New Mexico Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)
UNM Continuing Education Building – Room 123
1634 University Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87131
January 15, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was Call Order by Barbara Tedrow, ELAC Chair, at 9:14 am.

Welcome and Introductions:

Committee member (in person): Ray Jaramillo, Elizabeth Beers, Crystal Tapia, Amanda Gibson, Kimberly Johns, Olga Valenzuela-Zavala, Barbara Tedrow.
(Via Zoom): Andy Gomm, Shannon Rivera, Alejandra Rebolledo Rea,

Quorum Established
Audience introductions

Meeting Minutes from November 28, 2018 (Public Comment Sign up Opens): Elizabeth makes motion to accept minutes from November 28th. Crystal seconds. Motion passes.
1st change to bring public comment – Open up Public Comment earlier on agenda

2nd open up the discussion – Discussion on agenda items- will first be discussed by ELAC members but will solicit comments or ‘expertise’ from audience, then public will be given opportunity to raise hand to comment or discuss items on agenda or have input. First time trying this.

Business

Legislation Bills/Review/Discussion (bills that pertain to Early Childhood) -nmlegis.gov

Barbara discussed the effect of Minimum wage increase as one of the bills, explaining that the higher wage will put participants in a higher bracket not meeting income eligibility requirements for child care assistance which in turn participants may not meet guidelines and not qualify for child care assistance.

Barbara Tedrow, Early Care and Education Provider - ELAC Chair
Ray Jaramillo, Early Care and Education Provider - ELAC Vice Chair

Guest Speaker: Katherine Freeman NMECDP (New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership and United Way of Santa Fe). Will discuss Senate Bill 22

Barbara – Let me explain Senate Bill 22, it is to create an Early Childhood Education Department, Early Learning bills under CYFD. Take existing Early Childhood agencies and make its own department with its own cabinet secretary.

Katherine – We are here to talk about the creation of this Department and take it out of the four departments as it sits now. Two important things I want to point out are as I traveled throughout New
Mexico the bill as the bill reads combined missions for consistency and predictability to protect and maintain own mixed delivery system. In addition, PreK programs sponsored by Public School systems and licensed providers.

- Advocate for early learning policy
- Establish a platform
- Policy prospective (Power Point) - NM large and diverse state - the themes are common from the focus groups that were held across the state (regarding the Early Childhood Business Plan)
  1. Create a Department of Early Childhood
  2. Do Strategic workforce development and planning
  3. Expand early childhood programs with quality

Overview of the Senate Bill 22 (Summary and Key Details)

- Align and fund early childhood programs.
  - PED – NM PreK
  - CYFD – NM PreK, Home Visiting
  - DOH – FIT, Families First
- Pre-K from PED to come to this new department.
- Providing a continuing of programming for children from birth until kindergarten.
- Coordination with head start to avoid duplication.
- Accountability for early childhood programs
- 2.5M one-time appropriation.
- Amends Home-Visiting Accountability Act.
- Endorsements are robust - support from the commerce and Industry, Albuquerque and Santa Fe Chambers.
- Re-establish Children’s Cabinet

**Barbara Tedrow - Any questions or comments from ELAC committee?**

*Barbara Tedrow – If passed, will the act supersede Pre-K Act?*

*Katherine Freeman – Bill itself opens the NM Pre-K Act, because it does not state # year old Pre-K in the act, to establish the 3 year old into the NM Pre-K Act*

Andy Gomm - Why ELAC was struck from the legislature, the language in bill related to ELAC didn’t know if there were intentions to not continue with ELAC. Replaced by Children's Cabinet?

Katherine Freeman – Not in the picture to get rid of ELAC. ELAC is really important.

Andy Gomm – ELAC under the Governor Executive Order not put in the statute as its own bill, its concerning if ELAC is out.

Katherine Freeman - The length of the Bill is to simplify the bill and there was a consensus to have ELAC separately.

Andy Gomm – Is there an advisory council for clarity and public accountability, maybe have a section that spells out ELAC so the department knows there is a body to support.
Katherine Freeman – Happy to have this conversation

Barbara – We need to decide as a body today to propose to add this to the bill

Ray: Are there other states that have something similar

Katherine Freeman - yes, 3- Massachusetts, Georgia and Washington. Senator Morales working hard on this bill.

Ray- very excited about this bill- he met with new governor. She does not like the term “mixed delivery” and is against adding another department. How do we get the public to support this bill?

Katherine Freeman- Governor has said she in support of creation of the department. Stated in her inaugural address

Kate- signing up people- add newspaper, blasting out emails, calling the legislators. Have their voices heard in the Roundhouse. Build a list for people to call legislators. Mixed delivery model is working around the state, it works for working families. No one wants to take away the option from families and hurt kids because of enrollment issues.

Katherine Freeman- craft an email blast, we can send to Barbara or Ray to send out to ELAC constituents, or get everyone’s contact information from the sign in sheet to send out email blast.

Ray- You can follow this bill on the website www.nmlegis.gov and follow prompts to help you find it.

Ray- How does PED feel about this legislation?

Katherine Freeman- talking with Unions, it is a complicated conversation about the PED issues. It is likely to be a bill- New Mexico Now Bill- has not been filed and using mixed-delivery- and all 3 years old will sit in CYFD, and 4 year Pre-K will sit with PED. We oppose this bill; the partnership opposes this bill, because it does not meet the needs of our Early Childhood families.

Ray – How does it relate to funding?

Katherine Freeman – We are not in finding land right now, this new partnership will accommodate any funding source, In the words of Claire Dudley-Chavez, “All funding, all the time”. If the constitutional language is correct.

Kim – Being in public schools there is a funding concern and delays of funding.

Ray – Can it satisfy both sides?

Katherine Freeman – Yes

Barbara – Brenda “Can you elaborate or do you have comments?”

(Request input from audience member Brenda Kofahl– Pre-K program manager for PED)

Brenda- Lots of changes with new administration. PED is working with interim secretary Howie Morales. Title 1- Look at funding for this and how?

Kate – Special Ed, General Ed and Title 1 will not be disrupted. PreK funding will be a different department channeling these funds, to school PreK programs
Brenda - Teachers have different needs, are we going to meet the mandates, and why FOCUS is not in there? Is FOCUS being dropped?

Andy - It will take amendment- transitioning the Children’s Cabinet, issues of quality.

Katherine Freeman- Children’s Cabinet will be very robust

Alejandra- One of the recommendations, DOH can coordinate with Health Services and we have to make connections that those pieces don’t go away. To re-align the pieces, look at consultation and health and safety...transition does not create disruption in services for family and our community.

Ray- read mixed delivery definition on the bill - “The mixed delivery programming means provisions of Pre-Kindergarten programs to an equal distribution of funds to programs administered by the public schools and other programs licensed by the department.”

Katrina – On ELAC, we do have Olga who is the Head Start representative. Every state in the fifty states has an Early Head Start collaborative director mandated by federal alliance performance standards. All states have this, region 1 to region 12. Olga is region 6 under federal guidance.

Barbara – I recommend that Kate pass out a signup sheet for email blasts (signup sheet circulated)

Andy Gomm – ELAC taking action on the bills? In terms of no time to review bills, Katherine can go back and say, how ELAC is supportive of this bill is such a strong statement. More active on ELAC’s part.

Barbara – ELAC is now taking a better stance to support or not support. Do we as an ELAC body want to change wording before or after?

Barbara – Go through the bills, ELAC pro-active approach; go to Santa Fe to lobby for or against.

Ray – Send a Representative from ELAC to stand up and say as a council we are for, neutral or oppose.

**8 BILLS**

Legislative Bills affecting Early Childhood

2. House Bill 134 – Rep. Liz Thompson – Community Schools, Use Title 1 funding for school statewide
3. House Bill 152 – Rep. Patricio Ruijloba – Any children in foster care, decide with CYFD the benefits of continuity of care remain in district
5. House Bill 222 – Senator – same as Senate Bill 173
7. Senate Bill 202 – Senator Cisneros – Databank (same as HB 173)
8. Senate Bill 230 – Senator Mimi Stewart – Pre-K Classroom Facilities initiative – Establishing and adopting Pre-K classroom standards

Ray – Talked about House Bill 160 – Rep. Doreen Gallegos – Child Care assistance guidelines change from 150% to 200% federal poverty level.
Barbara – We are done reviewing, decide as ELAC where to stand
Alejandra – I am a state employee, I cannot vote
Barbara – Start at house joint resolution, do we need to discuss the bill or vote?
Crystal – Do we just state yes or no or neutral?
Ray – We could choose to table, set up another date to ask more questions and/or hear from others not just our interpretations
Katrina – I recommend that you table it the reason why, we want to make sure these are on the ELAC agenda
Barbara – 60-day session will end before the next scheduled ELAC meeting
Katrina – To make sure we are following policy
Ray – We could actually invite people to ask questions to vote, I am hesitant to vote now anyway.
Alejandra – Legislative committee meetings start slow, if ELAC wants to participate they have to take action in a public setting
Barbara – Do we table every bill or make a decision now? ELAC and Senate Bill 22, we could add wording to the bill that ELAC is an entity.
Crystal – I motion that we vote on both.
Andy – I second that.
No oppose; Motion passes
Barbara – I will contact Rep. Dow and Senator Sapien to get input to see if they would sponsor a bill on reenacting ELAC. Set a second meeting agenda item for Senate Bill 22
Ray – Contact sponsors of bills to answer questions
Katrina – Agenda does not state that we will vote on these bills, it needs to be listed on the agenda for the public to understand, and want to participate and listen to that vote
Andy – Where are you getting that from Katrina?
Katrina – The Open Meetings Act, right in front of me
Andy – You have to say what action you are going to take.
Katrina – It has to say on agenda that the council will vote; it needs to be open to the public
Alejandra – action item needs to be stated
Barbara – Propose a next meeting date
Katrina – In the last minutes for ELAC next meeting April 10, 2019
Barbara – Emergency meeting

Motion for January 29, 2019 at 10:00 am

All in favor; passed

**Governor’s New Administration**

Barbara sent email to invite them to speak and meet ELAC members

Brian Blalock – Cabinet Secretary for CYFD

Lt. Governor Howie Morales – PED Cabinet Secretary Designee

Kathy Kunkel - Department of Health

Marianna Padilla – Children’s Cabinet Liaison between Departments

Andy – We have to submit a revised budget to feds, awarded 5.4 million. Working with ELAC to help guide this, aligns well with ELAC goals.

Public Comment – There wasn’t any signups for public comment

Barbara liked the interaction between public and ELAC

Amanda makes motion to adjourn, Elizabeth seconds; motions passes.

**Schedule of future ELAC meetings**

April 10, 2019

August 7, 2019

November 6, 2019

**Meeting Adjourn at 1:29 pm**