



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

**Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2015**

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

Meeting was Call Order by Erica Stubbs, ELAC Chair. She welcomed the participants and thanked UNM CE for the use of the space.

Roll was called for the meeting. Present: Dan Haggard, Franz Joachim, Larry Langley, Barbara Tedrow (ZOOM), Rebecca Dow, Erica Stubbs, Ray Jaramillo (ZOOM), Shannon Rivera, Heather Vaughn and Beth Beers. Janice Gonzalez to arrive around 9:30 am.

Quorum established at 9:17 am by Erica Stubbs.

Motion to approve June 25, 2015 meeting minutes.
Beth Beers/Franz Joachim. No discussion. All in favor. Motion is carried.

Public Comment Opened

Announcements:

- Larry Langley - The Business Round Table has three positions on the Early Learning Advisory Council. A new Chair will be elected at the December 1st meeting. There is a vacancy in ELAC under this category and the Acting Chair has appointed someone to ELAC, but at this point, the Acting Chair is waiting for the outcome of Legislative Session coming up in January, this is a 30-day session and ELAC is up for re-authorization.
- Heather Vaughn – the last Town Hall meeting will be held November 10, 5:30-7:30pm at WNMU in Silver City.

Update: Race To the Top “Early Learning Challenge” (RTT)

Jamie O’Malley – presentation on RTT Early Learning Challenge (Kathy Ytuarte, RTT Project Manager via telephone to answer any questions after Jamie’s presentation)

- Communications Project: Launched earlylearningnm.org includes information of early learning programs, ELAC information and monthly newsletter.
 - Website is under redesign to enhance its functionality, updates will be announced in the November newsletter.
 - Monthly newsletter promotes exciting project updates and early childhood cross sector events.
 - Each article has contact information or drives people to web site... exciting community connections have come from the web site.
 - Contracting with a Communications Manager who will be reporting on RTT related meetings and events.

There were some questions from the members:

1. Larry: Where are we currently as far as data infrastructure?

There is a Request for Proposals for the data warehouse closing on Oct. 15. There were about 13 vendors interested; there have been technical meetings and a pre-proposal conference will take place Sep 25, 2015. The goal is to have the contract in place with the selected vendor by the middle of December.

2. Larry: Are all of the data costs being incurred by RTT dollars or will there be additional costs that need to be addressed to get it completely rolling and support it after RTT dollars are gone?

Right now all expenses are covered with RTT funds. The ongoing sustainability of this project will be discussed with the RTT Executive Leadership and determine the level and availability of funding needed after the grant ends.

3. Larry: Any idea of the ballpark figure? Reason asking is that it is good to get the ball rolling even if you don't know the entire amount and make the legislature more aware of what is coming and why the ability to actually get that kind of funding in a budget versus the set-aside bill.

At this point there is no specific information of the costs for sustaining this projects once it is fully functional. There is staff in place already to do the work, the sustainability plan will include ongoing projected costs.

4. Larry: Data warehouse will be housed at CYFD or PED or somewhere else?

The data warehouse will be housed and staffed at PED.

5. Rebecca: When are sustainability plans due?

It is the goal of the RTT Leadership Team to develop a sustainability plan before the end of the year. The team is doing an evaluation of the status of each project, this includes the possibility of requesting a one year no cost extension.

6. Erica: What are priorities for extension if you get it?

The RTT Leadership Team including Project Leads are involved in the evaluation of each project and determining the need to extend based on the status of meeting the deliverables.

Update: Race To the Top "Early Learning Challenge" continued – Kindergarten Observation Tool

Joe Manley-KEA Coordinator-presenting on KOT (Kindergarten Observation Tool)

1. Erica: KOT project status?

The project is being piloted in schools throughout New Mexico, a video made and there are some adjustments that need to be made. The project has received positive feedback from teachers. The video on YouTube and also on the NM Early Learning website.

There are 40 districts participating, both, large and small, all different areas geographically and also have 10 of 20 charter schools participating in field test, over 350 teachers, 7,000 students are using the system. Data collection measures working and application was built within three months.

We have had a few issues as far as technology. APS has over 100 teachers participating.

In general, positive feedback about this being the tool of the future and getting us the information.

2. Erica: Timeline for teachers to get data to you

Teachers can still record on paper and have until Oct 15 to turn in final ratings.

There are two important deadlines: 30-day observation window coming to a close. Window to reflect on data and put it in application. Reporting system is working great. At state level all the way down to the student. Work with districts on who needs access to district or school level reports.

3. Erica: What is intention with data?

Field test- data collected will be reviewed & analyzed by WestEd. At state level what kinds of trends are we seeing? Where can we offer more support? What domains could we use more training on? If struggling on this indicator, what kinds of resources can we provide to teachers across the state to get students up to speed on that indicator?

The goal is to have a report from WestEd by April. Collecting another round of surveys and focus groups.

4. Rebecca: Will the system compare data collected by KG teacher with the first 30 days with what PreK teacher collected and then compared to the exit assessment at the end?

Since the system will eventually be housed in one place, we want to facilitate communication between PreK and K. Joe mentioned he was a KG teacher for 6 years, and in his opinion, there is disconnect between PreK and K teachers. He talked about hosting joint trainings to get PreK and K teachers in the same room. Thinking of comparing the data, have PreK in UNM and K at PED and eventually be in the same place.

- Heather stated Joe has done an incredible job managing the project, there has been very positive feedback- teachers who are going through a shift and teachers celebrating a shift. Early childhood educators see children first and then as students. As we move forward going to be a lot of need for professional development, as some haven't been in field long enough. Some came through school in NCLB era, when emphasis was different. Heather indicated that she is very happy to see this come forward, as the state has tried to align PreK with K and this will help, we want our children in high quality programs and entering high quality programs as well. This data is going to be used for our professional development piece and will ensure we meet the child needs.

5. Heather: Biggest concern from teachers is, whether or not this process will be part of the teacher accountability system? What do we need beyond educational piece to provide support for families--- health, home visiting, etc.?

It will never, ever be tied to accountability for teachers.

- Larry stated that as a business person, kudos to Joe for doing things in such a great way. Suggested he should get in front of LESC and LFC to tell his story, it would be great to get in front of them with a great story like this.
- Joe mentioned that at end of August they had a federal monitoring visit, and the federal team encouraged everyone to share these stories on earlylearningnm.org site.

Logo for ELAC

Franz Joachim – presentation on Logo for ELAC

- A contest was held last winter early spring out to all the districts in the state, there were a number of responses.
- The tag line was “Never Too Young To Succeed”. The winners were both from Deming High School - Ray Stubbs and Evelyn Lopez. It was aired on all three stations around state, for about two months.

What PBS Early Learning Project

Franz Joaquim and Laurel Wyckoff, Education Outreach Manager, PBS.

Four primary prongs:

- Kindergarten readiness – value of programs, engage parents in communities how to use tools, go to PBS kids lab web site, there is a bilingual site as well.
- Attendance – teamed up with Mission Graduate for attendance campaign, strong PreK component to attendance, series of spots airing, bus panels.
- Grade level reading – give away lots and lots of books, 7 hours of broadcast have curriculum attached to them, many dozens of books recommended to go along with the programs some are broadcast & some only live on line, all of it is based in literacy. All of games and activities have apps associated with them. Franz stated that it is important for children to have safe platforms to go, they aren’t encouraging parents to plop their child in front of TV set, especially before 3 years old but to support engagement in a variety of different ways.
- Summer learning – Launch to Learn, partnering with COA this summer. Worked with staff of 10 to 12 CDCs in city, word girl camps, over course of 6 weeks during the summer. Busy this week entering data from passports, it started with 15,000 passports to hand out, got another 5,000 and ran out. Pretty sure we want to engage with this again next summer.

Questions:

1. Heather: Was “Launch to Learn” only piloted in ABQ?

Yes, kind of came out of mayor’s office, it could probably be replicated in other areas.

- It became a bus voucher as well. Could get passport to use public transportation in ABQ.
- We will see what data comes out of this. City has interest in drawing in people from outside city too.
- Primary funder is the city and United Way with a little bit of funding from CPB.

2. Larry: How could this organization get the word out, schools always say no?

There’s the fear of having kids in front of a screen, it is tool and tool can be used poorly or well, this is appropriate way to have kids in front of a screen.

- Resource is not being used to its capacity. Resources used to educate parents about screen time.
- Constant gripe about rural NM, the information is divided, they have TV and can access PBS.
- 95% of homes have access to free over the air signal from PBS
- Public Square public dialogue, a lot of Public Square has to do with that discussion. Done programs on early brain development, and early learning, grandparents raising grandchildren.
- One of things missing in dialogue is state agencies.

- Not appearing on these programs.
- Bring broad range of people to talk about particular use, if anyone is invited to Public Square, please accept. It surprising how often I see that after a Public Square how that issue comes up in the newspaper and the TV news.
- Laurel is out there in community meetings finding out what the issues are that NM citizens are concerned about.

Town Hall Portales, NM on August 27th

Erica Stubbs, ELAC Chair

- Took place at ENMU campus, there were 9 people from the Early Childhood community, college professors, TTAP community, a couple of providers, and a woman who had been a provider.
- Majority of meeting talked about priorities of ELAC and they connect to rural communities:
 - TTAPs were vocal about the need to focus on rural communities; the resources are so different in those communities from others.
 - Trying to set up an infrastructure system, it doesn't really exist for them. As we move forward, they want us to really think about when we talk about an infrastructure or reduction number of TTAPs that, it really wasn't a strength, it stretched resources very thin.
 - Very appreciative of the Inclusion Specialists that came to work with TTAPs.
 - TTAPs themselves talked about how hard it was to get people to engage with them. They stated that time is needed to development relationships.
 - Encouraged us to continue to think about those kinds of systems, to be careful because we are spreading it a little thicker in those rural areas and it takes time to drive from place to place.
 - Education System – some conversation about Higher Ed Task Force and what they we doing, view early childhood as an education system. As people are encouraged to go into education, rarely are they encouraged to go into early childhood. People historically think of K-12, early childhood isn't really considered on same level. Get people to start thinking of birth through at least grade 12 and think of it as larger system.
- Heather stated that people want to know where info goes after each meeting. She proposed to put together a report with some common themes seen across all the rural areas, so we can send report out to communities.

Motion to do a summary report of Town Hall visits add it as part of the executive summary report. It can go on earlylearningnm.org web site.

Heather Vaughn/Franz Joaquim. No discussion. All in favor. Motion is carried.

Child Care Policy Summit

Rebecca Dow and Baji Rankin – Presentation

- Handout is on NMAEYC web site under Advocacy- Report of child care policy summit.
- So much excitement about Early Childhood in New Mexico for the last 5, 6, 10 years there is lots more funding.
- We are seeing rapid expansion of programs; Home-Visiting, FOCUS, child care.

- They held a summit on Aug 29th-Grace Reef and Cindy Cisneros from CED came to support us. The Secretary of CYFD, Monique Jacobson, was able to join us as well as Steve Hendrix, Deputy Director for Early Childhood Services. Secretary of CYFD talked about mission of CYFD, to enhance the wellbeing of children of New Mexico. Talked about the importance of strengthening core programs in CYFD, CHILD CARE is a core program for CYFD she said, it serves so many children. This year, all the attention on FOCUS itself increasing quality of child care, reauthorization of child care with emphasis of seeing it as support for parents and educational service as well.
- Steve Hendrix talked about work CYFD is doing. Grace Reef talked about what other states are doing.
- 50-60 people spend afternoon working on these recommendations. There is a commitment to working on increasing quality of child care, where so many children and families are served.
- Want to bring to ELAC's attention- as other programs expand at a more rapid rate and they expand with funds to compensate at higher rate based on education, those staff coming from early care and education programs there is no equitable pay. Funding is not there to sustain them in child care setting and the millions of dollars the state has spent on quality of child care is for naught because there isn't compensation for child care educators.
- Over 70,000 children in child care across state, 20,000 in state subsidy. Need to pay staff an equitable wage, provide them incentives to stay.

Incentives Program

- Incentives program got started as pilot with small grant from Bindle and United Way and now we have state funding as well, we have been able to take it statewide.
 - Incentives is a pay supplement program so teachers with additional education get pay supplement. The more education they have, the higher the incentives... 225 across the state now.
 - State money passed in the 14 legislation session and more in 15 legislation session so we could continue to increase this year.
 - Chain of 5 centers in Las Cruces... lost 21 BA teachers to HV programs and others... no longer FOCUS compliant, no longer 5 Star at any site - due to pay and benefits.
1. **Larry Langley:** asked if they have looked at regulations: what could be done to deregulate to make centers more productive?
 - Rebecca - Obviously, the NMCCEA are private. We do have Head Starts, public schools, independent owned profit organizations that would like less regulation.
 - In FOCUS standards where there are prescribe standards, it is expected to attend a 6 hour course on Saturday that is not relevant, the state is paying for someone to do training and for someone to attend the training.
 2. **Larry Langley:** - What are some of those things that this association could say or do to support this? Safety first, yes. Yet are we being ridiculous and putting you out of business because of regulation.
 - Shared services is also a way to save money.
 - Larry: Business Roundtable to sit down with both of organizations and define how this can be funded, how do we look at all those components and make sure centers don't have to close? If we can get business people and legislators, and organizations together. So that we can correct the issues we have in our state.

3. **Ray Jaramillo to Baji:** “I have a teacher who received Incentives, she was offered a job outside the field... The Incentives program helped her financially to be in the field that she wants to work in. Not only do I benefit as director, but the children are benefitting as well. We have to do everything in our power to make sure the program stays there. I see work of Incentives program working daily... It is an amazing thing”.

Use New Logo on letterhead

Erica Stubbs, ELAC Chair

4. State agrees that state logo shouldn't be on top of letterhead, we're really not the State of NM, and we are ELAC.
5. Vote to start putting our logo on our papers. State logo should be under the ELAC logo. This logo will go on letterhead, agenda, minutes, and other things like this.

Motion: to implement the new ELAC logo on all official documentation.

Franz Joaquim/Janis Gonzales, all in favor, motion carries.

Annual Report

Erica Stubbs, ELAC Chair

- A group of ELAC members has been working on the annual report. There is a subcommittee that will make recommendations to the whole council. Will not be given to the public because not everybody in the committee have seen it.

Initial three priorities:

- Accessibility to high quality programs
- Improve school readiness
- High quality early childhood workforce

10 minute break to review recommendations was given.

Recommendations:

- Initial recommendations that can be refined
 - Specific recommendation- have HV administrators work with CYFD HV staff to determine if home visits needs to be in home or not.

Questions, concerns, request for Strategic Plan of Recommendations:

1. **Heather: Cost analysis report, this will be needed for baseline information. What are costs? How has compensation been provided?”**

Discussion time will be set aside to cover this in our next meeting.

2. **Rebecca: What is timeline for filling in specific recommendations?**

Once it is approved, be date stamped and cover letter to all cited entities. Once that happens, we can come up with additional details. Can move forward with other recommendations, within a week of it being approved.

Motion to approve Annual Report as presented

Beth Beers/Larry Langley all in favor, motion carries

Erica will notify once it has been sent out.

Other Comments: Reauthorization of ELAC

- Ray indicated concern about what Larry said that ELAC might not be reauthorized. Some discussion that the topic needs to come up.
- Larry-ELAC will sunset, ELAC was authorized for 5 years in legislation. Children's cabinet, they could be an option. Larry indicated that he has not heard any solid desire to reauthorize. Sunset June 30 of next year.

Discussion on whether document is enough to justify for reauthorization. Suggestions to get reauthorization:

- Ask Early Childhood community to support ELAC to get reauthorized.
 - To find champion for reauthorization.
 - If ELAC could continue to oversee RTT implementation, the sustainability and accountability pieces.
 - Get in front of LESC, let it be their legislation. They are in Silver city this week and back in SF in Oct or Nov.
- Dan stated the biggest motivations for reauthorization for many federally funded initiatives is they are required to have an advisory group, such as ELAC. The Federal government is committed to alignment of systems.

Higher Education

Shannon Rivera – ELAC Liaison to the New Mexico Higher Education Taskforce

- Mission of task force is for 2 year and 4 year institutions to come together and talk about how we are preparing Early Childhood work force.
- Last meeting, the group had a practicum subcommittee, funded through The Thornburg Foundation. They are looking at field experience and practicums in Early Childhood degree and strengthening quality of them.
 - Have an articulation agreement between the 2 year and 4 year; have everyone provide the same quality educational experience. That they can transfer across the state.
 - Some other work is updating the Higher Education Early Childhood “green and blue” books that are guidelines for the course work.
 - NMTA- NM Basic Skills and competency skills tests have yet to be updated for new pathways for licenses.
 - Reducing all degree plans to 120 credit hours, ours is currently at 128 for Early Childhood Bachelor degree.

Questions

1. Heather: Tell the differences in pathways now?

Birth through 3rd grade: split to Birth to age 4; and age 3 to grade 3.

2. Larry: If I become licensed what are the salary implications?

Age 3 to Grade 3 required for grants or for consultants. There is an increase in pay range if have that license. Teachers in PreK Programs funded by CYFD, earn less than PreK Teachers in Programs funded by PED.

3. Janis: Why split in two groups?

Such a wide age range, need to split it.

4. Rebecca: How about prior learning experience credits? So someone mandated to get a degree who has CDA, taken all requirements.... Certificate ECERS... how allow them to demonstrate competency?

There has been some discussion about other colleges outside NM doing competency based knowledge. They can move through coursework to receive credits. Still under consideration

Community Input:

- Amanda Gibson Smith, NM Head Start Association, concerned that they are experiencing chronic under enrollment because of additional slots in PreK, there is a lot of competition. They are under enrolled by 100, if they don't fill those slots they have to return that money to feds -- \$600,000. Second request-to try to address this.
 - Suggestion to somehow rework the system- If you are low-income family walk them to Head Start, if not income eligible, we walk them right over to PreK program.
 - They are hosting NM Head Start Association-Nov. 19 and 20 at Farm & Ranch in Las Cruces.
- Jim Copeland, Alta Mira, exec director- FIT program is struggling under rate issue. Alta Mira lost \$262,000 by serving 884 children included are \$67,000 of private funds raised. His point is why do a new cost study if you're not going to fund the old one.
- Larry recommended to put both on next agenda.

Upcoming Meetings

- Dec. 3 – regular ELAC meeting-UNM Continuing Education Room 123

Meeting for next calendar year

- March 24, 2016
- June 23, 2016
- September 22, 2016
- December 8, 2016

Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Larry Langley/Franz Joaquim. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourns at 2:01pm.