

Early Learning Council

Sept 19, 2011

Meeting Notes: Approved

In attendance:

Senator Terri Bonoff, Karen Cadigan, Victoria Campoverde, Sara Carlson, David Cournoyer, Jacqueline Cross, Maria Erlandson, Barbara Fabre, Dianne Haulcy, Donna Henning, Sue Hoeft, Jim Koppel, Denise Mayotte, Scott McConnell, Carol Miller, Miriam Mohamed, Patricia Nordahl, Molly Rieke, Arthur Rolnick, Fred Senn, Representative Slawik, Carolyn Smallwood, Erin Sutton-Sullivan, Jill Timm, Mary Vanderwert, Senator Pam Wolf, Barb Yates, Michelle Zadra

Unable to attend: Yeu Vang

Members of the Public: Cisa Keller, Eric Haugee, Cathleen Hess, Jacqueline Cross, Alice Seuffert, Carmen Caster, Lisa Larson, Nancy Jost, Valerie Desland, Kelly Monson, Megan Waltz, Jason Daniel, Jennifer Barshack, Joy Spencer, Todd Otis, Ann McCully, Linda Sandvig, Marcie Jefferys, Sheila Kiscaden, Jackie Felt, Deb Swenson-Klatt, Kimberly Croft, Eileen Nelson

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Role of the Council and Responsibilities

Executive Order: Barb Yates, Chair of the council, reported that in making appointments, attention was paid to creating a council that was rich in thought, geography, cultural diversity and program representation.

Debbie Hewitt, staff to the council, gave an overview of the state and federal charges of the Early Learning Council. Information was shared regarding what has been done to date and potential next steps.

Karen Cadigan, director of Office of Early Learning, described her vision for the newly created office. She described how the office will be rooted in the Department of Education with influence in other agencies which provide services to children birth to age eight and their families.

Ms. Yates reported that the council will make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet. The Children's Cabinet is made up of the commissioners from the Departments of Education, Human Services and Health. They will work together to address issues that cross agencies.

3. Comprehensive Framework

Megan Waltz, BUILD consultant, gave an overview of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Framework that was created by the previous Early Childhood Advisory Council. It was intended to guide the work of the council, agencies, stakeholders and service providers. It was developed as a "plan of plans" by

including the work of groups involved in system development. It stresses equity of access to service and articulates objectives and measurable outcomes. One of the next steps for the framework would be to clearly define action steps and who would be responsible.

The framework was in process of being developed when the council ended. It was presented to the previous council as a draft but had not yet been adopted. The new Early Learning Council might find it a useful document on which to build.

Molly Rieke made a motion to move forward with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Framework. Denise Mayotte seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott McConnell amended the motion to adopt the vision language for this council and adopt the remaining text as current tactics Minnesota is taking to achieve the vision. Fred Senn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Race to the Top Application

Karen Cadigan gave an overview of the RTTT application and Minnesota's progress. The application materials indicate that a state is to set ambitious yet achievable goals and to concentrate its efforts on children with high needs. States are encouraged to focus on system building, coordination and to create systems that are sustainable. Minnesota is eligible for \$50 million dollars over four years. It is expected the plan developed for the application will become Minnesota's plan for the next several years whether the application is approved or not.

Minnesota's plan will focus on four big areas:

1. Developing greater accountability and decision making by linking data sets that can measure outcomes.
2. Developing a great work force to improve quality.
3. Creating and supporting high quality, accountable programs by implementing Parent Aware statewide.
4. Focusing on geographic areas with high concentrations of poverty.

Points of Discussion:

- These funds are not intended to fund programs.
- Target areas include: St. Paul's Promise Neighborhood, Northside Achievement Zone, Invest Early and White Earth.
- Grant writers were encouraged to link these efforts with the Statewide Longitudinal Data System grant that was received.
- There should be a public relations push following the submission of the application in order to inform and excite the public.

Letters of support are needed from significant early childhood stakeholders. It is highly desirable that there be a letter from the Council.

Scott McConnell made a motion that the Chair be allowed to sign a letter of intent from the Council. Denise Mayotte seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Karen DeYoung from DeYoung Consulting Services provided a summary of her contract work on the *Minnesota Core Competencies for Early Childhood Education and Care Practitioners who work with children birth through age eight and their families*. Under this contract, they worked to incorporate the skills needed to work with young children and their families who are English language learners, new immigrants and children with disabilities. They also worked to ensure current research and best practices were incorporated into the competencies. They gathered public input from a variety of stakeholders and program experts. The documents will be available in early 2012.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30

Next meeting will be December 12, 2011, from 1:00 to 5:00