



**NEW MEXICO EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
(ELAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**June 23, 2016**

**UNM Continuing Education-Room 123 / 1634 University Blvd. NE – Albuquerque NM**

Meeting was Call Order by Erica Stubbs, ELAC Chair, at 9:05 am. She welcomed the participants and thanked UNM CE for the use of the space. A reminder given to sign in, and public comment worksheet was in hallway to sign up.

Roll was called for the meeting. Present: Shannon Rivera (zoom), Michael Weinberg, Elizabeth Beers, Erica Stubbs, Larry Langley, Heather Vaughn, Franz Joachim, and Barbara Tedrow (zoom).

Excused: Andy Gomm, Rebecca Dow, Ray Jaramillo, and Janis Gonzales.

Quorum established at 9:13 am by Erica Stubbs.

Community introductions and officially welcome Michael Weinberg to the Council.

Motion to approve March 24, 2016 meeting minutes.  
Larry Langley/Elizabeth Beers. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

➤ **Race To the Top “Early Learning Challenge” (RTT)**

**Kathy Ytuarte, RTT Project Manager**

- Status report
  - Six projects focusing on grant.
- 60% of grant money spent, but have been mindful of expenditures to ensure goals for the grant are met. Moving forward with all projects.
- Data Project-
  - 2016 contractor is E-Scholar
  - Data Mapping and looking at PII- PHI ensuring meeting guidelines for confidentiality.
  - Unique ID-ECIDS- Overview: Pulling data from across all early learning programs. Enable informed decision-making about programs and policies. Identify short and long-term outcomes of early learning interventions for continuous improvement in programs.
  - What does Unique-ID do? Creates and assigns ECIDS IDs for children and staff who do not have one. Matches and filters (does not include names/confidentiality) once cleared, stops, and the child has a Unique ID.
  - Three agencies that will be pulling data, filtering and matching ID’s and with the testing got 2000 near matches.

Approved 09.22.16

- Certain elements will be filtered with matching numbers, this will go into the consolidated warehouse.
- Questions at PED, CYFD, Public and Governance are being very mindful of the types of reports that are going to be requested.

### **Questions**

**Larry: Does that follow the child all the way through the education system?**

Yes

**Erica: Will this number be used at the child's school for their lunch number etc.?**

No, this number will be used for the child and will not be attached to a name or the child's identification.

**Larry: Is the intention to use this number for when they get in the PED?**

Yes, it will be Unique only.

**By using this identifier, what is the earliest they get this identifier?**

From Birth (including a mother who is pregnant or a child who does not have a social security number).

**Larry: Scenario: We do not really have data to show our progress. If the child has an identifier it will follow the child through the educational process, but are we going to be able to identify lot of students who are not actually going into a program?**

Yes, children will be identified through the home visit program and then when the child is seen again at a center (pre-k).

**Can we say that from the time they were born can we identify them again at age 5?**

Yes, that is the analytics part of it. We can pull that aggregated data out.

**Michael: When you are assigning the ID at earliest you can, where is the biggest push back in getting every child with a Unique ID?**

We are working with the three agencies and when we do these extraction files, they know that they want good information and own their data.

**Larry: With the Unique ID will the department of health start assigning ID's?**

Currently, the unique ID's are part of the Early Learning System for DOH, PED and CYFD.

### ➤ **Presentation Continues**

- Sustainability: Create a high level plan that sets goals, identifies strategies, establishes planning approaches for each component which includes seeking additional future funding, maintaining and expanding upon relationships developed under the initiative and strategies to cultivate alternate funding and community collaboration.
- Annual Performance Report – This was a well-written report that highlighted great progress made in New Mexico in year 3.
- No Cost Extension- NM will be submitting “no cost extension” July 2016. The “no cost extension” will be thru December 31, 2017.

## **Further Questions**

### **Erica: What are you submitting for extensions?**

Right now, it is in draft form, we do not have specifics on which RTT Projects will be extended.

### **Michael: What is the sustainability plan, what are some of the broader categories for the ongoing expenses?**

We are going with the same intent as Rhode Island. This includes the answers to the following questions: Who do we get involved? What have we spent? Where do we go from here? It's part of strategic planning for all of the projects.

### **Michael: What about recurring expenses? What are we currently spending on that we will need to pick up?**

We will have to get together with all of the agencies and figure it out.

### **Michael: ECIDS Project, there is a lot of upfront cost. Is this a new thing and do we need funds to sustain this?**

We have purchased 19 servers, so we would need a full time position to sustain the servers.

### **Larry: Why are we hiring a professional to say how much money we need, etc.? Why can't we just say what we need, give it to the analyst, and do it?**

There is more than just the analyst part of it. When looking at other RTT plans, there is more in depth and engagement of all the stakeholders.

- **Larry:** From the business point of view, it seems wasteful to hire someone to tell us what we need. I do not understand why PED and CYFD will not ask for money for these things. It is important to have a good data system. It is imperative that we have it, and RTT has been the trigger for this and has been what has made this thing work. Suggestion, please go back and see if you can just ask for the money to get this done.

### **Erica: Regarding the Data Governance group, who represents and serves on that?**

Data Governance is in house which includes Data Coordinator, CYFD, Department of Health, and PED. They represent the policies and procedures.

- **Erica:** I would like to see someone on the governance council who is not internal.
- **Kathy:** I will take this back to the group to request someone else on the data governance team.

### **Franz: If someone is looking for information or query can they get it from the ECIDS?**

Researchers, schools, anyone can request information.

- **Motion:** The motion is that we recommend to the Race to The Top committee that a non-state employee representing the state of NM is added to the data governance council.
  - **Amendment:** We recommend they expand the data governance to outside the governance committee.
  - **Larry Langley/Franz Joachim;** all in favor. Motion is carried.

➤ **New Mexico Early Learning Aligned Quality System FOCUS Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System – New Mexico State Cross Sector Leadership Team**

**Alejandra Rebolledo-Rea, CYFD**

- Creating an Aligned Cross Sector-Focus/TQRIS
- We do not want to be 100% dependent on the grant, we will be sharing resources to continue improving the system. We would like one system rather than five. The purpose of the FOCUS Cross-Sector State Leadership Team is to:
  - Identify and define the quality elements that are essential for the NM Early Learning System across sectors.
  - To examine how the sectors may develop a common quality framework that can be articulated and measured, monitored, and or supported:
    - Consistently across sectors to benefit children, families, program leaders, early childhood educators, practitioners, and early childhood service providers.
- Background
  - This work is challenging, it requires more than agreeing to a set of standards or definitions, but reflecting on current practices and potentially changing some aspects of each sectors' ways of working to ensure continuity across the early learning system. This takes time.
  - Important work has taken place that has informed this process.
- The Cross Sector Leadership identified Aligned outcomes
  - Long-Term Outcomes for Children and Families
  - Long-Term Outcomes for Early Childhood Professionals and Programs
  - Long-Term Outcomes for New Mexico's Early Learning System
- Essential Elements of Quality
  - Family Practices and Engagement, Inclusive Practices, Culture and Language, Promoting Positive Social Relationships, Professional Qualifications, Intentional Teaching and Early Intervention Practices, Intentional Leadership: CQI
- CYFD Focus Update
  - There are currently 275 programs in Child Care Focus.
  - The following verification numbers are updated as of 6/16/16
    - 3 star – 68
    - 4 star – 22
    - 5 star – 8
    - Total Verified = 98
- The FOCUS/Early Learning Institute took place on Monday June 13 with over 300 early childhood professionals participating from across the state.
  - Aligning PreK/Preschool Criteria with PED- Child Care Star 5
  - Refining Home Visiting CQI-Onda Process (ripple process)
- DOH Update
  - 33 FIT Early Interventions Programs
  - 8 participating in the IFSP QRS pilot
  - 5 participated in Cohorts 1
  - 3 in Cohort 2 of the Video Demonstration Project
  - Focus pilot and roll out plans revised
- PED Update
  - FOCUS Participation
  - Special Education and Title 1 Preschool programs: 32 School Districts
  - New Mexico Pre-K Programs: 54 School Districts and 5 State Charter Schools
  - 30 School Districts Receive FOCUS monthly consultation.

## Questions

**Barbara: As a provider we have brought up the problem that it is an all or none for teacher qualifications. What is coming of all the concerns where we can do accreditation and follow an 80% rule?**

We will be getting back with you to share a proposal that will work for you, we are looking at September.

**Barbara: Will we have an answer by September?**

Yes, when everything is clarified, everything else should be done so we can move on.

**Heather: FOCUS, how is that being set up between PED and CYFD has that gone away or what is the shift?**

It continues to be a rating of preschool criteria for alignment. The STAR system is still in place as a start of the Tiers. The childcare is still with Star, DOH is still STAR level and we are still working as far as the preschool level.

- **Brenda Kofahl:** We have not made any decisions as far as the tier systems. The quality level was based on pre-school standards. We are looking at some type of compromise so CYFD can use the same as PED pre-school. Working with SPED and Title 1 are receiving monthly consultation. We do not have a finished criteria, but hope to have it done before the school year.

**Heather Vaughn-For the criteria pre-k standards are strong and very meaningful and still the cornerstone with everything we are doing for pre-k children.**

**Brenda:** We continue to encourage through incentives.

- **Heather: Can someone with a special education license teach in an early childhood classroom?**
- **Brenda:** Yes, they can and we continue to provide professional development and training.
- **Heather: Are the trainings mandated?**
- **Brenda:** Yes, they are and for Administrators.

**Michael: When you were talking in the way you move up in the tiers, why aren't we using something like CLASS the observation tool to determine the likelihood of a program's success?**

**Alejandra:** The feedback we got is that CLASS alone does not ensure to measure the individualization for each child. It will not measure what we want to measure. The CLASS and the ERS can be used for assessment and will be used randomly to verify the system.

- **Erica:** Head Start uses CLASS, but it is a complicated assessment and there are other tools that make more of a thorough packet.

## ➤ Kindergarten Observation Tool

**Joe Manley, Public Education Department**

- Timeline
- Training by the Numbers
- Administration of the KOT
  - Kindergarten teachers are now using the KOT in their classrooms and using the KOT Application to submit data.
  - K-3 Plus teachers will have one week following the end of K-3 Plus program to submit final ratings.
  - The KOT must be implemented within the first 30 instructional days.
- KOT Connection to Readiness
  - Readiness is comprehensive and multi-faceted.

- There are three intertwining threads that comprise the concept of school readiness in New Mexico.
- The Capacity of Schools to Educate all Children
  - The following four principles must be in place for schools to be ready to educate all children.
  - School Responsibility, Professional Development, Expectations for Children, Family Engagement

**Questions**

**Heather: School Readiness definition, re-invite that motion of school readiness, and what does that look like. They (teachers/community) do not have their mind wrapped around the idea of school readiness to have a common language.**

Joe: We are looking to extend our contract to address/finish/redefine the definition of readiness and evaluate cut scores and evaluate levels of readiness and how it relates to the readiness definition.

**Heather: We would like to keep the child present in our thinking and our planning and I think the KOT is at the for front to making that happen. Is there discussion of standards for social emotional aspect of children? How KOT can play a role in addressing that?**

The KOT will hopefully open the door for those conversations.

- **Brenda:** I am working on training teachers on this process to provide pyramid training because we know that the social emotional aspect is so important. This is one of the areas we are looking at and extending.

**Larry: Other than the professional development piece, what other tools are you offering?**

Online tools and putting in plans for follow up consultants.

**Larry: Are there any types of interventions?**

Schools already have interventions they are using, but we are putting together a toolkit and it is in the process.

**Larry: Do we know how this will affect how ESSA is involved?**

There is a group at the PED who is directly going to look at this.

➤ **Town hall meeting dates-Finalize**

**Erica Stubbs, ELAC Chair**

- Scheduled: Roswell Public Library Thursday July 28 4p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
301 N. Pennsylvania St. Roswell, NM 88201 (Bondurant Room)
- Who will be able to attend from council members?
  - Larry Langley

➤ **Announcements**

- Larry: The Business Roundtable will be meeting this summer regarding education and early education. Summit is in November, which everyone is invited. First meeting is July 12. Hope to come to consensus on many issues.

➤ **Public Comment**

No public comments.

➤ **Upcoming Meeting:**

- September 22, 2016 Location: UNM Continuing Education

Motion to adjourn public portion of meeting.

Heather Vaughn/Larry Langley. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourns at 11:33 a.m.