Williamson

**AGENDA ITEM: Review charge and clarify expectations**

Expected Outcome: Clarify the purpose and charge of the Task Force. Clarify the legislation.	Lead: Penny Milburn	Follow Up
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**Notes:** Penny Milburn reviewed today’s outcomes, the Task Force charge, purpose and tasks.

**Our charge:**

- Recommend one statewide assessment instrument for four-year-old children in district preschool
- Aligned with the state and national curriculum standards
- Assessment instrument that:
  - May be administered at the beginning and end of the school year;
  - Measures student skills and academic growth; and,
  - Is multi-domain.

**Our Purpose:**

- Provide educators with information on the skills and growth of individual children to inform instruction.
- Provide the state and school districts with data to inform instruction and professional development.

**Our Task:**

- Study and recommend one standard assessment instrument
  - Aligned with Iowa Early Learning Standards
  - Valid and reliable
  - Study all costs associated with implementing a universal assessment instrument
  - Submit a report to the General Assembly

**AGENDA ITEM: Review survey results**

Expected Outcome Gain consensus regarding the purpose and understand current instrument usage.	Lead: Amy Williamson	Follow Up
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**Notes:** Amy provided the results of the Task Force survey. The survey was intended to seek input from Task Force members regarding the purpose statement and assessment instruments currently implemented in Iowa. In addition, the results of a statewide survey conducted by the Department were shared. This survey of district preschool programs collected information regarding preschool and kindergarten readiness assessments from teachers in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program, early childhood special education and Shared Visions preschool programs.

**AGENDA ITEM: Characteristics of quality assessment/Review established essential elements**

Expected Outcome Understanding of quality characteristics and essential elements.	Lead: Scott McConnell	Follow Up
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**Notes:** Scott reviewed the characteristics of quality assessment and established essential elements. The practical implications of assessment related to the type of assessment, decisions points based on the intended function of assessment as the domains to be assessed. The Task Force discussed and tallied their initial thoughts regarding possible function in order to guide the upcoming small group work. The power point handout is located at <http://www.wikispaces.com/t/c/2LF1q49XrE2hQpADX2HoYS>

**AGENDA ITEM: Potential elements of a review rubric**

Expected Outcome Review and understand a potential process for assessment review	Lead: John Hosp Kristen Missall	Follow Up
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**Notes:** John defined assessment as a way of collecting information while evaluation is a way of using data for decision making. He provided an example of a process used to judge assessments for the purpose of universal screening or progress monitoring for kindergarten through sixth grade. This provided an example of a rubric incorporating the practical and functional concepts presented earlier as well as the constructs described by Scott. The task force could implement a similar structure in order to judge assessment instruments based upon common criteria.

Kristen talked about the transformation of the K-6 rubric described by John to a rubric appropriate to early childhood. In modifying rubric for use in early literacy/reading to support improved early literacy in early childhood, the University of Iowa worked with the DE Early Childhood Consultants to conduct a survey of preschool teachers previously described. The survey results were used to compile information about the most frequently implemented assessment instruments. The results were shared with the AEA Early Childhood Leadership Network and the Iowa Head Start Association to collect any additional assessment instruments and affirm the survey results. A rubric was then developed to operationalize the concepts of “universal screening” and “progress monitoring” in the area of literacy development. Kristen shared lessons learned from this process.

The power point handout is located on the wiki at <http://www.wikispaces.com/t/c/2LF1q49XrE2hQpADX2HoYS>.

**AGENDA ITEM: Facilitated Group Work**

Expected Outcome Propose common criteria for assessment instrument review	Lead: Task Force members	Follow Up
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**Notes:** The task force broke into three small groups to propose criteria for each feature of the rubrics. The group work was facilitated by the assessment experts. Scott McConnell facilitated the practical features group, Kristen Missall facilitated the construct features group, and John Hosp facilitated the technical features group.

**AGENDA ITEM: Designate an assessment rubric small group**

Expected Outcome Small group will be formed to develop rubrics and review assessments	Lead: Penny Milburn	Follow Up
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**Notes:** A large group discussion was held and the following points were agreed upon by the task force:

- The small group will review **all** assessment tools even if they only assess one domain.
- The small group will stop reviewing assessment tools if information is not available on the agreed upon “must have” criteria designated in the rubric. An example would be an assessment instrument that does not cover all domains of the Iowa Early Learning Standards.

The agreed upon list of instruments for review are:

- GOLD
- Individual Growth and Development Indicators (IGDIs)
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)
- Brigance

- Dynamic Indicators of Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)
- PALS Pre-K
- Child Observation Record (COR)
- Assessment Evaluation Program System (AEPS)
- Get Ready to Read
- Kindergarten Readiness Test
- Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP)
- Work Sampling System (WSS)

The small work group suggested is:

- Cindy Chettinger
- Colleen Anderson
- Kimberly Johnson
- Erin Clancy
- Gayle Luze
- Betsy Zan
- Charlie Bruner
- Diane Moore
- Scott Frohlich
- Pam Elwood
- Michelle Hosp
- Penny Milburn
- Charlie Bruner
- Angie Squires

Parking Lot Items:

- Possibly use “needed resources” instead of “resource allocation”
- Variables that impact the quality of information gathered

DE staff will draft a rubric for the small group to review. All work done by the small group will presented for discussion at the final meeting on October, 9 2012