

Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance - Meeting Minutes

Date: March 15-16, 2012

Time: 9-4 & 8:30-3:30

Location: Red Rocks Community College

Attendance: Michelle Balleck, Cindy Bernal, Pat Bolton, Stacy Buchanan, Lucinda Burns, Emily Bustos, Ashante Butcher, Danielle Butler, Stacy Cook Phillips, Gretchen Davidson, Heather Dubiel, Meg Franko, Jildi Gentry, Kristi Glasper, Sandy Gregory, Holly Jacobson, Cathy James, Lisa Jansen Thompson, Joyce Johnson, Jo Koehn, Jennifer Landrum, Stephanie Martin, Vangi McCoy, Lori Niewold, Jennifer O'Brien, Michael Pazdera, Janine Pryor, Sondra Ranum, Scott Raun, Cathryn Reiber, Kathy Reinhardt, Kris Robledo, Danielle Romero, Judy Rusher, Jennifer Sanchez-McDonald, Sheryl Shushan, Tracy Sperry, Claudia Strait, Bev Thurber, Sharon Triolo-Moloney, Tamara Volz, Margaret Wacker, Pam Walker

Guests: Bruce Atchison

Absent: Shanna Torkelson, Sherri Valdez

Topic	Discussion/Findings	Conclusions/Recommendations	Actions/Follow-up
Introductions	<p>Introductions including a brief update from each council coordinator which could frame open space topics and will be captured on flip charts.</p> <p>Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with 1451 and CPP Child Care Labor Law New coordinator Hosting first conference would like to talk about that Pyramid Models 2 types and how they meet How to engage the business community more in our council Miscellaneous discussions with Scott Shared services Professional Development Plan 		
President's Update	<p>Site visit with Buell Foundation-group met with Susan Steele and one other person about the grant submitted for around \$15,000 for some initial operating costs. They wanted to know the vision for our group and how are things going to be different moving forward. Would funding ECCLA impact funding for individual councils? How do we articulate what ECCLA is and how is it different from 30 individual councils. They will go to the board of trustees to determine if funding will be approved. The group gave information to be presented about what ECCLA is. They talked about the impact of ECCLA as a whole as well as the impact of individual councils. The next deadline is May 15 so we should know by the beginning of May. Gretchen is optimistic but they did ask some tough questions.</p> <p>Organizing of the documents for the 501(c)3 to legally formalize ECCLA. Mission</p>		<p>Continue evaluation feedback.</p> <p>Continue to communicate to each other so that we know if we are headed in the right direction.</p>

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	<p>and vision will be discussed tomorrow morning and it is really important to talk about this now as we are beginning this process. Please participate as much as you can even those who haven't been here very long. We need your feedback. Thank you for your continued feedback on the meeting evaluations. It is really important to get that information. There have been some questions about relationships lately and we want to briefly talk about that. Executive committee has a draft for what the roles are for executive committee and roles for state staff and what roles overlap and what is the same and what is different. It would be easier to send this out and have you look at it. We are all in this together and we want it to stay that way. When we represent ourselves at ECCLA we want to feel like we are speaking on behalf of everyone.</p>		<p>Don't be afraid to talk to your executive committee members if you have questions or concerns about things that are going on.</p>
<p>Colorado Children's Campaign Legislative Update</p>	<p>SB130-Early Childhood Governance bill; passed out of senate health & human services committee; at the hearing the strike below amendment was approved and accepted; did several things including calling the office the office of early childhood; created a new division called youth and community development where the Tony Grampsas program will reside; at the hearing several amendments were added to the bill: one clarified funding that has already been awarded through grants and contracts and those would stay in place; other amendments moved the ECLC back to the LG's office.</p> <p>HB1218-bill that would extend the early childhood school readiness commission-the messaging about early childhood this year is the notion that state and government programs are trying to take over the role of parents- parents are a child's first and best teacher; passed 8-5 with minor amendments and is sitting in house appropriations; fiscal note \$29,000+ for legislative services to take over the committee. Gifts, grants and donations would staff the commission but those never came in; having it be a true interim commission would mean having it staffed by legislative services; the down side is that the legislature has typically 5 interim commissions and depending on how many are proposed ledge council meets and they make the decisions about how many they are going to fund. If it isn't chosen to be funded would that be the end of it? Jennifer is not sure and she is going to look into it. Make all of the 10 legislators members of the ECLC.</p>	<p>Danielle forwarded some information for you to pass on to your stakeholders; some legislators may need to be reached out to for an extra push; call your own senators as a constituent to support the bill- Jennifer has a message you can use;</p>	

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	<p>HB1276-child care licensure material waivers-passed out of the house unanimously and has moved to the senate health & human services committee; what is the difference between this and what centers are currently able to do? Really, nothing. How it is communicated and tiny line about waivers and appeals process and standard operating procedures will have rules promulgated for it. Sets forth that the department can choose who will be on that appeals panel and must include someone from the child care community as well as a parent.</p> <p>HB1273-child care tax credit for children with very special needs; campaign is monitoring this closely; adds a new group to get the tax credit; facility schools affiliated with hospitals for kids who cannot participate in school settings; it seems to be moving along; introduced in the house and passed and is sitting in appropriations; does have a positive hit to the general fund-the fiscal note is odd; expressed concerns about opening this and that if things begin to go awry it will be pulled</p> <p>HB1238-literacy bill- did pass 10-3 was in appropriations 3/14 and passed and will be headed to the house; repeals the current CO Basic Literacy Act and rewrites it; level of kids reading at grade level by 3rd grade; began as a retention bill; has evolved into a way to provide teachers with supports to help students who aren't reading on grade level and intervene appropriately; includes parents in the development of a READ plan for struggling readers and decisions about how to help</p> <p>SB1222-bill that works to mitigate the cliff effect for families to transition off CCAP; amendment created a pilot program rather than mandating it; increasing amounts of payments for families to transition off CCAP; child care will eventually still become unaffordable for families-needs to be addressed at some point; calendared for next Tuesday 3/20 at 1:30; Gretchen is testifying for the Arapahoe Council; this is a work bill to help people get back to work and still afford child care</p> <p>Is there any talk about the long bill in terms of cuts? The long bill is not out yet. The March revenue forecast is out Monday, March 19 and that will drive the discussion. During figure setting discussion is what happens around child care and the budget within CDHS. CCDF has 3 parts mandatory, matching and discretionary. The discretionary is going to be cut around 20% or so.</p> <p>Kids Count will be out March 27 at 11 AM with a press conference inside the state capitol. We are hoping many of you will be able to attend so that we can have a large early childhood presence. We are trying to tell a story about why</p>		

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	<p>Colorado has such a high cost of child care. Jennifer would like feedback about what was missed and what else they need to look at in terms of early childhood data. The increase and large numbers of children in poverty is a concern and something we need to keep talking about. Created a child well being index in this Kids Count and the largest 25 counties are ranked. Children's Campaign has a new map that is about self sufficiency and how much above federal poverty level a family needs to have to meet their basic needs. Jennifer will find out how and when she can share that with us.</p>		
<p>Waiver Process</p>	<p>Gretchen presented an overview of the waiver process and history, beginning in 1997 when the councils were pilots. Some examples of past waivers include the CPP count date was October 1 but there was not enough time to determine needs and the date has now been officially moved to November 1. Over time, however, the use of waivers has declined; there have been only 2 waivers written in the last several years, and the waivers were around director qualifications.</p> <p>There was also small group conversation at the tables about things that you might write a waiver for.</p> <p>The waiver process changed and the waivers now go to the LG's office for approval. Also the waivers come to ECCLA first for an internal review that allows others to see if it is something they want to join in on or if there is a reason why the waiver shouldn't be pursued. Walk through the application for a waiver and think about a rule that is a barrier; why it is a barrier and how the waiver could help remove the barrier.</p> <p>In the past when enough of the same waiver was submitted they looked at changing the law or rule/regulation. It wasn't just if all councils (or a certain number of councils) submitted a waiver but if the waiver made a positive difference and did no harm they would change it... 90% of all waivers were granted and 50% became law. Only 13 requests were denied and most of those were around group size.</p>	<p>We need a list of current waivers. We need a list of waivers that have time limited themselves.</p> <p>There was a report written on Barriers and Waivers , which is available on the CDE website</p>	<p>Gretchen will send out the list of waivers.</p> <p>We would like to create a process for ECCLA to vet waivers. Is that an okay topic for May's agenda?</p>

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Success Indicators	<p>Meg Franko, EC Councils evaluator, presented information on the process of establishing common success indicators. First step in the process focuses on the rationale for having common success indicators across the state. Some key points from the presentation:</p> <p>Collective Impact-shared measurement system is a key component of collective impact</p> <p>Goals and success indicators appear in the areas of service, availability, accessibility, and quality.</p> <p>Additional questions to consider in small group conversations:</p> <p>What is a local benefit of identifying common success indicators across the initiative?</p> <p>What is a statewide benefit of common success indicators?</p> <p>Group then broke into two lines and shared their responses to the questions above. Line rotated so that everyone had a chance to speak with a different partner.</p>	<p>Common themes identified:</p> <p>Common messaging about EC Councils across the state to stakeholders</p> <p>More than “feel good”, the data will have practical implications</p> <p>Capturing uniqueness as well as commonality</p> <p>Access to measureable data</p> <p>Being able to gauge progress, increase the level of impact (statewide impact, rather than just local level)</p> <p>Increased shared accountability,</p> <p>Identify training needs</p> <p>Combine data for better analysis for future grants Flexible enough to measure local level, but still common across the state</p> <p>Menu could be generated by indicators that councils have already identified.</p>	<p>Meg would like to take this list to state level stakeholders, and also ask them to participate and determine what data can easily be integrated into what is already being collected. A list of potential invitees will be created that coordinators can review and recommend additional invitees.</p>

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CO Early Learning Partnership	<p>Bruce Atchison presented information on his work with the CO Early Learning Partnership. As a result of the listening tour, he is making several recommendations, some of which follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and distribute a toolkit on how to proceed with a local ballot initiative • State and private sector should partner to develop a long-term strategic plan for addressing the training, funding and availability of quality infant and toddler care • Seek statutory or regulatory change as necessary to standardize eligibility requirements • Re-evaluate the county designation formula and consider using cost-of-living data to group the counties by regions. • Re-design the Child Care Automated Tracking System (CHATS) • Develop a mechanism to connect early childhood program professionals to the local school/district to ensure smooth transitions and reduce duplication. • Increase funding to CPP incrementally to serve more children each year, eventually to a full .75 PPR • Encourage local school districts to merge their CPP Councils with the local EC Council where appropriate and desired. • Create a coherent state dept of early childhood, or an office of early childhood within CDHS in collaboration with CDE • Regionalize the Child Care R&R agencies, and where the infrastructure is in place, channel the dollars from the state to the local ec councils. • Change legislation so all children are required to enter school at kindergarten instead of first grade. • Encourage all school districts to provide full-day kindergarten and work with state legislature to make funding of full-day kindergarten a reality 		PowerPoint presentation will be distributed to coordinators.
Business Meeting	<p>Approval of last meeting minutes- not on website yet; will need to get those out ASAP</p> <p>Resource Partner Announcements</p> <p>External Committee Involvement Reports:</p> <p>ABCD- tomorrow</p> <p>EC Summit- Bruce's & Jennifer Landrum reports covered</p> <p>Help Me Grow- no report</p> <p>Framework in Action/State Partners- Lucinda discussed the last meeting and the future of the group</p>		

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ECCLA Vision and Mission	<p>Proposed process is that a small group will wordsmith the vision and will send it out for final approval vote by email. A vision statement paints an inspirational picture of what you want the future to look like. Current snapshot: We envision an early childhood system that positively affects the lives of young children and their families in Colorado.</p> <p>Brainstorm: as many things as possible</p> <p>Meg chart paper has sticky notes</p> <p>At tables come up with one or two statements per category.</p>		
Open Space	<p>Collaborative Management Program (1451): outcomes are specific and you choose them; there is a grant cycle; depends on your goals; goals set around issues around older kids; safe exchange and custody; goal work groups in Pat's community; early childhood people probably aren't the best to lead but are a good resource to be on the board</p> <p>CPP-screening and how you can create a community system for CPP kids but also include other entities in your community; ASQ is a nice, inexpensive tool; Fremont County had to change their community wide screening tool which was scary but ABCD came and did a presentation and helped them to make sure the screenings weren't being duplicated and making them more comfortable with the new screening process; ABCD is really helpful; electronic tracking of screening is coming to prevent over screening; we are very interested in the numbers of kids who are screened-we aren't seeing duplication because we ask them to ask if the child has been screened and if so when; screening went up 300% in the last few years but we don't know the numbers of kids being screened.</p> <p>Pyramid Plus vs.CSEFEL model-growing division across the state and concern about the sustainability and cost of being involved; Larimer County has done extensive work in the past 2 years on community wide implementation; identified clear trends of where gaps are and are addressing the gaps; targeted interventions</p> <p>Professional Development-individual PD plans; strategies so that IPD plan isn't filled out and then filed away and never used-help people take ownership; this is the front end of what a professional workforce registry would look like; a wonderful idea to take to the board</p> <p>Shared Services ELV-how each of them are doing different things to implement it in their community; talked mostly about implementing; getting funding through MHUW; challenge is that everyone at the table had a different understanding of what is available; feeling unclear about what they are getting in each community</p>		

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Committee Work Plans	<p>Resource Development-basically determining how much money it will take to get a 501(c)3 off the ground and to hire an executive director</p> <p>APE-logos being drafted; meet via webinar and at ECCLA; Cindy & Stephanie are on Executive Committee; Spitfire Strategies is doing a seminar for us on branding at CO Trust</p> <p>Policy-do have a purpose statement to develop and implement a policy agenda for ECCLA that includes...(I didn't get it all in). Develop a policy agenda to include research and writing for everyone to use. Found that we spend much time talking about hot topics and always something new and urgent during session. Have not been able to get passed issues of great urgency to work on the policy agenda. Ask that someone in the committee step forward to lead development of the agenda. Investigate the information Jennifer shared yesterday about money moving into youth corrections. Next steps to put pressure around what does happen when there are reserves and how that money moves. Resuming the Friday calls to keep people updated LEGOS (legislative message so pay attention).</p> <p>Capacity Building-two areas of focus; 1 structure of ECCLA that supports its members-some is not in our control; the first Friday calls and the Toolkit are examples-we can offer feedback-1 working with EC to incorporate bylaws 2 develop the language to support ECCLA in applying for foundation funding 3 be a resource of what structures work for us; 2 knowledge-how do we as a group share information; do have new members and that is a big need protocol for identifying new council coordinators for initial support; what that would look like; what a council coordinator needs to know; resource lists of sites and connections they need to make; put it in a packet that is sent in entirety to a new coordinator; mentorship or welcome wagon for new coordinators attending a first meeting-have someone greet them and introduce them to key individuals; we are all as powerful as each other-we each have unique expertise and knowledge and it would be wonderful to create a small paragraph about each member describing strengths and knowledge base</p>		Send electronic version of work plans to Sheryl

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<p>ABCD & Maternal & Child Health Update</p>	<p>State level and local level logic model and action plans have been developed; have been great resources for linking and aligning programs; implementation teams have been set up. Next phase is moving into planning for local health agencies and implementation; training last Wednesday with local health partners; 10% focus on MCH priorities and medical home priority; 20% year 2 and 30% year 3 and so on. Medical home priority emphasis on early childhood-systems building through a health lens; huge emphasis on partnering; reach out and they will be reaching out to you as well; required between now and July to develop 3 year operational plans; year 1 of the plans begin October 2012; EC Councils are mentioned in the plans and it is listed as a requirement to partner with the council; frame your health integration work; take advantage of the opportunity</p> <p>Strengthening and defining partnership with ABCD; CDPHE has begun providing funding directly to ABCD shifting resources into more local support; developing a policy agenda around developmental screening; a variety of policy issues we could be better addressing; developing a data system to track screening; we don't currently know how many kids are getting screened; building a priority around pregnancy related depression; many of you are doing great work around screening and early identification; development of local health action plans-huge push at first to get providers to screen; evolved over time into a coordinated system of care; defining roles and responsibilities; defining and laying out a referral road map-thinking broadly; Eileen listed staff and the roles they have at ABCD; can provide facilitation between you and health providers; profiles of expertise and interests-community profile and data profile everyone can access; going to have a referral list; a top 5 list of providers not doing screening; data profiles will be helpful; recognize that ABCD started 5-6 years ago knocking on provider doors and asking them to do screening; recognize that communities have a large role in facilitating a shift from just doing physician outreach to sharing what works and systems building; most exciting thing last week was hearing repeatedly the desire to hook up with council coordinators</p>		<p>Contact Heather Dubiel at CDPHE if you're interested in being on an implementation team.</p> <p>Easter seals has a national campaign about Is Your State Helping Kids Thrive on awareness of early intervention and raise dollars states get for early intervention-go to the website for more information;</p>
<p>TA and Next Steps for New Coordinators</p>	<p>Stacy Cook-Phillips presented information on the value of professional networking; purpose-intentional method of connecting professionals for mutual benefit; what is linkedin? (what is linkedin youtube video); benefits-increasing awareness and communication between stakeholders; streamline work you and your council need to get accomplished; expedite information sharing. There was also some conversation on using facebook vs. linkedIn;</p>	<p>Stacy will do a survey about networking</p>	<p>Stacy's presentation will be shared with coordinators.</p>

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Written Evaluation	Breakfast Sign up for May Thursday Claudia Need one more volunteer Friday Pat Bolton Sandy Gregory		Please fill out and return the evaluation