

State of New Mexico

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

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NEW MEXICO EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL (ELAC)

March 26, 2015

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: Andy Gomm, Barbara Tedrow (by Zoom) Rebecca Dow, Erica Stubbs, Larry Langley (by Zoom), Dan Haggard, Leighann Lenti (by Zoom), Karen Ziegler, Ray Jaramillo, Beth Beers, and Alejandra Rebolledo Rea (by Zoom).

Franz Joachim, excused; Heather Vaughn, excused. Quorum established at 10:17 am.

Motion to approve December 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Request to change Socorro Community Hospital to Presbyterian Healthcare Services.

No discussion. All in favor. Motion passes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If appointed position term for the Early Learning Advisory Council has expired or is expiring soon and completed process in the governor office to be re-appointed please, send resume to Alejandra Rebolledo-Rea as well.

Concerning the Higher Ed. position, there has been nominations made and a decision is in process at the governor level at this point.

Dan Haggard, proud of Home Visiting program work, it is becoming nationally recognized. The Home Visiting Accountability Act was passed; the annual report is available online. In page 14, there's the program overview, program's outcome measuring and expectation.

Vice-Chair Transition as per 3-6-14 Elections

Elections last March, Vice-Chair position transitions to Heather Vaughn and previous Vice-Chair Barbara Tedrow joins the executive committee as the appointed executive officer.

Update: Race To the Top “Early Learning Challenge”

Anthony Burns- RTT PRESENTATION:

- August 26, 2014-Onsite retreat with New Mexico RTT- ELC leadership
- August 28, 2014-Onsite Monitoring of New Mexico’s Implementation

General report

US Department of Education & HHS visit to New Mexico, the determinant factors of their visit were that NM had not been visited by federal project officers, NM had low rate of expenditures and limited communications to the field and the public.

Results of the onsite monitoring were that they identified 6 areas for improvement: Progress reporting, Budget and expenditures, Technical assistance, Internal and external communication, Personnel and, Executive leadership and governance.

Update on improvements:

- 6 areas of improvement, 3-7 goal each
- 15 of the 23 goals have been accomplished
- Remaining 8 are on track to be accomplished by May 1st
- NM RTT- ELC Team will provide a 90 day, 6 month and 1 year report on goals

Highlights of accomplished goals:

- Governance manual (identifies core values, communication processes)
- Expenditures and reimbursement processes are going smoothly
- Early learning NM website launched
- Early Learning NM e-Newsletters distributed
- Dedicated RTT- ELC Project manager
- Regular Executive/Leadership meetings are being held

2012 annual performance report: Submitted to the Federal Project Officers on Feb 27th, 2015 and it will be posted on Early Learning NM website.

Project 1- Grants Management

- Developed a governance manual
- Interim project manager (Anthony Burns)
- CYFD project coordinator (Jamie O’Malley)
- National search to develop communications and marketing plan – contract with the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation

- Early Learning NM website and e-Newsletter
- Key positions filled- Data project manager and KEA (Kindergarten Entry Assessment) Project coordinator

Project 2- FOCUS –TQRIS

- Cross-sector collaboration
- Cross-sector connections- Consultant events allow consultants to build better relationships
- NM Pyramid Partnership- created Master Cadre using CEFL
- FOCUS: Essential elements of quality for PED Preschool programs (PreK, IDEA 619 and Title I), 10 school districts, 42 classrooms participating in pilot.
- FIT program FOCUS- TQRIS (Developing stages)
- FIT program video demonstration Project
- CYFD home visiting TQRIS implementation process

Project 3- Investment zones

- Collaboration effort
- Socio ecological and educational risk factor
- Capacity Building sessions
- Outcomes- increase number of programs participating in Home Visiting, PreK, and FOCUS.

Project 4- Professional development

- HE task force meeting once a month
- TEACH scholarships- contract with NMAEYC
- NM incentives program
- Reflective practices and infant mental health endorsement

Project 5- Early Childhood data systems

- EPICS Updates
- NM-IBIS data visualization: Phase 2
- Integrated data system technical team

Project 6- Kindergarten Entry Assessment (Joe Manley)

Kindergarten Observation Tool (KOT)

- New Mexico did not receive money in the first phase, but grant awarded in the second phase.
- A critical component of the RTT-ELC work is to develop a kindergarten entry assessment, the Kindergarten Observation Tool (KOT)

The KOT is:

- An authentic observational assessment
- In alignment with the National Research Council’s recommendations for assessing young children
- A whole child assessment

The KOT is NOT:

- An evaluative measure for teacher competency
- For “high stakes” decision making
- Will NOT fund/defund programs
- A measure to deny access to Kindergarten for ANY child
- A screening tool to identify students with special needs

KOT Purposes:

- Assist teachers in data-driven instructional decision making at the child and classroom level
- Identify individual children’s needs and provide necessary supports to children and teachers
- Provide families with information about their children’s learning and development
- Inform prior education and care stakeholders

Pilot Test:

- 40 teachers representing 6 districts and one charter school participated.
- Participants assessed 5 students for each of 10 assigned indicators.
- Reduced the number to support pilot volunteers
- Focused on feedback regarding rubric language and process
- Teachers completed the observations and submitted the results via WestEd data collection system.
- Teachers then completed 2 surveys (Pilot Study, and Pilot Rubric Study) and some chose to participate in Focus Group.

Focus Group

- WestEd, the PED, and the KEA Coordinator conducted a focus group on February 12, 2015.
- Eight participants from the Pilot phase chose to attend the focus group.

Next Steps

- Collaboration with WestEd on recommendations from the Pilot surveys and focus group
- Collaboration with PED Assessment staff
- KOT revision process
- Completion of Professional Development materials
- Finalize recruitment of trainers
- Finalize KOT technology requirements
- Provide Professional Development for trainers and teachers
- Implement Field Test in Fall of 2015

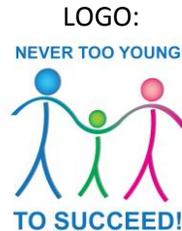
Proposed KOT Overview

- 24 Indicators covering 6 Domains
- Completed via observation within the first 30 instructional days of school
- Review of Printed resources
 - Domain Breakdown
 - KOT EIs with Abbreviation
 - NEW Rubric Format
 - KOT Information Brief
 - KOT Screen Shot

ELAC LOGO- Erica Stubbs

Hope to make official decision today, working on process for 6 months incorporating high schools, superintendents across state involved. High school students submitted designs to ELAC.

The majority voted for logo number 2 but there was a recommendation to keep design and replace words with “NM ELAC” or a variation of it.



Early learning NM Website

Andy Gomm from the DOH Family Infant Toddler Program, made a website tour over www.earlylearning.org. The website includes information about the RTT grant and application, links to TQRIS, programs services in a NM map, resources on Early Childhood education, and information on ELAC with council members' information and committee structure. The website embodies a good opportunity to show how parts of the system connect to each other.

Please contact Jamie O'Malley or use the “contact” link to add your program to the website, to sign up for newsletter or to give suggestions.

LUNCH BREAK- 12:08 PM

WORK FORCE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

T.E.A.C.H. & Incentives report

Dan Ritchey, director of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships and the INCENTIVE\$ Early Childhood pay supplement program, reported that the number of T.E.A.C.H. scholarships has increased in the past year from 652 to 936 so far in FY 2015, a 43% increase. He thanked the Children, Youth & Families Dept. and Race to the Top for coming up with additional funding for this fiscal year to make that growth possible. “Thank you, thank you,” he said.

Most of the growth has been with traditional child care and Head Start scholarship recipients, though home visitors and early interventionists and trainers have started to apply. Those are new groups eligible for T.E.A.C.H. through Race to the Top, along with a PhD cohort and a Master's cohort.

INCENTIVE\$ increased from 41 participants last year to 123 in Fiscal Year 2015 so far because of a \$296,900 grant from the 2014 Legislature to make the pay supplement program statewide.

For growth to continue in both T.E.A.C.H. and INCENTIVE\$, more funds will be needed, Dan said. The Legislature did approve an increase of \$300,000 for T.E.A.C.H./INCENTIVE\$ for FY 2016. Dan introduced T.E.A.C.H. Outreach Director Wesley Morton and INCENTIVE\$ Outreach Director Sahara Butler and credited them in large part with making the growth in the programs possible.

The Annual Report (FY 2014) for T.E.A.C.H. and INCENTIVE\$ showed that T.E.A.C.H. recipients had a turnover rate of only 5.7% -- very low for early childhood. INCENTIVE\$ participants had low turnover also, at 13%. The report also noted the increases in education of both groups and in compensation.

The cost of T.E.A.C.H. scholarships is about \$1,600 per year per scholar. The cost of INCENTIVE\$ pay supplements is about \$2,500 per participant per year. Pay supplements range from \$300 to \$5,000 per year based on level of education achieved.

Public policy committee Report

- \$4.5 million Budget for Home Visiting
- \$300,000 increase for T.E.A.C.H
- \$13.6 million for PreK CYFD
- Total allocation for PreK CYFD was a little over \$14 million and \$11.6 million for TANF
- \$2 million for PreK specifically for 3 year olds pilot program
- Total budget for PreK CYFD is \$27 million
- Total budget for PED PreK is \$24 million

Andy-FIT:

- \$150,000 for rate increases
- \$300,000 of existing budget set aside for rates plus \$150,000 in new money for rate increases
- The J. Paul Taylor passed for 3rd year in a row, focusing in child abuse prevention and early mental health

School Readiness

ELAC is obligated to have 4 public meetings but as a group decided to have 4 additional meetings around the state for those with limitations to come to Albuquerque. Town hall meeting locations: Gallup, Las Vegas, Portales and Silver City; first ELAC town hall meeting was in February 26 at the Gallup UNM campus and 10 people showed up. Erica Stubbs and Karen Ziegler talked about purpose of ELAC, Home Visiting success, big need for behavioral health and lack of medical providers in that area and, parent involvement.

Next meeting will be May 27th at Las Vegas School's board room, 179 Romero Street from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Rebecca volunteered to go to the Silver City meeting in November.

Agenda items to be added for next meeting

- Ray Jaramillo asked to talk about *RTT sustainability*-- what happens after the RTT grant is over? And he is also concerned about *FOCUS*; there are major issues and wants to talk about levels, participants and pilots. Questions about work pilot implementation feedback and data provided to ELAC and equivalencies to training. No equivalencies have been established to the trainings, costs. No true-pilot program.
Erica requested that Ray email her to add items to agenda for the next meeting.
- Agenda item to have dialogue if we are to promote community early childhood councils... what would that look like? What does that look like in other states?
- Model demonstration- early childhood councils
- Finance report
- CYFD- reauthorization of childcare report

Public Comment

Rebecca representing NNCCA, she wants to advocate for parents and providers and, wants to stress importance of what childcare provides as far as support for employment. There has been 11 childcare programs closed since January in Albuquerque alone and some others are closing; children must have basic needs met and be safe and secure in their surroundings. She would hope that ELAC would take the task of looking at whole system and advocate for childcare and make financial recommendations. "We must look at child care as a workforce investment...What the state's early childhood quality will be like?"

Gloria Bonner wants to make an invitation to the premier of documentary "Protecting Our Children", Friday April 3rd at 6:00 pm at the Kimo Theater and April 17th in Las Cruces. CYFD and DOH participated in funding this documentary.

Cynthia Lashley, she would like to have more information about the infant/toddler piece and will submit a comment about the website; she will get an answer from Erica Stubbs.

Establishing Meeting Schedule

- Next meeting will be June 25th here at Continuing Ed. Building.
- Las Vegas, NM meeting will be May 27th.
- Recommendation time for council closed meeting:
 - April 6-8
 - April 25, 27-28
 - May 4-9

Meeting adjourns at 1:59 pm.