

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

MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2013

Workforce Training Center – Albuquerque, NM

Determining Quorum

Roll Call: Alejandra Rebolledo-Rea.

Elaine Gard-excused, Rebecca Dow-excused, Leighann Lenti-excused, quorum was established.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 21, 2013

Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2013 were sent to members ahead of time.

Motion to approve meeting minutes, JoLou Trujillo-Ottino/Barbara Tedrow. All in favor, motion carried.

Race to the Top “Early Learning Challenge” Update

Dan Haggard, New Mexico RTT-ELC Leadership Team Member

Alejandra Rebolledo Rea, New Mexico RTT-ELC Leadership Team Member

RTT update: Highlights-Gov. successfully applied for Race To The Top Early Learning Challenge Fund grant and have been awarded \$37.5 million to build infrastructure in the early childhood system. The grant focuses on the areas of building of data infrastructure to include the creation of a data system with unique identifier for each child being served in early childhood system. This number will be assigned by Public Education Department (PED). Another major initiative is the creation of a quality improvement system, FOCUS and children’s learning based on the early learning guidelines. This is a project that spans three departments. The lead agency is PED with partners, CYFD and DOH. We are the only state in the United States that is including all early childhood systems in the early learning challenge fund grant initiative: Early Head Start, Head Start, Early Intervention, Child Care, Pre-K, Early Childhood Special Education and Home Visiting.

Ms. Rebolledo-Rea explained the program management involving creation of Scopes of Work. Each month a report needs to be completed for monitoring purposes. There is a very specific system that tracks the progress to enhance the quality. This monitoring system examines contracts, and sub-contracts; the monitoring of contractors this helps us hold ourselves accountable. There will be an orientation for the contractors and sub-contractors what is expected of them in terms of Race To The Top. This will be a challenge for the next four years.

Dan Haggard noted that two positions have been requested at PED: One fiscal manager to help with the transfer and reporting of funds and reimbursement expenditure across three different departments plus an IT position for the development and coordination of the early childhood data process. One position has been requested at CYFD: a Project Coordinator to make sure everything is on track and monthly reporting is completely in a timely manner. The Office of Community Development was created to reach out and support those communities and work with the Early Childhood Investment Zones. Dan Haggard responded the secretaries have prioritized the 3 positions for Race To The Top.

Andy Gomm, council member noted that that there is an additional \$12.5 million supplemental funding available to New Mexico and now has \$37.5 million in RTT funds.

Question was asked by Barbara Tedrow, if providers were correct in thinking that with FOCUS program when they move up in quality ratings and receive an increase. Dan Haggard responded that within the four year span of the grant, Aim High will be replaced with FOCUS and it will work the same way with providers getting an increase in the subsidy rate.

Larry Langley asked if there is going to be some coordination between PED, CYFD, and DOH as far as data measures for RTT funding. Dan Haggard explained UNM has contracted with WELS, a data system developed to track the data in the program's quality improvement system. In addition, a coordinated data process is being created within the three department to track children's services.

Ruth Kie asked, if there was something being developed for HV similar to what has been done for center based FOCUS that will track the effectiveness of HV. Dan responded there is little that has been done in the Nation to assess the quality elements of the home visit. Alejandra Rebolledo-Rea stated that elements of FOCUS will be transferred to HV, Early HS, Home based, Part C

Ray Jaramillo stated a question and concern stating that FOCUS participants may not be able to afford the training required. The concern was expressed about losing some of those participants because they will not be able to sustain the training costs. Dan responded that this is being looked at as the FOCUS process continues to be improved.

Erica Stubbs reminded the team to keep in mind that this data shall not be used for negative purposes. Ensuring that the information provided is for education to the field to learn about the child on a strengths based path. This is designed to be supportive of the child and the programs not to develop preconceived labeling.

Larry Langley, Chair of ELAC asked LFC staff present if it would be helpful for ELAC to present on Race To The Top on the upcoming meetings. Michael Weinberg, LFC Program Evaluator stated that a full presentation on Race To The Top will be helpful.

Public Policy Committee Report

Larry Langley, Public Policy Committee Chair

Larry Langley stated that the ELAC will be presenting to the LFC in October. He requested to have the chairs of the committees present to let the LFC and LESC a segment of what each committee is doing, how the ELAC is structured, etc. The ELAC is non-partisan and has been assigned by statute to analyze and advise on any piece of legislation that affects the education of children birth to age five.

Finance Report

Erica Stubbs, Finance Committee Chair

Alejandra Rebolledo-Rea - Update on Home Visiting and PreK: Additional funding for this year: \$1.8 million geared to fund new HV and sustain programs initiated with federal funding. Special appropriations: \$375,000 targeting high needs communities. Tobacco funds: \$2 million, RFP for services in un-served and underserved communities is currently in effect. This will serve an estimated 2,000 more families.

Dan Haggard stated that here are some communities that have children at great risk that are underserved. We have gone to communities to help gather a planning committee and a facilitator helps them prioritize targeted services and what they want to go for. We want to help them identify the needs in their community and how they want to address those needs.

Larry Langley indicated that the tobacco funding has been very controversial process. The Legislative group and the Executive are both very in tune to the necessity of Early Learning in our state. Andy Gomm asked how sustainable that funding was. Larry responded that \$38 million a year in tobacco, a reoccurring revenue stream going into the permanent fund. Legislation passed to allocate half to Lottery scholarship and half to ECS. This has to be assessed each year.

Dan Haggard recognized legislature for passage of HV Accountability Act and the Governor for signing it. Senate bill 120 was contribution, so was this Act for Standards Based delivery and accountability.

Workforce Development Committee

Higher Education Task Force

Elaine Gard, Higher Education Task Force Representative

Alejandra Rebolledo-Rea presented the report as Elaine was unable to make it. The report indicated that the higher education faculty recently had a higher education institute. The institute was to learn about the Early Learning Guideline (ELGS) how to implement them. Faculty and adjuncts across the state from ECE attended.

Early Childhood Scholarships Committee

Dan Ritchey, Project Director T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEW MEXICO

Dan Ritchey provided a brief history of TEACH, explanation of incentives.

He stated that 170 of the 420scholarships provided last year were associated with PreK.

Concern as a private provider is that they have to pay the scholarship part, give teacher time off, plus pay an additional person to cover that position.

Dan Ritchey also explained how Incentives work. Based on the principle about how research shows that children thrive in child care settings if they have consistent care. The turnover in programs interrupts that care they were receiving; just like children attach to their parents they need that with their caregiver as well. That opportunity to build education and skill is something that a lot of people want.

Access to Quality Early Childhood Programs

Social/Emotional – Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Committee

New Mexico Pyramid Framework Workgroup members

Andy Gomm and Joe DeBonis provided a presentation on New Mexico Pyramid Partnership. This is a committee appointed under ELAC with a focus on committee work. No Questions.

Larry Langley requested to be posted about the work of the House Memorial 75.

Special Quest Committee Report

Erica Candelaria, Liaison with Parents Reaching Out, Joe DeBonis, Karen Ziegler-presenters
Brief history of Special Quest.

Larry Langley stated that it is crucially important for the LFC to get a snapshot of everything that's going on with ELAC to see the coordination within the early childhood program. It's fundamentally helpful to legislators to hear these everything going on in early learning.

Discussion and Action on Committee Reports

Motion to approve Committees reports with current Sub-Committees and Taskforces reports as presented. Karen Ziegler/Erica Stubbs. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment

Rex Davidson, Executive Director of Las Cumbres stated that comprehensive early childhood centers serving rural areas are different than urban areas. Folks need to correspond and correlate to build workforce and address those needs. Need to look at how we integrate early referral system, to primary health, integrated with early childhood services. FIT is doing a great job and an effective platform in every county to provide services for children with disabilities. Love the pyramid, on the prevention side if we could keep the kiddos from migrating up to the intervention but we need to make sure we have the workers at the prevention levels that are trained and know when to hand them off to more trained professionals if needed. Lastly, our providers are struggling. We want to make sure all providers doing good work can stay in place.

Future Dates

Next meeting, November 5, 2013, 9:00AM, Location CNM.

Adjourn Meeting

Ms. Barbara Tedrow entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Motion to adjourn meeting: Ruth Kie/Erica Stubbs. All in favor, motion carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 PM.