

**NEW MEXICO EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL  
(ELAC)  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 5, 2013  
Workforce Training Center – Albuquerque, NM**

**Determining Quorum**

Meeting was called to order by Larry Langley with welcome and request for introductions by all attending. Mr. Langley thanked CNM for use of the meeting space.

Mr. Langley indicated that the sign in for Public Comment was open and that it would close at 10:00 AM.

Roll Call: Alejandra Rebolledo-Rea.

Excused Absences: Dan Haggard, Erica Stubbs. Quorum established.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 27, 2013**

Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2013 discussion. Correction made by council member, Andy Gomm indicated that the minutes state that we are the only state that included Tier Quality Rating Improvement System in the United States, and the correct statement should be “New Mexico is the only state that has included Part C and Home Visiting into the Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System”.

Motion to approve corrected meeting minutes:

Barbara Tedrow/Karen Ziegler. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Langley shared two informational pieces with the ELAC: The Home Visitation Accountability Act Report - Ms. Rebolledo confirmed that the report was posted on the CYFD website:

[www.CYFD.org/homevisiting](http://www.CYFD.org/homevisiting). Also, Voices for Children, Kids Count has released their report. Copies were available, and members, included audience were encouraged to contact Christine Hollis, for additional copies. The report will be posted on the New Mexico Voices for Children website.

Mr. Langley noted to the council that he had an opportunity to write an article for the current issue of *Acosta* premier business magazine on early childhood development, specifically brain development, focusing on why we invest in early learning and how it impacts our economy and the business world.

**Update: Race To The Top - Early Learning Challenge**

Alejandra Rebolledo Rea, New Mexico RTTT Leadership Team Member

Leighann Lenti, PED, New Mexico RTTT Leadership Team Member

Alejandra noted that the supplemental funding has been received and that the scope of work has been submitted along with the budget narrative to the Federal Team. The money was to expand on what was originally planned in the beginning, to implement some of the things that were taken out when the state received only half of the original request, focusing on the TQRIS piece with the addition of some scholarships. The Project Coordinator has been interviewed and the approvals from the state are still pending. The design of the monitoring system is being worked on for contracts that are in place. An orientation will be offered to the consultants and contractors in April. The second phase of TQRIS has started with fifty additional programs with the challenge of hiring the consultants and mentors that will

work with the programs in partnership with UNM trying to overcome any barriers. The supplemental request includes 619 and pre-K consultants to work with those programs.

Leighann Lenti, PED informed the council that the decision was made to put the 619, PED Pre-K programs and Title 1 programs through the TQRIS Rating System. In terms of the data work, there are three data positions that PED is hiring as part of the RTT grant and an overall IT Project Manager that will work closely with the CYFD and the Department Health teams to ensure that we can exchange and share data. The PED data infrastructure will be expanding with a strong look at Pre-K data. The positions should be closing within two weeks from the meeting date. The PED Kindergarten Entry Assessment RFP is open for bidders presently. They will be doing some adaptation over the school year and summer to the Pre-k observational assessment tool so it can be used as the Kindergarten Entry Assessment. A phased implementation will be done at the start of next year's school year. At the end of the scope of the grant, all kindergartener's will be screened using this assessment and teachers will have the data on literacy, numeracy as well as social/emotional and developmental skills. At the next ELAC meeting, will be able to report on who bid, who was selected and how the work is moving forward. This is a tool developed by PED educators who are familiar with the Pre-K programs.

Alejandra reported that work is being done on validating the same tool for the pre-school, infants and toddlers, a continuum of the assessment process based on the ELG that will help the programs under Head Start that have a requirement to have a valid and reliable tool to report on the child's outcomes that is consistent with what the state is doing.

Larry Langley reiterated that the state decision for the Race to the Top (RTT) grant funding was prescribed to go toward infrastructure building and data gathering. Of the three agencies that are part of working with the ELAC: PED, CYFD and DOH, PED took the lead on the grant. So for anyone wondering why they cannot access those funds for ongoing services, this is the reason why. It will support the provider programs in the future with infrastructure, research, data, etc.

Andy Gomm, member of the RTT Leadership Team, stated to the group that he was selected to be a RTT reviewer for the Federal team and was trained in the RTT review process. One of the things that has been strengthened in the new program for the RTT application is the public input and linkage between RTT and other efforts that are already going on in the state such as ELAC. He posed the question to the council that at some other time, the ELAC needs to present to the wider public the work that is happening through RTT and how is that aligned with what the ELAC is doing.

Alejandra noted that in the supplemental under Quality, there is specifications for a Website to maintain the public informed about RTT, FOCUS and the work the ELAC is doing to support the system.

Rebecca Dow asked what the team was meaning about data:

Leighann Lenti responded to this question indicating that it includes the child's unique identifier and it is governed by strict privacy rules. She said there are two necessary steps that the data team comprised by members of DOH, PED and CYFD, is taking into account. First Step: How do we make the data systems between PED, CYFD and DOH talk to each other in a way that is secure? Second Step: How do we know what is working for kids? New Mexico has a rich data infrastructure but it is very segmented. The data teams are really doing great working really closely with the programs teams with privacy always at the forefront.

## **ELAC Strategic Plan Updates Sub-Committee Reports**

Elaine Gard – Workforce Professional Development Committee, Chair

There was an acknowledgement that the Early Childhood Higher Ed Task Force is a taskforce for ELAC addressing the needs of the professional development for the early childhood workforce.

Barbara Tedrow – Policy Committee, Chair.

The committee will be able to give expertise and advice on what is happening in Early Childhood. They will be looking at the bills that are coming up, any legislative action and also give advice on consequences and unintended consequences on any piece of legislation that is going through. Mr. Langley stated that the council will not be supporting or opposing legislation but rather advise on the consequences of the legislation working as an advisory council.

Rebecca Dow – School Readiness Committee, Chair.

The committee assure that children enter kindergarten at or above their age level and have the opportunity to reach their full potential and that the process continues through third grade. The committee will see where alignments, assessments and/or philosophies of child growth development are for services that are needed by the child. A lot will be directed by Race to the Top (RTT) initiatives.

Erica Stubbs – Fiscal Committee, Chair. The committee will be responsible for how services are rated, additional areas for potential funding for early childhood care and education. The financial piece affects all of the committees.

Jo-Lou Trujillo Ottino – Access to Quality Services Committee, Chair.

The Committee will be looking at quality assurance, making sure that as the system is being built, there are not any gaps. It will ensure that there are accountability measures and quality assurance measures in place for each of the programs.

## **Legislative Finance Committee and Legislative Education Study Committee Reports**

Mr. Larry Langley, ELAC Chair

The process as an advisory council is to continue to keep these committees knowledgeable about early learning and childhood care and to make sure they make good quality decisions in supporting the legislative statute perspective.

Andy Gomm, brought up the subject of a mandated requirement for the council to prepare an annual strategic report to the governor from the ELAC with the question of how can the council articulate its strategic plan as well as the information that has been gathered over the past year and data that the council has used in order to determine that those were the strategic priorities of the council.

## **House Memorial 75 Updates**

Katrina Montaño-White, CYFD Early Care and Learning Manager, introduced Kim Straus, Brindle Foundation Manager to do the presentation.

Kim Straus presented the council with the information that the J. Paul Taylor Early Childhood Taskforce was created in the 2013 legislature, a House Memorial introduced by Representative Gail Chasey. The taskforce has been hosted by the Community Health Program, UNM as part of the memorial. A lot of the work in community health that is being done is influencing their recommendations. From the beginning,

they have taken a public health approach, if children are healthy, they are better able to learn. They are trying to build on some of the work that has already been done through the ELAC committees and projects around the state that are models for work that is being recommended in their report.

They recognize that the Medicaid managed care organizations under Centennial Care have an incentive to work on prevention. All will require a lot of collaboration and will need to be very deliberate in the work. They are recommending that early childhood councils be established across the state either at the county level or regional councils in some places with small populations. There is a need for early childhood councils that specifically address the needs of young children and their families with the early childhood councils being the locust for collecting data at the local level. There is a need for bench mark data points that all agree are important indicators of child well-being and child health. They do not feel that there is a good enough system yet to identify those children that are most at risk for adverse childhood experiences. They are recommending that an ace type of screening tool be universally implemented to help identify children and families that may be at risk.

They would like to see funding restored for behavioral health services. There is a need to make sure that there is a work force trained to help families where children are most at risk. They are recommending that the state agencies provide support for programs that are working in communities to get the evaluations that they need to become evidence based programs. The LFC has been working on a project to increase the quality of programs that show the best return on investment. They want to decrease the alarming rates of neglect in New Mexico by identifying families that are most at risk.

### **Public Comment**

Joan Baker – New Mexico is 50<sup>th</sup> in child well-being. This reflects on everyone except the children. Commented on a system that can make early education sustainable: full enrollment, full fee collection, revenues cover the cost per child. Make sure at risk children are able to get access to care. The need to consider what the re-appropriation looks like.

Victoria Rosquist – Single parent, works full-time with son in an early education center since six months old. He is thriving in this environment. Concerned with the fluctuation in the poverty rate causing interruptions in a child's stay in an early childhood center. There needs to be more permanent funding for these children so they can benefit from being in the centers.

Raquel Roybal – Commented on what will happen with Pre-K if the centers get people on contracts that will work only for six month period. Once the child is ready for kindergarten, they are not where they should be because of the teacher interruption. What can be done to implement what the child is needing? The child needs to get what they deserve and need as far as support. How are we going to fix this and bring New Mexico where it needs to be in having successful children and a successful future? The question was posed to the council, “what are they going to do to advocate for these children?”

Mr. Langley thanked all for their comments and their time.

Motion to Adjourn: Karen Ziegler/Raymond Jaramillo. All in Favor, Meeting adjourned.