

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

May 21, 2012
Parents Reaching Out – Albuquerque NM
MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Larry Langley, ELAC Chair at 9:05 AM. He thanked Parents Reaching Out for allowing us to use their facilities. Mr. Langley also mentioned that the sign in sheet for community input would be available until 11:00 AM.

Determining Quorum

Roll Call: Barbara Luna Tedrow, Vice-Chair. Members Present: Larry Langley, Erica Stubbs, Andy Gomm, Peggy Soria, Rebecca Dow, Ruth Kie, Karen Ziegler, Barbara Tedrow, Polly Anderson, Dan Haggard, Leighann Lenti, Elaine Gard and Lillian Montoya-Rael . Members Absent (excused): Jane Peacock.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2012

Members had received the meeting minutes ahead of time, no changes.
Motion to approve meeting minutes for March 12, 2012: Rebecca Dow/ Peggy Soria. All in favor, motion carried.

Adoption of ELAC Bylaws changes

Changes were discussed at the March 12 Meeting and according to the adopted Bylaws action must be taken at this meeting.

Article IV, Section 4 to address Staggered Terms for Officers. The proposed change is to extend the period of the Vice - Chair to serve a 2 ½ year term and the Chair to serve the regular 2 year term and aligning to the By-Laws thereafter.

Motion to approve Article IV, Section 4 to address Staggered Terms for Officers: Lillian Montoya-Rael/Elaine Gard. All in favor, motion carried.

Article V, Section 2, V-2-1 and V-2-2 – Meeting Notice, change wording from “proposed” agenda to “agenda”.

Motion to approve changes on Article V, Section 2, V-2-1 and V-2-2 Rebecca Dow/Lillian Montoya-Rael. All in favor, motion carried.

Article V, Section 4, V-4-1 and V-4-2 – Make wording consistent with change approved above.

Motion to Approve Article V, Section 4, V-4-1 and V-4-2: Lillian Montoya-Rael/Leighann Lenti. All in favor, motion carried.

Article VI, Section 2, VI-2-5 - Council members will recruit parents to be part of a Council Committee or Task Force.

Motion to Approve Article VI, Section 2, VI-2-5: Elaine Gard/Lillian Montoya-Rael . All in favor, motion carried.

Larry Langley, ELAC Chair, indicated that during the open meeting session at 2:15PM, there will be a three minute limit for each community member that wants to share their opinion,

this was discussed in the previous meeting. The process of obtaining an opportunity for input is by signing at the provided sign-in sheet by the end of the morning break.

Recognition: Senator John Sapien, Senator Sue Beffort and Representative Rhonda King
ELAC Chair, Mr. Langley thanked Senator Sapien, Senator Beffort and Representative King on behalf of the Early Learning Advisory Council for their support to early childhood care and education. Senator Beffort sent her regards and wanted to inform the Council, about her continuous support to early care and education.

Senator John Sapien thanked all members for serving on the New Mexico Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC). He acknowledged the hard work that has taken place to make Senate Bill 120 happen. Noted that many were instrumental in the process. It is positive to be seen in a good light nationally and he stressed the importance of reaching out to legislators and continue educating them about the birth to five system. He added that he was very proud of all the hard work that the council is doing and where the council is taking Senate Bill 120.

There were some questions for Senator Sapien:

What is the current environment/sentiment for increasing the general funds? Response: Hopefully we will have additional revenue, however we need to continue the momentum that we have all created, educate legislators and continue the hard work.

Senator Sapien spoke to the upcoming June Legislative Finance Committee Hearings with focus on early childhood. He added that early childhood issues are a topic of LFC meetings to ensure the effectiveness of the system. Briefing on K 3+ initiatives resulted in legislation that made it permanent with money to go along with it.

Mimi Aledo announced LFC Meeting on June 15th in Roswell NM, the LFC will be looking at prenatal to age 3 and how it affects lifelong health and societal outcomes. She will get information to the council so it can be dispersed. All are welcome to attend.

Senator Sapien referred to the LFC meeting held in Red River on October 2011. A number of people attending the ELAC meeting were part of the presentation team and received standing ovation from the LFC. The hope is that this council becomes that official voice. Chair Langley noted that New Mexico is leading the nation in early learning councils and Senate Bill 120 is being looked at by others in the nation.

Senator Sapien thanked Representative King publicly especially for her hard work on the House side for Senate Bill 120. He noted that Charter School rating has gone up with Representative King's help. Representative King spoke to the group on not seeking re-election due to personal future plans. She expressed her thanks to the council and shared her thoughts on building partnership while working on legislation.

Early Childhood in New Mexico: It's Everybody's Business-Video

The hope is to get video out to the business community, the private and public sector, inform the public and urge legislators and leaders, to make a commitment to children of today and to the children of years to come. The video can be found as follows: <http://vimeo.com/39669349> or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q82TzM4I7uY&feature=colike>.

Report: NM Early Childhood Development Partnership

There was a panel presentation lead by Ms. Katherine Freeman, President/CEO of United Way of Santa Fe County. She introduced the following panel presenters: Joelle Fontaine, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Heather Balas, President and Executive Director of New Mexico First, Emily Darnell-Nunez, New Mexico Community Foundation, Rosa Barraza, New Mexico Child Care & Education Association and Dr. Winograd, Director of the Center for Education Policy (CEPR) at the University of New Mexico.

Ms. Fontaine provided the history of the partnership. She acknowledged the honor to work with Early Childhood, and how Senate Bill 120 was a key turning point in Early Childhood legislation. Through the partnership between CYFD, Business Roundtable and New Mexico First, committees worked together to assess and make recommendations related to the early childhood system.

Ms. Balas spoke about the activities of the Summit and the work of the Implementation Team, convening Early Childhood providers, the business community, government sector policy workers, educators, K-12 level and higher education level professionals. Starting point was Senate Bill 120. The Summit was structured in four key areas: quality standards; funding strategy; school readiness and data systems. An Action Plan was developed in the four areas. Three key questions have developed from this work: what was recommended at the Summit; what has happened since then; recommendations for next steps.

Ms. Emily Darnell-Nunez, spoke on School Readiness Committee. Five areas were defined: Physical, Wellbeing and Motor Development; Social and Emotional Development, Varied Approaches toward Learning; Language Development; General Knowledge and Cognition alignment with national standards. Proposed next steps: Early Learning Advisory Committee may consider advising in the development of the authentic assessment tool.

Ms. Freeman stated that a goal was established during the Summit by the Quality Standards Committee: to ensure that New Mexico's quality standards, align all early childhood programs and services and create outstanding educational opportunities for young children.

Ms. Barraza, spoke about professional development needs and how important it is that ages services for children birth to five align with school entry, including tribal communities. This is to ensure that early learning providers are evaluated consistently with the same guidelines for every program. Summit called for the increase in requirements for early childhood professionals and the need to educate legislators about the Teach program;

Dr. Winograd spoke about the Data Systems and Outcomes Committee: The team made the following recommendations: provide the ELAC regular updates from CYFD and PED on the data plan, identify someone who focuses on policy issues to review data questions, how to use data effectively in ways that protect people. Recognized DOH for the spectacular work they do in assessing data. Strengthen New Mexico's capacity to use data to gain insight, advocate for change, address key policy questions, prioritize resources and hold adults accountable.

Mr. Langley ELAC Chair asked if Dr. Winograd may consider coming back to July meeting and look at what is in statute and how it can be addressed as we move early learning system forward. Dr. Winograd indicated that he can come back for further discussion.

The New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines (ELG)

Gaye Gronlund, ELG Consultant presented the latest version of Early Learning Guidelines, a copy was provided to Council members. She explained the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines from birth to kindergarten. How young children learn through play, babies develop through relationships, recognizing the child and the family and how educators work in partnerships with families. She provided historical background on the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines and the Key points of the guidelines: authentic assessment, curriculum and the importance of parents and family members as a child's first teachers. The guidelines were created to provide common language among early childhood programs.

Report: New Mexico CYFD Early Care and Learning Funding FY13

Presentation by Sandy Sandoval, Early Childhood Services, Fiscal Manager:

Total appropriation of the budget for ECS was \$156,389,900.

Childcare Assistance - \$87,120,800 serve approximately 21, 250 children per month.

State home visiting - \$3,176,800 funds approximate 16 sites.

Federal home visiting - \$2,920,700 to implement evidence based models in communities identified at most risk.

Child Care Resources and Referral - \$3,818,400.

TEACH Scholarships - \$381,900;

Head Start Collaboration Office - \$125,000;

Budget that will be put into Department of Finance will be approximately \$159,000,000;

Two thirds of the funding is Federal.

Mimi Aledo-Sandoval, Senior Fiscal Analyst I, New Mexico State Legislative Finance Committee:

Overview of FY12 Budget to F13 Focus on Early Childhood Programs:

In FY 13 will see \$900,000 increase from the General Fund for Home Visiting Services.

Childcare Assistance funding was increased by approximately \$3,000,000.

Pre-K (CYFD and PED Funding) grew by \$4.7 million.

TEACH Program (scholarships), \$150,000 increase.

Percentages of state subsidized children in need of high quality as of February, 2012 were presented to the council in March and suggested that ELAC review to see how the council would like to move forward with policy.

Capacity for communities and departments: highlighting where the needs are and figuring out how to help those communities develop the plans to apply for money is critical.

There were some clarifying questions regarding the budget by Council members, they were answered by the panel. Mr. Chair thanked the panel indicating that the presentation was helpful to understand the budget.

Race to the Top "Early Learning Challenge"

Dan Haggard, Deputy Director, ECS, CYFD and Leighann Lenti, Senior Policy Advisor, PED presented on the status of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge funding opportunity. Dan Haggard indicated that the priority of this grant opportunity is to promote school readiness. School Readiness is identified in two parts: improving quality and integrating and aligning policies with a common state wide tiered quality rating system. The state may have the opportunity to reapply for funding and demonstrate a successful state system. There will be a budget resubmitted that meets the new requirements as established. This will apply to all early learning systems across state. The focus will be in high quality programs, accountability, quality rating system, early childhood investment zones, early childhood workforce, measure outcomes of children prior to kindergarten and a comprehensive data system.

Leighann Lenti added that this is an opportunity for New Mexico to receive \$25,000,000 by end of calendar year. She stated that 9 states were eligible last year, and for this phase, our state must submit data demonstrating that we are still working toward the goals outlined in original application. We must make appropriate budget adjustments based on the priorities that will be outlined in the announcement.

Dan Haggard explained that at this point we do not know the priorities and how they will be set forth until we obtain additional information. There was a question from the members if there was going to be public input for this phase, the answer that the Federal Government has not set the criteria and until then we will know how to proceed. Another question was whether or not the guidelines were prescriptive including quality rating. The panel responded that although we have not seen the new criteria, the information obtained so far indicate that the process will be prescriptive.

Report National Governor's Assoc Institute:

Alejandra Rebolledo Rea, CYDF, ECS, Office of Child Development Bureau Chief and Larry Langley, New Mexico Early Learning Advisory Council Chair, attended an Institute in Washington DC on May 9 and 10, 2012.

Alejandra explained that the Institute was designed for Governors' Advisors and Early Childhood Advisory Councils. This was an opportunity for states to come together and look at the early learning systems nationwide in a cross-system approach. The goal was to assist states to develop their policy agenda addressing prenatal to grade 3, align systems and identify the state's plan to bring this approach to each community.

Mr. Langley stated that of the 50 states and 2 territories, there were 35 states represented. This was a 2 day institute focused on early learning councils. Councils were created through executive order via departments. In New Mexico the Early Learning Council was put in statute, and this allowed the sustainability of the in order to strengthen the system. This Council has been given the task to champion and make a difference and to be the voice of a lot of the initiatives.

Alejandra added that the Council members have a huge responsibility and it is important to be very involved with each community.

Public Comment:

Mr. Langley opened the floor for public input reminding participants that each has 3 minutes to allow others to participate and that their comments would be part of public record.

Participants:

Baji Rankin, Executive Director for New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children, stated that it is a great opportunity to spend some time evaluating what is available in the community and there is a great need to look at the development of the Early Childhood workforce. NMAEYC has the honor of administering the TEACH Early Childhood® New Mexico scholarship program. In 2010 funded 750 scholarships. It is important to study the data and provide the necessary funding so that participants stay in the field. Ms. Rankin added that it is necessary to see the Importance of quality and quantity. She concluded thanking the Council.

Kyle Smith signed up, however Linda Segal was the person who actually provided the input representing the NM Childcare and Education Association. She indicated that on behalf of their provider members, she wanted to thank the Council for the opportunity and to look at the cost issue for providers as decisions are being made. She added that it was necessary to look at the financial implications. She concluded stating that providers cannot do more when they have less.

Debra Baca, Vice-President, Youth Development Inc. Head Start, stated that school readiness and quality services are priority of Head Start. From a Head Start perspective, she would like to provide suggestions and comments regarding the START Quality Rating System and how that can align with the Head Start Federal Review process. Every three years Head Starts have a Federal Review process, usually conducted by 18 members experts in early childhood. Their commendation is that if the program has a successful Federal Review process, they should be at a four or five star designation. On bridging funding between Pre-K and Head Start, she added that this was a wonderful opportunity for programs to serve diverse populations. Thanks to Baji and the TEACH scholarships, personnel has been ready to meet the federal mandate. In regards to School Readiness she cautioned the Council to remember the family.

Myra Segal, Deputy Director, New Mexico Voices for Children, stated that the Council's challenge is the development of a comprehensive system and that the biggest gap for opportunity is funding. She added that it is necessary to start looking at funding options in the state. It is important to assess if revenue will be sufficient to serve enough children to make a difference with quality and to prepare them for school. Ms. Segal indicated that as the ELAC establishes advisory committees, the New Mexico Voices for children would make themselves available. She acknowledged the presence of participants in the room who care about New Mexico Children and concluded by stating that the Council has taken on a big responsibility and thanked the Council for their commitment.

Upcoming Meetings for the Year

Mr. Langley stated that in previous meetings the Council decided to meet every other month in Albuquerque. Meetings were scheduled as follows (locations in Albuquerque to be determined):

ELAC Meeting: Monday, July 16, 9:00 AM – 2: 45 PM

ELAC Meeting: Monday, September 17, 9:00 AM – 2: 45 PM

ELAC Retreat: October 12, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

ELAC Meeting: November 5th, 9:00 AM – 2: 45 PM.

Announcements

Ms. Rebolledo Rea reminded all that the ELAC responsibilities as related to the New Mexico Senate Bill 120 and the Head Start Act was placed in the packets and can be put in their binders for reference.

Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Larry Langley, ELAC Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting: Lillian Montoya-Rael/ Polly Anderson. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:50 PM.