

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

MEETING MINUTES

September 17 2012

United Way – Albuquerque NM

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM by Mr. Larry Langley, Early Learning Advisory Council Chair. He welcomed the members, audience and thanked United Way for the use of their facilities.

Mr. Langley expressed the council's special thanks Katherine Freeman and Lillian and the Partnership for their support to the ELAC on the work they have done on behalf of young children and by providing lunch for the meetings. He acknowledged and thanked Alejandra Rebolledo for her dedication and hard work with the ELAC.

Mr. Langley informed that public comment signup will close at 10:00 AM. Public members have the opportunity to provide public input at the end of the meeting but must sign up first.

Determining Quorum

Members present: Elaine Gard, Barbara Tedrow, Erica Stubbs, Andy Gomm, Ruth Kie, Larry Langley, Lillian Montoya-Rael, Polly Anderson, Dan Haggard and Karen Ziegler. Members Excused: Rebecca Dow and Leighann Lenti. Mr. Langley established Quorum.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 16th

Meeting Minutes from July 16th were sent to members ahead of time, no changes. Reminder, the meeting minutes once official will be posted to NewMexicoKids.org website. Motion to approve meeting minutes for March 12, 2012: Rebecca Dow/ Peggy Soria. All in favor, motion carried Karen Ziegler/Lillian Montoya-Rael. All in favor, motion carried.

Race To The Top “Early Learning Challenge” Update

No new announcements on RTTT information will be shared on the next meeting.

Preparation for the ELAC Strategic Planning

New Mexico Children's Cabinet Web based-presentation:

Alejandra Rebolledo provided a website presentation about the NM Children's Cabinet: She reminded the council of the need to keep in mind the goals that the cabinet has set up for children birth-five. It is necessary to make sure that there is formalized communication with the cabinet on the status of children in New Mexico. She noted the cabinet's provided the website for the Children's Cabinet: childrennm.org and the message from the Governor. The Governor is the chairperson for the Cabinet.

Question from the council: will the cabinet be looking at the ELAC for recommendations? Response: there are members from ELAC that are currently serving on the Cabinet and act as liaison to the Cabinet as a multi-agency component. Mr. Langley noted that everyone on the Children's Cabinet is with one of the four government departments: DOH, CYFD, PED and HSD. The cabinet will be making recommendations to the legislature primarily on the budget. ELAC's recommendations would best fit into policy recommendations that affect early learning issues. He asked Alejandra to carry the message to Secretary Deines to request permission for the ELAC to present in front of the Children's Cabinet to outline what are the responsibilities of the ELAC and what the current strategies, making sure that ELAC is consolidated with the cabinet. Mr. Haggard noted that it is important keep in mind other early childhood advisory councils. ELAC should pay attention to the early learning part and the need to be careful that energies are not duplicated. We may want to negotiate with other councils. It is important to know what our advisory roles are and map all entities involved.

Results Based Accountability

Description and Process: Dr. Peter Winograd Director of the Center for Education Policy Research, UNM, Alejandra Rebolledo, Office of Child Development Bureau Chief. There was a presentation explaining ELAC's responsibility to use data for accountability. (Presentation attached)

Results Based Accountability must be tied to the strategic plan to ensure that outcomes address are being impacted. Define key concepts, outcomes, indicators and performance measures. We must determine a baseline that will let us see if strategies are impacting the outcomes determined.

Council members and audience were organized in small groups to analyze and categorize mandates across EC Systems. The task was to identify outcomes and requirements for: Senate Bill 120, main goals for Race To The Top, ELAC original application and the Head Start Act

Presentations:

Group #1: ELAC original application

There are five over arching goals for this document. The group discussed three of the goals.

Goal #1: Unique identifier for each child

- Purpose and outcomes of data collection
- Once data is collected, do the children have accessibility to high quality childcare?
- Health – accessibility to health care

Goal #2 : Aligning of early learning systems

- Based on data – state/federal requirements – not aligned; how can we use data to bring state and federal requirements more in alignment?
- FOCUS (TQRIS) – will help to bring alignment to the early learning systems.
- Integrate the early childhood systems without losing their uniqueness
- How do they align with the TQRIS?

Goal #3: Increased participation for child care throughout state

- Lack of infant/toddler care
- Qualified staff in rural areas.

Group #2 – Head Start Act –

ELAC is one of the mandates of that law;

Goal #1: increased access to high quality early care and education

Goal #2: Improved school readiness for all children

Goal #3: Recruit and retain a high quality education workforce

Group #3 Race To The Top Application

The group looked at the abstract for the RTT Application.

Goal #1: Program quality/expanding and build upon the states TQRIS, some base line data around star rated systems, childcare and PreK.

Goal #2: Quality workforce – some baseline data

Goal #3: Data system – hard to measure/foundational

Goal: #4 Access in the RTT application – investment zones – EC programs – cannot measure across programs; identify communities where children are at most risk.

- School readiness in RTT – kindergarten assessment; should be some outcome measure for school readiness; should be some outcome measure of school readiness as they leave birth to 5 system.
- Theme throughout the RTT grant: Alignment of school systems: prenatal through 3rd grade.

Group # 4 - Senate Bill 120 - Mr. Langley

What is the key information (discussion); what are top goals, focus:

- Outcomes: participation and accessibility; qualified staff; school readiness; high quality workforce; high quality programs; funding; parental involvement, healthy development for children; professional development.
- Critical to have the unique identifier: where funding is going to for that child.
- Financing - outcome: how are we filling gaps in the communities that we're funding and how are we filling the gaps.

Through a process of identification of common goals, three Outcomes were determined:

1. Access to quality early childhood programs
2. School Readiness
3. Qualified Workforce Development

Data will be gathered by Dr. Winograd and Alejandra Rebolledo to determine a base line on outcome number 1.

CYFD – ECS FY 2013 Budget

Sandy Sandoval, Fiscal Manager, Early Childhood Services, CYFD (power point)

Diana Martinez, ECS Director

- Child care assistance
- State Home Visiting – add. Sites being added
- Fed Home Visiting – total grant award is
- TQRIS
- T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships
- Head Start Collaboration

Diana stated that enrollment started at 110% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Current regulations allows for 200% FPL. There are people on waiting list above 150% the Division has implemented several cost preventive measures. Diana explained that \$500,000 supplemental request was requested to LFC for home visiting focusing on investment zones. The Division request one time funding to target specific communities, to request on FY15 to be recurring. Dan spoke on investment zones saying that it is not feasible for some communities to have a pre-K program. Dan commented on Senate Bill 120 being a data driven system with a need to begin in most needy areas. This can demonstrate that a continuum of efforts such as home visiting Head Start etc. does make a difference. Mr. Langley commended CYFD for their work and their attention to budget management.

Gloria Bonner was invited form the audience to discuss about ECAN

- Funding will end in 2013
- It is in the process of updating their strategic plan: it will include health and learning components. Turn the Curve meeting is being planned for November 2.
- ECAN and ELAC must be partners in achieving and enhancing outcomes and goals.

Final discussion for ELAC Strategic Planning preparation

Alejandra explained to the group that the October 12 Strategic Planning session if of high importance. The desired outcome is to identify Mission, Vision, Goals, Strategies, and Timelines for a 3 or 5 year plan along with ELAC responsibilities. Identify as a group the subcommittees and task forces and design a process for tracking and reporting progress towards outcomes. Our facilitator will contact members to obtain input and possibly assign some preparation work.

Community Input

Myra Segal, New Mexico Voices for Children

- So many children in state can benefit from services
- Hope we can do: get more children access to high quality service that can impact their lives right now.
- A way to measure the unmet need.
- Thank you – offered their support.

Reminders:

The following reminders were discussed by members:

Next Meeting November 5, 2012

There are 3 openings on the Early Learning Advisory Council

- One Public Member with knowledge and experience in early childhood care and education
- Representative of a Local Education Agency
- Representative of the state agency responsible for children's health or mental health care issues

Adjourn Meeting

Ms. Barbara Tedrow, ELAC Vice-Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting: Karen Ziegler/ Polly Anderson. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 PM.