



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

**Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2017
Albuquerque, NM – UNM CE Room 123**

Meeting was Call Order by Erica Stubbs, ELAC Chair, at 9:12 am. She welcomed the committee and thanked UNM Continuing Ed ECSC for hosting the meeting.

Roll was called for the meeting. Present: Larry Langley, Shannon Rivera, Elizabeth Beers, Franz Joachim, Andy Gomm, Erica Stubbs, Janis Gonzales (Zoom), Michael Weinberg, Barbara Tedrow (Zoom), Olga Valenzuela-Zavala and Ray Jaramillo.

Quorum established at 9:25 am by Erica Stubbs.

Agenda review and community introductions.

Ad Hoc Council Members: Olga Valenzuela-Zavala and Deputy Secretary Debbie Montoya.

Motion to approve June 8, 2017 Minutes

Elizabeth Beers; Larry Second. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Memorial Update – Work Group

Michael

- Last fall we decided to create a work group to coordinate funding towards 3 & 4 year old programs, money towards Head Start.
- Shannon, Barb and Heather are members of this sub-committee.
- Shortly after the state passed the memorial to work on this project.
- We put out an RFP to do a study and the group selected a company out of Chicago, EduDream. We have contracted with them to focus on questions of how funding is created for early childhood development
- There is a timeline set up and Phase I is ending. Phase I entailed document review, statute and regulatory review. What it says on paper and what is supposed to be happening.
- The Research Phase is next where EduDream will conduct interviews and collect surveys to collect larger amounts of data. A scan of other states to identify best practices from other states.
- The Memorial says we are supposed to report back to LHHS. We will present suggestions to ELAC and then report to LHHS on November 1, 2017.

Questions:

Franz: Is it going to ELAC on November 1st or LHHS on November 1st?

Michael: It will be ELAC presenting to LHHS particularly if there are any recommendations or actions to move on. Look for a report sometime in November.

Erica: We need to change the date of our November meeting and move it forward due to other meetings as well as preparing for the presentation to LHHS.

Larry: Any possible legislation coming out of the Memorial?

Michael: We don't know – it's too early – possibly regulatory.

Larry: Will they go to the Department so they're not caught off guard?

Erica: Since we have Department members on ELAC there will notification on how to proceed.

- Michael asks ELAC and audience: Who should EduDream be talking to in the communities? We know there are categories of whom they should talk to, such as 1 or more from CYFD, 1 or more from PED, definitely Providers. I told them I would report back to them suggestions from ELAC and today's audience. So please write down your suggestions.
- Erica – I have my interview with them tomorrow. I will definitely mention talking to local Providers. Asking the associations for a list of providers is a good idea.
- Ray – I assume Head Start is already a part of this. Michael – yes.
- Beth – Don't forget about those who reside in rural parts of NM.
- Erica – A broad spectrum of programs with different star levels would also be good to interview.
- Ray – Engage New Mexico is working on a similar project in Doña Ana County. EduDream should contact Frank Lopez, Engage NM.
- Shannon – Shared Services in Grant County may bring insight from a county level.
- Erica – The child licensing department may be able to provide a list of licensed providers. Heather wanted me to mention to include PED, as well. We look forward to an update.
- Larry – recommends having the ELAC meeting on November 15, 2017 for the presentation of EduDream's findings, recommendations and input in order to get in front of LHHS before their meeting on the 16th or 17th.
- Michael is in touch with the LHHS (Armstrong, Chair and Michael Healy, Staff), he will propose a presentation to the LHHS on the 16th and 17th.
- Larry – what if we don't like or approve of EduDream's recommendations? Michael – this would be a presentation and if we don't like something, we could "present with reservations".
- Erica – sounds like everyone can make the next ELAC meeting on November 15th so that will be the date of our next meeting.
- Michael will arrange for the contractor to present their findings at that meeting that would be best for us.
- Erica – it would be good for as many committee members who can travel to Santa Fe for the LHHS meeting/presentation as possible. Barb, Franz, Ray and Shannon indicated they could attend that meeting.

Legislation (LHS, LHHS) Meetings Debrief

Erica

- LHHS Debrief entailed and introduction to early childhood.
- Before I was present, they had had a presentation on ACES and childhood trauma. Introduction to ACES, what it is, what it means to service providers and how it impacts our families.

- Andy, Baji and Alejandra were present to talk about different programs and how it relates to early childhood.
- Andy spoke to disability services available to families through the FIT program and what they're doing to support the workforce.
- Baji relayed information regarding the workforce perspective on growth and development.
- I shared ELACs Annual Report; what our goals and objectives are; and how we engage a number of systems through our committee work.
- Rebecca Dow was our invitee who spoke to the types of services around T or C and the services that connect through childcare. Childcare providers often have 2 contacts per day which allows for a connection to other resources.
- The presentations were well received and set the stage for what we're doing.
- Erica – Michael, do you have anything to add or what was your impression? Michael – I think you did a great job. I wish there had been more legislators there who aren't already champions of early childhood, sort of felt like it was speaking to the choir.
- Baji- There were a lot of questions around the star rating system, Informing our champions and filling in the gaps about our early childhood system, so they could be stronger champions.
- Erica – Katrina, since Alejandra was at the LFC meeting and not present today, can you speak to what went on at that meeting? Katrina, Alejandra went over the accountability report – the successes and challenges we have faced in the past year. There were questions around the overall early childhood system, specifically around consultation. But since I wasn't present, it would be best for her to report at a later time.
- Erica –is there anything legislative meetings that we should discuss or meetings that are coming up that ELAC should attend? Barb – I'll get back to this point in 5-10 min.
- Michael – Perhaps ELAC should hear a couple of reports that the LFC has heard, the Accountability Report and Behavioral Health Report?
- Erica – Katrina, can we hear these reports in a closed meeting? Katrina – absolutely we can look into arranging to hear the reports.

Committees and Sub-Committees

Erica

- A number of legislators are concerned if ELAC sundown's next year, the state would no longer receive federal funds unless there is a board is created or something like ELAC is in place.
- The legislators went to the governor to see if an executive order needs to be implemented or some type of system to keep ELAC in place which will be brought up during the next Session.
- **Shannon – Higher Ed Sub-committee** – Higher Ed Taskforce meets the second Friday of every month. We met last week to approve the Bylaws. The workgroup will be meeting next Friday to work on the Bylaws and Competencies for higher education - early childhood coursework. We are working on PED accreditation of higher education. The taskforce is working to connect CAPE to Intasc standards and cross walking to NM core competencies.
- Andy – Any connection to ELAC in the Higher Ed Taskforce Bylaws? Shannon – there is

conversation around ELAC sun downing and reporting to ELAC.

- Andy – Inclusion Sub-committee – It hasn't met for quite some time. Olga's predecessor worked it but now seems defunct. Not sure we want to rejuvenate it.
- Katrina – Pyramid Social/Emotional Sub-committee – 1-2 years ago it was recognized there was a high level of need for Pyramid Social/Emotional. Race-to-the-Top was deliberate and collaborative structure. CYFD partnering with Family Development Programs. Hired private consultant, David Belford to work with programs and consultation. Focus criteria has more language on social/emotional.
- Andy motions to request all sub-committees of ELAC to be part of the agenda under Committee Reports and report at each council meeting. Ray seconds; motion carries. Discussion: Franz requests a list of all sub-committees reporting to ELAC.

FOCUS – Continued Support and Services

Katrina

- RFP is in a concealed, confidential file at this time. Currently, I am unable to share anything regarding the award.
- Taking place during the transition: lessons learned, looking at things slowly, intentionally and purposefully.
- CYFD has provided funds to Region IX to support programs during the transition. Currently, there are 29 consultants who are private contractors throughout the state filling the need in the fields of Pre K, TTAP and FOCUS.
- The CYFD approach – Unified Approach – Unified Voice – Cross Sector Approach between Pre K Manager Monitors, Home Visiting Manager Monitors and Quality Manager Monitors.
- We are listening to what programs and providers are saying. We are responding by creating teams and mentorships so that it's not just one person helping and supporting a program, it's a team of people.
- We are moving slowly and making sure consultants are trained in social/emotional. We learned from a respondent that social/emotional needs are coming in at a more aggressive rate. So, we are responding to the needs of teachers, directors and providers to help give them the tools needed to help children and families.
- During this time of transition, we realized that it is unfair to do surprise visits for verification. We are giving programs time to prepare. We know that a program may look great on paper but during an observation they need work. Classroom observations will be done differently.
- CYFD has a listserv for consultants, "beBold". My team will be doing verifications.
- Ray – Refreshing to hear but we've heard it before. Actions speak louder than words. I trust you, but I am skeptical. Good, knowledgeable people but the system needs work. We don't need to re-invent the wheel. There are validation systems out there we can use and modify to fit our programs – NAYEC for example and others.
- Barbara – My experience so far has been exactly what Katrina said would happen, how it would happen and it did happen. For my 4-star verification Monica Archuleta came out with a consultant and the re-verification for gold star, Jamie O'Malley came out with a team.
How is mentorship working – do we need to call you?

Katrina – Alejandra and I are aligning and mapping out the areas of need based on location and best fit. All the mentors are from OCD.

Barbara – when will they start?

Katrina – On Monday, Mentors will reach out to consultants and then reaching out to programs by the end of next week to assess needs.

Barbara – There will be only 1 consultant per center, correct?

Katrina – Yes, there will be only 1 consultant for PreK and FOCUS.

- Michael – When will the RFP announcement be made? Katrina – I know it will be next week. It was caught up in our Legal Department.

Michael – Perhaps some type of alignment between Higher Ed Articulation Agreement needs to be in place. Presently, people are attending trainings but don't get credit towards anything.

Katrina – We are working on a plan for knowledge transfer and keeping in mind the Higher Ed Articulation Agreement.

- Shannon – I am excited to know CYFD is moving in a positive direction and I appreciate you working slowly. How is information being communicated to programs during this transition?

Katrina – A newsletter is being developed which will communicate what is happening and where trainings will take place. Programs can call Jamie O'Malley or go online to NMKids.org

- Andy – Great news on the RFP Announcement. How will CYFD communicate ongoing news, processes?

Katrina – The RFP Announcement will be through a press release. Consultants will be working through December and possibly through February depending on the need.

NMBR – Development of Statewide Early Learning Plan

Larry

- Brief History – February 2016 the Business Roundtable came to a frustrating point because no one could agree; therefore nothing getting accomplished. Attempted to get everyone in the room which resulted in a Summit of approximately 600 people. An opportunity for teachers, superintendents, principals, practitioners to voice their thoughts, opinions, frustrations, etc. Resulted in a higher education plan which has also resulted in Senator Stewart is putting together a K-12 education plan which has resulted in looking at an early childhood education report.
- We are about to have a change in administration. Ultimately, we feel politics should be taken out of education. We would like to create consistency and a pattern in the plan that is non-partisan that the next governor can utilize.
- We are gathering information to create a report that can be handed off to each candidate so they can endorse and know what's actually happening with early learning and what needs to be done. Educate the candidates vs. restructuring what's already been accomplished. We want candidates to have this in their hands before the primary – so we are under a tight timeline.
- Michael – Who is working on the report?

Larry – First, we wanted to bring to ELAC as the core group and then be inclusive to anyone

who is in early childhood. The Roundtable is the convener and constructor of the report. The groups will meet and gather information for the report.

➤ Michael – I see some overlap that we’re working on. There’s a perpetual “ask” for funding and this project may be something that fits our funding. We are currently drafting a RFP, so let’s talk later.

➤ Andy – What is the timing for this project?

Larry – This report needs to be completed by mid-late Spring 2018.

Andy – Any thoughts on the process of convening? There may not be a consensus among all groups.

Larry – We want the groups to focus on what they already agree upon and what is working in order to diffuse focus on what isn’t working.

➤ Franz – I’m an ex-officio of the Business Roundtable and I was involved early in the Summit. I would encourage the group to continue on the path of finding the matters that we already agree on.

➤ Barbara – Will you be including people from the foundations and early childhood organizations for input?

Larry – absolutely, we want to be inclusive of the entire early learning community.

➤ There will be a steering committee set up in the next month or two. There will be sub-committees set up from that working on specific parts of the report.

➤ Ray motions to accept the NMBRs invitation to participate in working on the report. Beth seconds; motion carries.

Ray – I am requesting information and update on the ELG revisions? Will CYFD and PED be following the same process?

Public Comment

None at this time

Announcements

Andy – December 8 having a symposium at the Convention Center around the achievements of Race-to-the-Top.

Shannon – Western received accreditation for their Associates degree program.

Larry motions to Adjourn, Second Ray. Meeting adjourns at 12:18 p.m.

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 9 am – 1 pm; UNM Continuing Ed, Room 123

***Respectfully Submitted By
Mari Galvez***