

Early Learning Council

April 17, 2012

Approved: May 15, 2012

Meeting notes:

Present: Scott McConnell, Patricia Nordahl, Fred Senn, Mary Vanderwert, Karen Cadigan, Jeanne Ayres, Barb Yates, Erin Sullivan Sutton, Maria Erlandson, Yeu Vang, Sue Hoeft, Sara Carlson, Carol Miller, David Counoyer, Jill Timm, Denise Mayotte, Barb Fabre, Jacqueline Cross, Art Rolnick, Victoria Campoverde, Carolyn Smallwood and Dianne Haulcy

Unable to attend: Senator Terri Bonoff, Barb Fabre, Donna Henning, Representative Jenifer Loon, Miriam Mohamed, Molly Rieke, Art Rolnick, Representative Nora Slawik, Senator Pam Wolf and Michelle Zadra

Public members: Todd Otis, Megan Waltz, Mary Orr, Kelly Monson, Nancy Jost, Lisa Barnidge, Ann McCully, Sophie Oliver, Ann Luce, Elizabeth Fields, Jennifer Barshack, Sondra Samuels and Laurie Davis

1. Welcome to Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center and Goals for the Meeting

Barb Yates called the meeting to order. After reviewing the agenda, a discussion regarding how to handle requests for presentations was added.

Barb thanked the organizers of the bus tour and the visits to Mona Mode and Family Partnership. Scott McConnell welcomed the council to Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC). Makeda Zulu-Gillespie, UROC, gave an overview of the goals and programs of the center.

2. Approve Minutes from March 13, 2012

Erin Sullivan-Sutton made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13 meeting. Fred Senn seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. What is our important work? Follow up to World Café Conversations

David Counoyer gave an overview of the work of the committee on committees.

Small groups met to discuss three areas: How can the council make an impact on accountability/decision making, access to high-quality programming and a great workforce?

Recommendations made by the small group discussing the great work force:

- Office of Early Learning should engage a short-term communication consultant who could answer questions regarding Parent Aware

- Governor and/or state leadership to work with leaders in institutes of higher education to create articulation agreements and make it easier to become qualified early childhood practitioners
- Increase compensation for early childhood staff to entice highly-qualified people to the field and maintain post graduate programs
- Review the proposal of the Early Childhood Advisory Council's Professional Development Committee to determine next steps

Recommendation made by the small group discussing access issues:

- Support policy recommendations to the governor that will provide resources for continuous high quality programming for prenatal to eight years of age. Support work going on in the Departments of Education, Human Services and Health that backs this effort

Recommendation made by the small group discussing accountability and decision making issues:

- Build council members understanding of the work of Office of Early Learning and Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge.

4. Presentation by Sondra Samuels, Chief Executive Officer Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ): Success and Opportunities

Sondra Samuels provided an overview of the work being done and the vision for the work to be done through the \$28 million federal grant recently received.

5. Minnesota's Federal Education Grants, presentation by Laurie Davis, Advance Consulting

Laurie Davis gave an overview of her work, funded by Start Early, to coordinate lessons learned in the implementation of Minnesota's three federal grants. The three grants include: Minnesota's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, NAZ Promise Neighborhood and University of Minnesota's i3 grant. The grantees are being intentional about how their work will fit together and be aligned.

Laurie asked that the council provide feedback on a number of questions: How to identify effective practices? How to share them? How to encourage program people to implement what works? How will implementation be supported? How to set up a continuous feedback loop for improvement?

6. Guiding Principles

Denise Mayotte gave an overview of the work done since the last meeting on the Guiding Principles work. The principles were reviewed. Karen Cadigan made a motion to adopt the vision statement and principles as presented. Maria Erlandson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

7. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

8. Other

Barb Yates, Dianne Haulcy and Sara Carlson volunteered to frame the vision discussion for the next meeting.

Barb Yates, Carol Miller and Denise Mayotte volunteered to look at legislative issues and how the council will make decisions regarding policy recommendations. They will consider how to partner with advocates, funders and others working on similar issues.

It was recommended that a subgroup be formed to look at the recommendations coming out of the Professional Development committee of the Early Childhood Advisory Council.

9. Adjourn

Scott McConnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Art Rolnick seconded the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.