



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

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2017

Albuquerque, NM – UNM CE Room 123

Meeting was Call Order by Erica Stubbs, ELAC Chair, at 10:43 am. She welcomed the committee and thanked UNM Continuing Ed ECSC for hosting the meeting.

Roll was called for the meeting. Present: Shannon Rivera (Zoom), Elizabeth Beers, Heather Vaughn, Andy Gomm, Erica Stubbs, Janis Gonzales, Michael Weinberg, Barbara Tedrow, and Alejandra Rebolledo Rea.

Quorum established at 10:50 am by Erica Stubbs.
Agenda review and community introductions.

Motion to approve April 10, 2017 Minutes
Elizabeth Beers; Barbara Second. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Memorial 23

Erica

- ELAC Study – how to provide communication of early childhood education throughout the state.
- Michael chairing sub-committee. Barbara, Shannon and Heather on sub-committee.
- Senator Campo involved in creating a scope of work.
- Committee intends to conduct interviews of other states on how funding is created for early childhood development and then present to legislature.

Annual Report

Erica

- Annual report has been published and is located on CYFD website.
- ELAC will be looking closely and following upcoming legislation. Meeting with legislators in order to be prepared to be more proactive on any legislation/bills.
- **Andy** – it would be important for committee to look at what other states' successes and pitfalls.
- **Andy** – be an informative action on what is happening in early childhood education so as to not be on the defensive.

- **Erica** – what our obligations are as a committee and talking to our communities throughout the state.
- Focused on what early childhood education looks like for the future.
- ELAC Sundown in June 2018; how will ELAC transition.

FOCUS, Pre K and RFP

Alejandra

- Impact our programs are having through feedback from families and consultants.
- FOCUS and Pre K were getting conflicting information and it has been frustrating to the communities and very unproductive.
- RTTP ended December 31, 2016. The department is wrapping things up and garnering lessons learned from the project.
- November ELAC was informed that CYFD will be integrating their approach to services. A Request for Proposals was issued by the department and the bid deadline is 3:00 pm today.
- The RFP is aimed to have one entity ensure the system includes recruitment of programs so that all childcare providers get licensed, childcare reimbursement, tier quality rating system for future funding, validation across levels and in general, streamlining the process.
 - Evaluation committee meeting next week to review proposal.
 - Preliminary Finalists will get more clarification and determine if they are over/under budget.
 - Legal department to have final review.
 - Award will be made in August.
- In the meantime, FOCUS and reimbursement is not ending, Aim High taking over, transition plan is Star Two and not lose what programs have gained thus far.
- Priority Verification happening in July/August – teams have a list of programs to verify.
- Programs that need licensing or training will work with the Licensing Department which will provide an extension to allow for training.

Pre K:

- Pre K consulting programs will cease after June 30, 2017. There isn't any more Pre K funding. A procedures letter was sent out to programs explaining what is happening to the program. An orientation will be conducted by CYFD explaining the philosophy and expectations.
- CYFD will provide training for Pre K teachers in math, sciences and language literacy.
- CYFD and PED will work together with programs for verification so there isn't a disconnect.
- Social/Emotional programs will continue to support children in custody.
- Infant and Toddler programs working to share resources.

Questions:

Barbara: Explain mentorship better. How will the new vendor work with CYFD?

Alejandra: You will have 1 consultant helping with the FOCUS Criteria and Pre K classroom.

Barbara: I will have 2 consultants?

Alejandra: No, 1 person, but visits may vary depending on needs.

Barbara: Who will be my consultant until the vendor is identified?

Alejandra: Monica Archuleta will be your liaison/monitor.

Barbara: When will programs be notified?

Alejandra: This week consultants will be notifying programs if they haven't already.

In the next two weeks it will also be posted on the NMKids.org website. Letters and Newsletters will also be sent out and posted on the web site.

Barbara: What level does the PED system go to?

Teri: PED has no monetary value in Star ratings. We use a quality rating with Exemplary being the highest level using it at the classroom level then by school.

Barbara: Since FOCUS is based on a point system – will everyone who applies get funded?

Alejandra: There are 2 projects and we have a higher need than money. There is currently a waiting list. We have \$750K to continue funding. Depending on the need there will be a priority system using points.

- PED has consultants – there will be a meeting for public school Pre K about the FOCUS criteria after July 1, 2017.
- The alignment of services will be stricter; continuously talking and maintaining consistent systems.
- The Training & Consultation HUB, ELAC, Resource & Referral, Home Visiting and the PullTogether.org all remain the same.

Public Comment/Questions

- With regard to the culmination of Cross Sector – are there future meeting plans?

Alejandra: Stepping back at this point due to the RFP process. The goal is to resume in the next fiscal year.

- Is the PED and CYFD 5 Star rating system the same?

Heather: The teacher qualifications are different for PED. PED requires licensed teachers only.

Alejandra: We recognize that there are those that aren't at a 5 Star level but we are working to get everyone to that level.

- Does the ELAC committee offer any direction on legislation or governance?

Erica: We provide advice, pros, cons and unintended consequences for early childhood governance. We also know that legislation that doesn't pass will often come back needing some tweaking and we provide advice in that regard.

- **Katrina:** Michael, can you give the audience an update on what the “funders” group does that you belong to?

- **Michael:**

- There are 9 foundation groups that meet on a regular basis.
- We have met for a few years and we coordinate our funding efforts, essentially pooling our money and making grants to grantees that have an impact on early childhood and families throughout NM.

- Example of recent grant: Was made to a single awardee – UNM who designed a long-term birth control publicly available.
 - Another example: Grant was made to several awardees to make some noise around legislation time advocating to increase home visiting
 - Our group also designed a survey, of sorts to ask the early childhood community what issues are important to them. Response was limited, however policy priorities of the governor candidates was an issue that we determined as a group we could provide insight for those candidates that they could possibly implement into their platform plan. A clear spending plan for EC is unresolved.
- We have so many families experiencing trauma and very complex issues which are taking a toll on providers as well. How is the committee addressing training and consultation for the providers working with traumatic family issues?
- Alejandra:** Infant mental health is being addressed in consultations.
- Consultants are providing information and resources to programs/teachers on how to manage social/emotional issues of children and families.
 - CYFD is bringing the FAN system into Home Visiting
 - Establishing systems and tools on how to refer/access mental health resources.
- Janice:** We don't have a mental health component.
- Beth:** We now have Infant Mental Health Services within Home Visiting which has always had reflective practices as part of core.
- Andy:** We need a system where people can make referrals – somewhere to refer Consultants/teachers when we are out of our depth. Infant Mental Health Association may be able to help.
- Beth:** We received funding and we are struggling with getting referrals for Infant Mental Health issues. Infant Mental Health has had a profound affect on Families, as well as education.
- Alejandra:** The department is targeting families showing a high need and the way we have figured out who is high priority is through a tiering process in Home Visiting services. We are also working with Neonatal Intensive Care Units at UNM, Presbyterian and Lovelace, as it has been established that babies who are born in the NICU have a higher risk of child abuse. So we are working with Home Visiting, FIT and Neonatal to be more proactive/responsive to to those families at higher risk.
- Barbara:** How do I get help for my teachers regarding mental health issues?
- Alejandra:** Firsts, call Katrina. Second, there will be a consultation system online for mental health issues. I would like to thank the consultation team for a phenomenal job they're doing.
- Member of Audience:** Everything the state is doing moving towards a positive direction in supporting teachers, consultants, families and especially children.
- Rachel:** NM Kids – Resource and Referral has a NM Crisis Access line which refers people to resources.
- **Baji – workforce development.** NAYEC has honored teacher scholarships for early childhood workforce. We have lost Race-to-the-Top funding so we have less money for scholarships. However, we are accepting applications.
- Erica:** Do you give scholarships across the state?

Baji: Yes. There is a map of all the Teach Scholars throughout the state showing all Counties.

Alejandra: Are there scholarships for Home Visiting?

Baji: Teachers, Home Visiting, Early Intervention and licensing staff.

Katrina: Is the NAYEC Annual Report on the web site?

Baji: If not we will get it on today.

➤ **Dana** – Working on a Home Visiting collaborative with LANL to share data on how many families have needs or where there are gaps in home visiting. The information is posted on CEPR.unm.edu.

➤ Is the Race-to-the-Top Sustainability Plan complete?

Andy and Katrina:

- The Policy and Equity Group sent out surveys which deducted information on FOCUS – true comparisons of professional development.
- Meeting with consultant next week and will have final time frame of sustainability plan.
- Survey revealed: FOCUS professional development was high, social/emotional training high.
- The accomplishment and challenges will be used a framework for next steps.
- Governance and communication will be incorporated into the work of ELAC.

➤ **Janice** – Is there identified funding for the ECIDS (Early Childhood Integrated Development System)?

Alejandra: The system is already in place at PED and is funded. ECIDS will use the same platform with their support staff. The biggest expense is the development but should be ready by December and will be the current structure as is, due to cost.

Michael motions to Adjourn, Second Heather. Meeting adjourns at 12:45 p.m.

Next Meetings:

- August 3, 2017, Town Hall/Española, 11 am lunch, 12-4 ELAC, 4-6 Town Hall
- September 28, 9 -10 am working meeting, 10 am – 1pm Open Meeting
- November 30, 9 am – 1pm