

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

MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2014

Workforce Training Center - 5600 Eagle Rock Ave. NE – Albuquerque NM

**Determining Quorum**

Meeting was called to order by Larry Langley, ELAC Chair with welcome and request for introductions by all attending. Mr. Langley thanked CNM and President Kathy Winograd for use of the facility meeting space.

Mr. Langley noted that the sign in for Public Comment was open and that it would close at 10:00 AM. He also noted that the ELAC would go into Executive session, an off the record private meeting after the close of today's meeting. The meeting will be opened again for elections of the ELAC Chair and officers.

Roll Call: Alejandra Rebolledo-Rea

Quorum established.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2014**

Motion to approve the November 5th meeting minutes:

Erica Stubbs/ Barbara Tedrow. All in favor, motion carried.

**Update: Race To The Top “Early Learning Challenge”**

Alejandra Rebolledo Rea, New Mexico RTT Leadership Team member

Alejandra noted that the first year has been completed since Race to the Top (RTT) was awarded to New Mexico. When it came time to do annual performance report in mid-February, we found that we had done more than we thought we had. The report was divided into the different projects that had been worked on. Information from all agencies and agency workers who had been involved in the implementation of RTT was gathered.

The accomplishments by project and process that will be followed to ensure that everything is on track included:

**Grant Management** - the grants management between the agencies, in particular the fiscal management. PED is the lead agency in RTT so they were the ones to design the billing process which was designed to allow the state to track by project, by task how much is being paid through RTT. With this billing process we will be able to show the actual costs of activities.

**RTT Coordinator Position** - Annabelle Romero was hired and began work in late December. She is able to communicate with the different project leads to ensure that they are on track with their plan.

**FOCUS Project** - This project is the largest project for RTT. We have contracted with Child Trends to ensure that the criteria that was developed for FOCUS will be making a positive impact for young children which is one of the goals for RTT. Based on the recommendations received, the FOCUS Criteria is being revised and are 99% complete with the revisions. The elements added are the elements that

support the school readiness for young children: family engagement, culture and competence, support for dual language learners, inclusion with children of disabilities and social/emotional support.

The Department of Health is able to identify the common elements of quality and how they will be able to analyze these elements of quality within their system and how to implement them. This allows us to have one common system within the individual needs of the programs.

**Early Childhood Investment Zones** - There are different projects going on in different communities. We are organizing the community to ensure that they are analyzing and assessing and addressing the needs of the community in regards to early childhood. There is also some collaboration with the Home Visiting program to work in the south valley and establishing some work in the areas of Luna and Lea counties.

**Professional Development** – we have been able to award T.E.A.C.H scholarships and have been able to include programs and participants that normally would not have been part of the traditional T.E.A.C.H scholarship. RTT allowed us to have non-classroom staff such as the Home Visiting staff, Part C staff and non-center based Early Head Start home based people.

**Kindergarten Entry Assessment** – the RFP has gone out and have already started the process of identifying who the vendor is and will move out to analyze the early learning guidelines and how they align to the Common Core. The continuum will look at birth to kindergarten. Using that as a tool will help assess where children are once they enter kindergarten.

**Early Childhood Data Project** – Common elements among all the early childhood system are being identified in order to gather, analyze and report information while protecting the privacy of the children and their families and identify the role of the child unique Identifier in the system.

**Finance** – Getting our contracts in place and getting the projects up and running was a challenge during the initial year. The money was not spent until towards the end of the calendar year. The state is submitting a budget amendment to the federal government identifying the funds not spend and the plan for the future years within the same categories as planned initially.

Leighann Lenti, PED briefly reminded members that the original grant was \$25 million dollars in January 2013 and a supplemental amount of \$12.5 million dollars was received later in the year. This past year was a lot of time and energy making sure all the logistical pieces were in place. The annual Performance Report was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education and Health and human Services but not considered a public document yet. It will be posted on the U.S. Department of Education web page once it is approved and becomes a public document.

Andy Gomm, (DOH) stated that PED just recently hired a project lead for the data group. Having someone full time dedicated to that project has helped that project kick off. An external independent company has to be hired for the Independent Verification Evaluation. Being a second round state allows us to do a lot of learning from other state's experience. It's beneficial in designing a system that helps us tell those early childhood data stories as to where our children are being served and how secure is the child's information.

**(Public Comment sign up closes)**

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

### **Public Policy Sub-Committee**

#### *Legislative Session Report and Summary*

Ms. Barbara Tedrow Sub-Committee Chair /Mr. Larry Langley, ELAC Chair

Ten bills were introduced this year:

- SM 5 J. PAUL TAYLOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE
- SB 66 EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT
- SB 68 COUNTY & TRIBAL EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES
- SB 70, AT RISK CHILDREN CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES
- SB 73 ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EVENT SCREENING & REFERRALS
- SB 109 - AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER SERVICES
- HB 108 - RIO ARRIBA BILINGUAL EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM
- HB 123 - EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM TEACHER RETENTION
- HB 252 - PRE-K PROVIDER GROSS RECEIPTS
- SB259 - EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION (had a lot to do with the ELAC: duties, reporting requirements)

### **Finance Sub-Committee**

#### *Legislative Session Report and Summary*

Erica Stubbs, Sub-Committee Chair

What has gone to the governor for approval:

- \$2.5 million to expand Home Visiting services.
- \$ 2 million to pilot extended day pre-k for current providers.
- \$1.3 million to increase childcare subsidy rates.
- \$300,000 for Incentives.
- \$300,000 to increase T & TA and to allow Inclusion Specialists in EC programs.
- \$5.29 increase for K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade – including providing more summer classes.
- \$ 500,000 for the FIT Program for rate increases.
- \$500,000 for Disabilities/Medicaid rate increases.
- \$3 million – Early Reading Initiative in early grades public schools.
- \$400,000 – Quality improvement registered early childcare homes.
- \$450,000 – for planning grants for early childcare and education programs.
- \$5.1 additional funding added to the FIT program base.

### **Workforce Professional Development Committee**

Elaine Gard, Sub-Committee, Chair

Three measures that will be looked at regarding the Workforce Development:

Focusing on three measures a) what defines high quality, b) determine the current status of our workforce and c) Workforce development.

Sub Committee Meeting on the Early Childhood Higher Ed Task Force:

- Presenting to the state's junior colleges. There are 21 Junior colleges in our state.
- Meeting articulation agreements for early childhood.
- Requirements and continuity for EC course work.
- By April hope to have eleven of the Junior colleges presented.
- Findings with faculty and adjunct faculty – not populating with what we are training.
- Raising the criteria for 2 year programs.
- A way for teachers that are not working in Public Ed to maintain their licensure certification.
- As of June 2014 there will be two licensure tracks for early childhood.

### **Access to Quality Early Childhood Programs**

Karen Ziegler, Sub-Committee Chair

Special Quest is in process of working on a state perception of inclusive practices needs assessment. Once an assessment is completed, it will be presented to the ELAC with recommendations from the Special Quest state leadership team.

Alejandra responded: Asking our partners from Part C and Special Quest to allow us to bring the professional development to the field for children with disabilities. Will be calling upon this partnership for support, training and consultation when we are building the competencies to help the educators work with children. We are still working on the process.

### **Review and Revise ELAC By-Laws**

Open Meeting Policy

Alejandra asked the council to review the ELAC By-Laws to see if there is anything that needs to be updated or added. Larry asked Alejandra to send the By-Laws to the council for review. If there is any additions or updates, he asked that these be sent to Alejandra. The updates will be put on the agenda for the next meeting for review.

### **Public Comment**

Baji Rankin, Executive Director, NM Association of Young Children spoke on the Wonder of Learning Exhibit that is coming to New Mexico for six months starting in June. Requested time to present the potentials of the exhibit to the early childhood community. Invited all to the David Hawkins approach to early learning free reception at the Museum of Natural History and Science.

Diane Demerie- DOH - made suggestion for a better microphone system in order for people in the back rows to hear speakers better.

Larry asked Heather gave an update on NMAEYC state conference:

- State conference-strong collaborative with CYFD, DOH (FIT), UNM CDD, PED
- Celebrating the richness 60 public sessions/seminars and collaboration: Review, Reflect and Relate. All about building relationships.
- Roberto Dansie dynamic keynote speaker and presenter. His father Irish and his mother is Mayan. Audience was very engrossed in his presentation, specific to Culture and working with diverse populations.
  - He discussed the 4 elements: air, water, earth and fire and how that reflects in the disposition of the child - enlightening.
  - Another disposition on how we look at children, how we bring their energy to our learning environment and how we relate to that in an honorable way.
- Special recognition was given for Mary Ann Bedford –as a key educator in the state of New Mexico and what she has contributed to our profession and young people’s learning and to remind us of why we are here at the conference to set the setting for ECE field. Ms. Bedford passed away 30 years ago.

### **Executive Session**

The council went into executive session

Return to Open meeting

### **ELAC Elections**

#### **ELAC Chair**

Erica Stubbs, Director of Children's Services for Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS), was elected chair of the NM Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) and took office immediately after elections concluded. The election was by acclamation after no one else was nominated.

#### **ELAC Vice-Chair**

According to the By-Laws, the Vice-Chair will not be up for election until January 2015. The Council decided to elect the Vice-Chair who will take office in January 2015. There were two nominations: Barbara Tedrow, current ELAC Vice-Chair and Heather Vaughn, early childhood coordinator at Albuquerque Public Schools. Heather was elected as the new ELAC Vice-Chair who will take office effective January 2015.

#### **ELAC Executive Committee Member**

The position of ELAC appointed Executive Committee member now vacant due to Erica Stubbs election to Chair, was assigned to Barbara Tedrow after January 2015 and Heather Vaughn in the interim. This is to allow for cross training and continuity

### **Closing Remarks**

Dan Ritchey noted the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the scholarships start of the TEACH scholarship at the NMAEYC conference.

### **Meeting Adjourn**