

Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance - Meeting Minutes

Date: January 19-20, 2012

Time: 9-4 and 9-3:30

Location: Red Rocks Community College

Attendance: Michelle Balleck, Cindy Bernal, Pat Bolton, Lucinda Burns, Emily Bustos, Ashante Butcher, Danielle Butler, Stacy Cook Phillips, Gretchen Davidson, Meg Franko, Jildi Gentry, Kristi Gласper, Sandy Gregory, Jodi Hardin, Nicol Houghland, Cathy James, Joyce Johnson, Stephanie Martin, Vangi McCoy, Lori Niewold, Jennifer O'Brien, Michael Pazdera, Janine Pryor, Jyll Queen, Sondra Ranum, Scott Raun, Cathryn Reiber, Kathy Reinhardt, Kris Robledo, Angela Rothermel, Judy Rusher, Jennifer Sanchez McDonald, Sheryl Shushan, Tracy Sperry, Jennifer Stedron, Claudia Strait, Bev Thurber, Shanna Torkelson, Sharon Triolo-Moloney, Sherri Valdez, Tamara Volz, Pam Walker

Guests:

Absent: Holly Jacobson (was ill), Margaret Wacker (on vacation)

Topic	Discussion/Findings	Conclusions/Recommendations	Actions/Follow-up
Welcome Introductions Agenda Review	New coordinators Michael Pazdera of RRRW, Michelle Balleck of Moffat/Rio Blanco and Lori Niewold from Teller/Park were introduced Agenda Review		
Executive Committee Presentation	Gretchen passed out a short report. Transition team formed nearly a year ago to look into ECCLA becoming its own non-profit entity. Executive Committee members were voted in. Stephanie Martin, Lucinda Burns, Cindy Bernal, Sheryl Shushan, Holly Jacobson, Gretchen Davidson, Emily Bustos are members of the executive committee. Executive Committee met in December and January via face to face meeting and webinar and talked about meeting schedule, filing non-profit status, etc. They also submitted a grant to the Buell Foundation to request seed money for ECCLA's development. A copy was handed out. A contact list is also included that has cell phone numbers for each of the committee members. The committee is trying to be as transparent as possible. Anti-discrimination policy is required for the Buell grant; policy was discussed. The Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council is serving as fiscal agent for this grant while the 501 (c)3 status is in process.	Please contact one of the executive committee members if you have any questions or concerns about what they are doing or to offer ideas/provide feedback.	

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Early Childhood Governance Legislation Update Including Next Steps	<p>EC Governance legislation- a history of the bill's creation was presented. Current status is that the bill has been drafted but not formally introduced yet. The bill will probably not be introduced until February because there have been several proposed amendments. Because of the number of amendments suggested, another stakeholder meeting will be held but there is no date yet. However, because the bill is coming from an interim committee, it must be introduced by the end of January. This bill is a governor's bill. He addressed it in his state of the state address. There are many issues and varying viewpoints on this bill. We wanted ECCLA to focus on the parts of the bill that pertain to ECCLA. The focus should be on the administration and oversight of Early Childhood Councils. In general ECCLA supports the bill the laundry list of issues should be locally focused.</p>	<p>There was a recommendation that someone testify once the bill is introduced. There will be an opportunity for testimony and the councils are written in the legislation, which would make the testimony a very strong voice.</p> <p>This bill is anticipated to go through the senate easily but the house is republican controlled and may not pass as easily through the house. Make sure you are talking to your republican legislators in your community to vote yes on the bill.</p> <p>If you have thoughts or ideas please let anyone on the policy committee know. That may be an easier way to have your voice heard.</p>	<p>ECCLA has drafted a letter that states that in principle we support this bill, but do have some concerns including mention of the councils. The policy committee will be working on revising that letter and getting it out to everyone.</p> <p>This will move fast so please keep up with your emails and respond if you want/need to.</p>
Committee Meeting Time Including Report Outs/Next Steps	<p>APE (Awareness & Public Engagement) Developed a purpose: To develop a strong independent voice. The Chair is Kathy Reinhardt and our 2 liaisons to the executive committee are Stephanie and Cindy. Work plan creation was started using the LSA format.</p> <p>Policy-a rich discussion about the legislation and ECCLA's position on the legislation. Going to revise the letter and get it ready for the executive committee to sign off and working on ways ECCLA can participate in the legislation. Weekly or biweekly telephone call-not just related to this legislation but any legislation that may come up</p> <p>Capacity Building-this group has several new coordinators at the table; work plan will be going out in draft form; knowledge and structure of orientation for new coordinators; what are the most important things to point out to the newest coordinators; mentorship for new coordinators and what that would look like; first Friday calls and TA were also discussed; will put up a sheet for suggestions for first Friday topics; what would March or April look like? A new coordinator orientation? Discussed the toolkit.</p> <p>Resource Development-came up with to position ECCLA...work</p>		

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	<p>plan was developed; potential funders; identified goals and identified with missions of funders; drafted MOU between ECCLA and ACECC to be fiscal sponsor; work with the treasurer to secure resources and develop procedures for cash management; looking into group rates at hotels in this area</p>		
<p>Conversation with LG's Office Staff</p>	<p>Jodi Hardin presented the comments Colorado received on its ECLF proposal review. Nine states were awarded and Colorado ranked 12th of 37 total applications. Ten points separated Colorado from the 9th ranked state. Rubric based on quality of response as well as implementation level. As of October 19 the state had to already be doing what they were talking about or they fell into partially implemented rather than substantially or fully implemented. Colorado was considered fully implemented in only one category and partially implemented in all others. Colorado had high quality responses in all but one area. Colorado doesn't have a bachelor's degree in early childhood and that hurt us in the scoring.</p> <p>Small group sessions were held to consider the following questions: Small Group Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The state plan was drafted in response to the federal guidelines associated with the ELCF grant application. What's missing? How could it be refined? 2. What recommendations do you have for prioritizing assurance areas (buckets) given the limited resources available currently 3. How do you see council coordinators participating in this work moving forward? 4. Other input? 	<p>See attached document</p>	<p>Jodi will compile these and get them to the work group.</p>

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<p>CO Children's Campaign Legislative Update</p>	<p>Jennifer Landrum presented the CO Children's Campaign 2012 Legislative Priorities</p> <p>3 years of significant budget cuts-a small reprieve this year but will still be tough</p> <p>More seasoned legislators this session-budget rhetoric is largely negative and groups fighting over scarce resources</p> <p>CCC is talking about what all kids need to be healthy, productive members of our state</p> <p>Election politics will add to the dynamics this session-much talk of bipartisanship</p> <p>Governance Bill-working hard on this; moving along in a nice direction; conversations have been good</p> <p>Bill around early literacy-opportunity for discussion about what young kids need to have them reading on grade level by 3rd grade; what supports do kids need?</p> <p>K-12-school finance partnership-came together to talk about how we fund our schools and what standards and accountability measures need to be a part of that-made significant recommendations-bill to set the framework for how the school finance act can be rewritten-framework will be contingent on revenue</p> <p>SB191 passed in 2010-teacher effectiveness bill; commission created to make the rules; state board of ed passed the rules and is now going back to the legislature for approval. It can only be approved and no revision can happen</p> <p>Health care-expanding access to both Medicaid and CHP+-continued protection and ensuring we don't go backwards; in 2010 the federal government removed a barrier to states preventing state employees from enrolling their kids in CHP+</p> <p>Gretchen heard about a bill about evaluation of kids exceeds what the federal government requires and this bill will take the assessments and make them just meet the federal requirements and spend the money left over on early childhood-Jennifer had not heard about this bill. HB12-1091 Judy Solano Savings would increase slot allotment for Colorado Preschool Program</p> <p>Early literacy bill has not been introduced yet; opportunity for us to engage and think about how we can help kids before they get to K</p>		

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	<p>Governance bill does need to be introduced before the end of January-bill will be introduced and the amendments will be added in committee; work on this bill happened after the first draft was done; amendment is significant so there will be a meeting between the ECLC and the Early Childhood School Readiness Commission and the drafters of the bill; Jennifer will let everyone know on the listserv for those who are interested in participating</p> <p>ECSR Commission sunsets this June and their work is largely done-their role in relationship to the ECLC; are they still necessary; agreed that there is some momentum around early childhood and this is not the time for them to go away; running legislation to reauthorize themselves; want to be authorized as a legislative committee; want to introduce by Feb. 1. Jennifer will keep us informed.</p>		
<p>Legislation on Working Families</p>	<p>Bill is intended to look at the child care assistance program-parents able to pay a greater parental fee but stay on the program to impact that cliff effect; smaller gap between what child care costs and what the parents are able to afford; this would be a county option; parents would have a 2 year period to stay on; stable families; stable child care; stable employees; stay on the program up to 225% of federal poverty level; counties don't like it because it would keep other children from having a slot-build a waiting list; no resources; no fiscal note attached so there is no subsidy for the program. Counties are opposed to the language stating that counties shall do this and want it to say that they may do it giving them an option of whether to do it or not.</p> <p>What would the impact be in your community and what is the cliff effect in your area?</p> <p>How does this bill not have a fiscal note? It is taking existing resources and allowing families to stay on the program. Each county would have a sliding scale to determine eligibility and the incremental increases in parental fees.</p> <p>It would be wonderful to have this once the economy improves we could implement.</p> <p>Routt county already does this. Finding that parents don't have an increase in income until the child enters school. Now have a wait list that they didn't have before.</p>	<p>Get feedback to Gretchen immediately. She will be talking to the legislator in the next day or two.</p>	

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	<p>This bill is assigned to the health and human services committee.</p> <p>What would an ECCLA bill look like (without a fiscal note attached)?</p> <p>2007 state audit of CCAP with recommendations that were never acted on-could be incorporated into this bill; takes into account cost of living; does state take back eligibility requirements rather than allowing each county to set it themselves</p> <p>How are we connecting CCAP participation with results matter and child outcomes to show that these families do better?</p>		
Business Meeting	<p>Approval of last month's minutes</p> <p>Resource Partners Announcements: Jodi Hardin is leaving the LG's Office in February; partnerships have been so much a part of her work-Jodi would like an opportunity to share with other state partners tomorrow so this news is not public until then Welcome Stacy Cook Phillips Lead State Staff Assignments-have been shifted with the addition of Stacy to staff; several members of the state team are assigned to a number of councils to work with to provide assistance; a new updated list of assignments has been posted; lead state staff do quarterly check in calls with the coordinator for the councils they have been assigned Race to the Top Update K-12 system-key message is that while there is not an explicit early childhood focus for this those who already have strong relationships with their school districts may be able to provide assistance in early childhood; 4 years 50% will go directly to districts; other 50% supports for districts for local plans; district level focus-standards implementation (standard start at preschool); educator effectiveness (what does that mean for EC educators?); STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Unified Improvement Plans-going through a similar process to the LSA; many of the plans we read last year importance of early childhood but not sure what to do about it. Joyce sent out the latest version of the Scoop with more information about this. External Committee Involvement Reports: ABCD-report sent via email; Trish Blake sent the report & Cathy</p>	<p>Motion to approve? Motion was made by Bev and 2nd ed by Sandy. Vote was made and minutes are approved.</p> <p>Connect with your local school districts to see how you can help with UIP and RTT funds.</p>	<p>We will send out information as it becomes available about when districts are getting this information.</p>

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	<p>forwarded-funding for regional technical assistance from CO Health Foundation</p> <p>EC Summit-report sent via email; policy group; twice a month meetings during session; Lucinda sent out her notes</p> <p>Help Me Grow-report sent via email-all the information was in the report; rfp went out will go through CDPHE and the maternal & child health department; core team has been working behind the scenes; work will move forward after the rfp has been awarded</p> <p>Framework in Action/State Partners-report sent via email; Feb. 29 in the morning is the next meeting</p>		
<p>Grant Application Q & A</p> <p>LSA process</p>	<p>Joyce and Scott answered a series of questions related to both the grant application, and the Local Systems Assessment information that councils submitted earlier in the month.</p>		<p>Send your questions to Scott or Joyce via email and check the CDE website regularly for updates to Q&A</p>
<p>Collaboration Survey Results</p>	<p>Small group work</p> <p>Three questions:</p> <p>1. What's working?</p> <p>Constant feedback</p> <p>Opinions are valued & treated with dignity</p> <p>Work well together</p> <p>Meetings are successful with small group discussion and the sense of accomplishment after ECCLA meetings</p> <p>The idea of support-shared leadership and shared value-moving into a new structure</p> <p>Represents lots of positives that are happening; recognize response rate was lower due to many things-believe next survey response rate will be higher.</p> <p>Feedback; valued; positives; networking</p> <p>Check "H-election" to allow advocacy; moving in the right direction; people feel respected; structure & collaboration; what about yellow? Stepping up into leadership roles; taking on a more formalized structure; networking/small & large group time; we have come a long way; leadership has grown</p>		

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	<p>2. What is the basis for the concerns raised? Process issues Lack of clarity on our identify-what are the decisions we make (we are not really a “formal” collaborative) Stakeholders have agreed on what decisions will be made by council coordinators & stakeholders State decisions are being made that we have no control over (example legislation); Early Learning Challenge Fund; people could feel like they are being told what to do Authenticity subscale section needs to look at how question is stated; locally that question is hard because communities are charged to make decisions; Is it about ECCLA or relationship with the state? Were responses on new ECCLA or on how things were before? Is this tool the one we should use? Not feeling like they are heard; questions asked today (confusion)-consistent with low score on consistency and decision process; not true collaborative-will change as move forward; new coordinators training/orientation Lack of clarity regarding roles and our decision making process; partnership with the state is confusing; not enough resources; trying to cover too much in a single meeting, meeting different purposes; inability to be nimble; agenda and meetings need to be clear & thoughtful; a discussion of the purpose of ECCLA; separate grantee meetings from ECCLA membership meeting?</p> <p>3. To what degree will some of the recent changes improve or make worse some of the concerns being raise? Executive Committee is a real plus Changes are being made to address lack of clarity, hope this will improve Confusion about ECCLA meetings, Primary contacts for specific questions related to agenda, location of meeting & parts of meeting Introduction/orientation packet for new coordinators There is only room for improvement Beginning to be able to make decisions; trust in what we set up; too early to evaluate; stronger ECCLA becomes less</p>		

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	<p>state staff will; Good baseline-good to get one before we're too successful</p> <p>As we move forward with Governance structure and ECCLA Exec 501(c)3 work; more structure in ECCLA-policies to support</p> <p>Make sure TA component stays in place; provide opportunity to hear what others are doing; grow leadership & participation; need someone at Capitol to advocate; committees lined up with our strategic goals; committees have authority to act; focuses the work</p>		
Committee Updates	<p>Policy-revised the letter of support for the legislation; will be sent to the executive committee for approval and will then be sent to the appropriate stakeholders; how to keep people updated as these things will change quickly and we will not be meeting again until March; we will have conference calls where coordinators will be able to join in if they want more information or to stay involved</p>		
Volunteers for March meeting breakfast	<p>Bev & Pam for Thursday Jennifer, Judy and Kathy for Friday</p>		
ECLC	<p>Jennifer Stedron presented information about the Early Childhood Leadership Commission's annual report, which was presented at the capitol earlier today. She also presented information on the work of the Lt. Gov's early childhood staff:</p> <p>The needs assessment county presentations will be uploaded to the toolkit by the middle of next week. These are the presentations that you helped design. The early childhood cost model will be coming out in February or March. We had a goal to make it as locally specific as possible. Many of those decisions are not made at the state level. There should be the opportunity for local people to plug in information so that if you know your own costs there will be a way to put that in.</p>		<p>Make sure we let Jodi know the impact she has had on your work.</p>

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Open Space	Topics Discussed Success Indicators-Angela What Legislation would look like-Gretchen LSA Goals Process-Meg & Claudia Wildcard-open discussion		
Written Evaluations	Written evaluations will be done after every 2 day meeting so that we can continually improve.		