

# Minutes

(Digitally recorded)

## EC3 Meeting / September 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 2015

Best Western Vista Inn at the Airport, 2645 Airport Way, Boise, Idaho 83705

### Attendees:

**Members:** Sherry Iverson, Ellen Neff, Ami Owen, Bill Foxcroft, Christy Cronheim, Fred S. Martin, David Allen, Holly Whitworth, Kent Hobbs, Melissa Crist (for Julie Fodor), Greg Culet, Mechelle Wilson, Kathy McGill, Cindy Brock, Cathie Johnson, Rebekah Casey, Beth Oppenheimer, Roger Sherman, Omair Shamim, Mick Hodges, Vanessa Wise (for Paula Mason), Deborah Drain (for Kris Spain).

**Excused:** Justin Coleman, Shannon Dunstan, Kris Spain, Reed DeMordaunt, Paula Mason, Julie Fodor

**Guests:** Emily Petersen, Nancy Luevanos, Amada Flores, Alejandra Cerna Rios, Jennifer Surrusco, Kristin Bergeson, JoLyn Sellin, Ericka Rupp

**Staff:** Sue Harpold, Katie Stoneberg

### Meeting Called to Order at 11:02am

Co-Chair Sherry Iverson opened the meeting and welcomed new Council members Cathie Johnson, Cindy Brock, Rebekah Casey, and Mick Hodges. Remaining members were introduced with identifying titles and agencies.

**Membership:** Sherry: The following members were informed that their application for appointment has not been received and processed. As written in the by-laws members with expired appointments are unable to vote and will be listed as guests for this quarter's meeting:

- Christy Cronheim
- Shannon Dunstan
- Amada Flores
- Nancy Luevanos
- Paula Mason
- Emily Petersen
- Ericka Rupp
- JoLyn Sellin

Sherry: Part of the responsibility of being a Council member is serving on a standing committee. The Chairs of the standing committees are recruiting members and all present should give Katie a committee preference by the end of the meeting on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**Babypalooza:** Sherry: EC3, The Children's Trust Fund, and the American Academy of Pediatrics hosted a booth at the annual BabyPalooza. Approximately 800 people attended, and the EC3 booth featured a display of the Crying Plan with a basket of materials tailored to each step in the Plan. Sherry suggested that the RECCS think of other "baby fairs" to participate in regionally. Cathie and Sue will follow up.

**Update on the Aim Early Idaho Quality Improvement Workshop held on August 11, 2015 in Boise:**

Ellen Neff

Dan Ward and Deborah Drain provided an opportunity to use the MIECHV Continuous Quality Improvement process and support Aim Early Idaho to increase membership and thereby increase infant mental health endorsements in the state. At the present time practitioners are not able to bill Medicaid for services and so there is no incentive to work towards the endorsement. Currently there are 5 endorsed members at a level two, 2 members endorsed at a level three, and 2 members endorsed at a level four.

Sue: There is a huge need in Idaho for individuals that have the Infant Mental Health endorsement and can provide reflective supervision. Home Visitors have a great need for support in their work. If Idaho does not have qualified people doing reflective supervision it will be detrimental to the Home Visiting Programs.

Christy: If infants and young children do not have secured attachments and feelings that they are safe and getting their needs met, all areas of development are impacted. We need to advocate and help build understanding that social emotional development this is a critical component for all children. Because Aim Early Idaho is an all-volunteer group they need help to become sustainable.

Greg Culet made a motion for an ad hoc committee to be formed for Aim Early Idaho; Motion seconded by David Allen. The vote carried. The following members have volunteered to be on the Aim Early Idaho ad hoc committee:

- Ami Owen
- Ellen Neff
- Christy Cronheim
- Rebekah Casey
- Kathy McGill
- Mechelle Wilson
- Cindy Brock
- Melissa Crist
- Nancy Luevanos

Sherry asked the ad hoc committee members that are in attendance to meet and decide on a date of their first meeting which EC3 will facilitate via conference call.

Cathie Johnson informed the Council that Aim Early Idaho is having their Infant Mental Health Institute on November 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The agenda will focus on supporting interested practitioners in starting on the level two endorsements. EC3 members were encouraged to take this information back to their respective programs and inform their coworkers of this opportunity. The institute will be located in Boise and there is a \$95.00 registration fee.

**Update on the recruitment of an Idaho magistrate judge with child protection cases:** Judge Greg Culet

Greg introduced Judge Mick Hodges as a new member to EC3. Judge Hodges is a magistrate judge from Cassia County and has been serving on the bench for 7 plus years and is also on the statewide Child Protection Committee. Judge Hodges will attend tomorrow.

**Lunch/Networking:** Attendees were encouraged to watch the 2015 early Learning in Idaho Conference. Video of the conference can be found at <http://idahoptv.org/video/earlylearningconference.cfm>

**Update on health coverage for children in Idaho:** Kathy McGill

**(Handout was provided and is available on the <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3> – please refer there for further information on the details of the presentation.)**

- Every year the Department of Insurance conducts a survey of licensed health insurance carriers in Idaho to track how many people were enrolled in insurance at the end of the year. This year changes were made to the survey in order to better collect information on all of the new Affordable Care Act categories and to receive a more detailed view of the insurance market.
- In July the Department received the data from 2015. The Department of Insurance does not have a direct record of how many people are enrolled in insurance; they only know what the carriers report. The Department of Health and Welfare has the ability to see exactly how many people are currently enrolled in Medicaid in the state of Idaho.

The following data was collected from the survey:

- Major Medical Private Insurance Coverage – All Ages
  - The number of individuals enrolled jumped from 86,823 in 2013 to 119,975 in 2014, a 38.2% increase.
  - Group enrollment went from 343,787 in 2013 to 324,197 in 2014, a 5.7% decrease.
- Major Medical Private Insurance Coverage – Under Age 19
  - The number of individuals enrolled went from 67,399 in 2013 to 54,729 in 2014, an 18.8% decrease.
  - Group enrollment jumped from 133,270 in 2013 to 167,582 in 2014, a 25.7% increase.
- Estimated Change in Overall Idaho Uninsured Rate
  - Idaho population jumped from 1,612,843 in 2013 to 1,634,464, in 2014, a 1.3% increase.
  - Idaho uninsured went from 320,956 in 2013 to 248,439 in 2015, a 22.6% decrease.
  - Idaho insured residents jumped from 1,291,887 in 2013 to 1,386,025 in 2015, a 7.3% increase.

**EC3 support for conferences, workshops, or speakers:** Sherry Iverson

Sherry: EC3 policies state that one of EC3's responsibilities is to support early childhood conferences, workshops, or speakers which provide continuing education for caregivers and teachers. The Governance Committee received 3 requests for support: one from Idaho Children's Trust Fund (Lemonade for Life), one from Idaho Head Start Association (Paul Schmitz) and one from the MIECHV program for the Home Visiting Summit. These were all approved by vote. Sue will draft a "Request for

Event Support” form so that requests in the future can be more formally considered. Sue suggests that conference support not exceed more than 4% of EC3’s budget (about \$5,000.00)

**Lemonade for Life – Using ACES to build hope and resilience:** Roger Sherman

**(Presented website for Lemonade for Life at <http://www.lemonadeforlife.com/>)**

Lemonade for Life is a training program that was developed at the University of Kansas as a response to the ACES study. The program supports people in identifying and building on their own resiliency as a way to overcome ACES.

The Children’s Trust Fund has invited Lemonade for Life to come to Idaho and provide training on October 23, 2015. The Trust Fund requests that EC3 sponsor some attendance as opposed to providing monetary support. Roger also discussed the Data and Resource Committee, the committee that has done most of the work around ACES, and suggested that the committee may want to shift its mission, focusing more on research to action rather than just data collection. Sherry: The Governance Committee recommends supporting 2 EC3 members by paying for their registration fees to attend the Lemonade for Life training. It was recommended that this be an opportunity for RECC Chairs to attend instead of EC3 members. Registration is \$225.00 per person. Bill Foxcroft moved that EC3 support representatives to attend the Lemonade for Life training. The motion was seconded by Beth Oppenheimer with no further discussion. Motion carried. Sherry advised members to send names of individuals that are interested in attending the training. The Governance Committee will then meet and come up with a way to decide who will attend.

**NEAR@Home:** Deborah Drain

The Region 10 MEICHV Program, which includes staff from Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska, has worked to develop a toolkit for Home Visitors around ACES. The toolkit is called NEAR@Home which stands for Neuroscience, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences & Resilience at Home. The toolkit is designed to support the Home Visiting Programs in addressing ACES with families. The toolkit is currently on the Thrive Washington website at <https://thrivewa.org/>.

MEICHV will pilot the NEAR@Home Toolkit by selecting a program that has at least one year of experience talking to families about ACES. They hope to learn the staff supports that are needed, and collect data on what went well, and what can be done better. After the pilot the toolkit will be distributed throughout the state to all MIECHV Home Visiting Programs.

**Proposal for EC3’s support with Home Visiting Summit: Holly Whitworth:**

The Second Annual Home Visiting Summit will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 in 4 hubs across the state of Idaho: Boise, Pocatello, Twin Falls, and Coeur d’ Alene. Those invited are Home Visiting Program staff, administration, stakeholders, policymakers, or anyone who is interested in Home Visiting and the impact it could have on families and young children in Idaho. The main goal of the summit is to work on messaging strategies for Home Visiting. The key note speaker will discuss how to develop a consistent message about Home Visiting across the state of Idaho.

- During the working lunch period, each hub will have a United Way speaker from their region/area that will be talk about public engagement and early childhood.
- Deborah Drain will be present some data from the Home Visiting Communication Planning Toolkit.
- There will be regional group work that will happen at the end of the day.

Holly proposed that EC3 support the Home Visiting Summit by providing the lunch (\$1,000.00). Amada Flores moved to support the Summit. The motion was seconded by Cathie Johnson. The vote to support carried. Holly will report on the outcome of the summit at the next EC3 meeting.

#### **Idaho Head Start Association Conference: Bill Foxcroft**

Paul Schmitz is the keynote; the conference will focus on leadership and partnership, specifically child care programs. With these partnerships established, Head Start will be able to better provide full day/full year programs. Motion by Roger Sherman to support the Idaho Head Start Association Conference. The motion was seconded by Beth Oppenheimer. Motion carried.

#### **David Allen: Update on Weebly Site ([idahoearycareandeducation.com](http://idahoearycareandeducation.com))**

The site is active and Katie is maintaining it. This is a temporary arrangement through the end of October, and a decision for future maintenance of the site needs to be made. Beth Oppenheimer stated that she would be happy to explore the options for IAEYC to maintain the website. David suggested the State Department of Education and Sue will check with the Department of Labor.

Break

#### **State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Update: Christy Cronheim:**

**(Presented by PowerPoint and available on the <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3> – please refer there for further information on the details of the presentation.)**

Accomplishments to date:

- June 2015 Self-assessment Tool
- July 2015 SSIP Quarterly Newsletter & Site Visit Planning
- August 2015 Demonstration Site Visits

Self-Assessment Areas for Improvement:

- Define the purpose of our Early Childhood Outcome (ECO) System
- Develop quality improvement questions related to child outcomes
- Analyze ECO data regularly and use data to inform improvements

Quarterly SSIP Newsletter:

- Communication for families, staff, and contractors

- Located on the Infant Toddler Program Website

#### Demonstration Site Visits:

- Region 3 (August 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Regions 1 & 2 (August 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>)
- Summary of Activities:
  - Process Mapping
  - File Reviews (5% sample size)
  - Video Observations (MDT meeting; Evaluation; Initial IFSP)
  - Interviews (MDT; Hub Leaders)
  - Observation of MDT meetings
  - Early Childhood Outcome (ECO) Process Survey

#### Preliminary Findings:

- Strengths:
  - Hub Leadership Team
  - Unique expertise
  - Highly qualified staff and contractors
  - Willingness to learn
  - Supportive of changes to the ECO process
  - Social-emotional expertise
  - Reflective supervision model
- Opportunities for Improvement
  - Better define the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) process and make it more meaningful.
  - Increase family involvement and understanding of ECOs
  - Revamp the Child Outcome Summary Form.
  - Develop ECO training with consistent refreshers.
  - Develop typical child development training for Service Coordinators and other specialty providers.
  - Assist MDTs with shifting the focus to quality rather than quantity.
- Next Steps and Timeline
  - Compile site visit results and report to regions
  - Send ECO process survey to remaining regions (4, 5, 6 and 7)
  - SSIP Stakeholder Workgroup:
    - September 29, 2015
    - Assist with developing implementation plan
  - Begin building professional development structure
    - Initial focus on Early Childhood Outcomes forms, resources, and trainings

- Because of the structure the contractors are contracted directly with the Infant Toddler Program. The Infant Toddler Program is the provider of services from the referral point through the transitioning point. There has been around a 90% return rate from contractors, staff, and hub leaders and the survey tool allows the data to be dissected and analyzed in several different ways.
- Some of the reasons that social-emotional outcomes were chosen to be surveyed was:
  - The data showed that the social-emotional area was lowest at the state level.
  - Staff and contractors have been requesting help; the infrastructure did not support an evidence based practice. Through this process the Infant Toddler Program will focus on evidence based practice.
  - Focusing on the social-emotional outcomes will improve the other 2 outcomes.
 There are several states that are currently ahead of Idaho. Idaho can learn from other states how they have collected Early Childhood Outcomes data.

**Infant Toddler Update: Christy Cronheim**

**(Presented by PowerPoint and available on the <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3> – please refer there for further information on the details of the presentation.)**

The children included in the data presented have been enrolled in the program; the data does not include any child that has been referred and is in the eligibility process. The number of children served from birth to 3 has been increasing with a slight decline in 2013/2014.

- In 2010/2011 the state population decreased in large part because the economy was declining; the number of in vitro fertilization births decreased at the same time resulting in fewer multiple births (twins, triplets).
- Between 2012/2013 the number of children served jumped from 3358 to 3620.
- Between 2014/2015 the number of children served decreased from 3774 to 3712.

**Referral Sources:**

- Between 2012/2013 the total number of referrals increased from 3972 to 4257
- Between 2013/2014 the total number of referrals decreased from 4257 to 3811
- Between 2014/2015 the total number of referrals increased from 3811 to 3902

**Age of Children at IFSP Start:**

- The number of children aged birth to 1 has been decreasing since 2013. This is has been and continues to be a constant struggle because physicians and medical providers wait to make a referral to the Infant Toddler Program.
- The number of children aged 1-2 years old has increased steadily since 2013.
- The number of children aged 2-3 years old has increased steadily since 2013. This is the largest age group that the Infant Toddler Program serves.

- The total number of children served with an IFSP has increased each year steadily.

Race of Children Served:

- The majority of Idaho's children are white followed by Hispanic and then mixed (meaning there was more than one race selected).

Service Settings:

- The majority of services provided mostly within the child's home.
- While this used to be a very challenging requirement of the program, the Infant Toddler Program has improved to 99.8%.

IFSP Timelines:

- From the date of referral the Infant Toddler Program has 45 days to make the initial IFSP.
- The total number of IFSPs has increased steadily each year from 1724 in 2012 to 1852 in 2015.

Exit Reasons:

- The top reason for children to exit the program is that the child turned 3 years of age. The program only serves children from birth up to 3 not through the age of 3.

The most recent data shows that the cost for a child from ages 3-5 in need of special education is roughly \$2,600.00 per child.

**EC3 Data Collection: Sherry Iverson**

Sherry: EC3 is charged with aligning data from multiple systems to follow indicators of well-being for young children and their families. What has been done? How shall we continue?

**(Handout was provided and is available on the <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3> – please refer there for further information on the details of the presentation.)**

Sherry asked for discussion on types of data that EC3 should be reviewing at different points in the year.

Deborah: The ECCS Grant has data reporting requirements. It is important to make sure that the data that is being looked at for EC3 is meeting those requirements.

Sue: There are 2 requirements, one from the Executive Order and the other from the SECCS Grant. The requirement from the Executive Order states that EC3 will align data from multiple systems to follow indicators of well-being for young children and their families. The SECCS Grant requires EC3 to aggregate, align, and report on MEICV benchmark data.

Melissa: The University of Idaho is conducting an Early Childhood Workforce Study. Julie will be able to report on the preliminary data collected in January 2016.

Omar: The purpose of bringing the data to the table is to help EC3 plan strategically.

Sue: Since there are quarterly meetings, perhaps it would be beneficial to have a set of data that is reviewed and followed over the course of several years. This would allow to EC3 to see trends and patterns.

Beth: Having a centralized organization like Kids Count collect and analyze data would be more beneficial than EC3 doing it themselves.

Roger: The Data & Resource Committee could possibly take this on as a short term project.

Ericka: Would like EC3 to get to a point where the Council is looking at where Idaho's children are and how are they crossing over systems. In order to do this, EC3 would need to dive into building a network or database that would match Idaho's children and have one unique identifier that would follow each child through all programs across the state. This would be a great way for EC3 to use the data and have more information on what is happening with Idaho's children.

Deborah: Suggested the Data & Resource Committee contact Vital Statistics to find information on how they track children in Idaho.

Some examples of possible data points for quarterly review are well child checks, prenatal care, breast feeding and homelessness.

Jennifer Surrusco will check with her supervisor to see if she is able to work with the Data & Resource Committee on analyzing data.

This topic will be put on the November meeting agenda.

#### **Roundtable Discussions:**

Sherry: Currently working on legislation about marketing and sale of liquid nicotine. Idaho has no requirement on how to dispense or label liquid nicotine and across the state emergency rooms are seeing an increase in cases of toddlers ingesting nicotine from ecigarettes. The American Academy of Pediatrics has asked the FDA for a ruling on packaging but it was denied due to the lack of industry standards. The Academy of Pediatrics will pursue statewide levels and introduce legislation to require childproofing of liquid nicotine. Sherry has asked Council members who are interested in joining in this movement to contact her.

Roger and Holly: Announced Stewards of Children Facilitator training in Idaho Falls on October 27, 2015. Interested individuals can contact Genevieve Judd at the Bannock County Youth Foundation or Holly Whitworth at Eastern Idaho Public Health. Holly submitted a grant application for prevention fund money from the United Way. Head Start and Eastern Idaho Public Health have partnered to provide training on Stewards of Children, Happiest Baby on the Block, and Right from the Start.

Sherry: A special needs car seat training will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Sherry.

Ellen: October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 is the Snake River Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children conference in Twin Falls. The keynote speaker for this event is Erin Walsh from “Mind Positive Parenting”. Registration is \$65.00

Deborah: Newborn screening panel has received updates. SCID (Severe Combined Immunodeficiency) has been added to the panels as of January 1, 2016. The cost of the newborn screening panel has increased however the panel is free for Medicaid recipients.

Emily: Has started the State of Idaho Spina Bifida Support Group. The support group will have their first event, The Spina Bifida Fall Carnival, on October 17, 2015 at St. Luke’s Boise Children’s Specialty Center Lobby from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Council member are encouraged to provide their brochures to Emily and she will make sure they are distributed.

Cindy: The first Comprehensive Parent Education Document on EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment) was posted to the Department website yesterday, September 16, 2015. The document is now available to the public.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

## MINUTES

EC3 Early Childhood Coordinating Council - DAY 2 – September 18, 2015 8:00am

Meeting Called to Order at 8:00am

Co-Chair Sherry Iverson called the meeting to order and new member Judge Mick Hodges was introduced.

**Idaho Voices for Children: EC3/Idaho Reads partnership and collaboration ideas: Alejandra Cerna Rios**

**(Hand out of PowerPoint was provided and is also available on the portal <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3> – please refer there for further information on the details of the presentation.)**

Alejandra reported on the fourth grade reading level assessments based on NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) data, the vision and mission of Idaho Reads, the focus areas for Idaho Reads, and the Early Learning collaborative.

Idaho Reads is currently developing a website that will provide information on every reading program in the state. This will function as a directory with the future goal of providing more detailed information on what is happening in different reading programs throughout Idaho.

Idaho Voices for Children is the state lead for the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading. A focus of the Campaign is getting more communities to sign on as a GLR (Grade Level Reading) Community. Idaho

Reads is working with United Way in Southeastern Idaho to create a GLR community there. There is no cost to become a GLR Community, and it is an opportunity for the community to unite around reading. In northern Idaho, the Idaho Panhandle Alliance has been successful in addressing this issue. This collaborative group has increased reading scores in northern Idaho.

Anyone interested in connecting with the Book-it Forward Program can go to Idaho Voices for Children's website at [idahovoices.org](http://idahovoices.org) or their page on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

### **Discussion of Idaho Reads and next steps: Sherry Iverson**

Sherry: Reach Out and Read is a program in which family physicians give out a book at every well child checkup. Sustainability is a big factor with this program as a large practice can give out up to 30 books in a day. The Idaho chapter has a group of students from Boise State University that are conducting a needs assessment on best practices and sustainability in enhancing literacy from a physician's office. The results of the needs assessment will be discussed at the November meeting.

Ellen: Proposed that as well as promoting reading with 3 and 4 year olds, support needs to be given earlier in life when children initially begin to acquire the intellectual disposition for reading and a love of reading. Ellen compared this to "putting the hose at the top of the fire." She explained that if a child cannot focus attention, they will not be able to learn how to read. She feels that great emphasis is placed on reading techniques but not enough focus on love of reading. Christy also commented on the importance of attachment and security as important foundations.

Beth: The challenge is that for individuals outside of the world of early childhood education, it is difficult for people to comprehend the need for intellectual dispositions. When it is turned into policy, it becomes more and more difficult.

Ellen: We need to get better at talking about pre-frontal cortex development and executive functioning.

Sherry: This is a topic that we probably need to explore more. For now, because we are listed as a partner in Idaho Reads! It would be nice if they had some information on what the Council does regarding reading. Sherry will work with Katie to create a survey for Council members to provide information on their individual program's reading initiatives. The results will be compiled and discussed at the next meeting.

Sue: The RECCs can take the survey to their regions.

Amada: Families need to understand the importance of reading with children and helping children get to where they need to be by the time they start school. Families need the support on how to help their child develop. The survey could possible include what programs are doing to help with the developmental part of parents getting their children ready for school.

Sherry: Possibly 2 or 3 council member can attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Idaho Reading and Literacy Summit will be held on November 21, 2015 and bring information back to the Council. The cost for registration to the Summit is \$20.00

Greg: Is there a state in the United States that has done a good job at getting the message out about literacy and early childhood? How are other states using strategic messaging? Is the focus being put on families that live in poverty or high stress situations?

David: In order for children to be ready for kindergarten, they need 3 major things:

- Social interaction
- Kindergarten readiness – a rich language experience with loving adults
- Exposure to books

**Beth Oppenheimer – Early Learning Legislation for the 2015/2016 Legislative Session:**

A year ago, Beth, Bill, and Leann Simmons (Idaho Voices for Children) discussed what can be done legislatively to continue the conversation around early learning programs for children in Idaho. Idaho is one of 6 states currently that does not invest any state dollars in early learning programs. In the last several years pieces of legislation have been brought to the legislature. Beth, Bill, and Leann discussed how to balance a high quality program with something that can be passed in legislature. The majority of our legislators hear that Idaho’s children are not meeting benchmarks when they enter kindergarten, and so this is familiar to them. A small group of people have been meeting, including Ericka Rupp, Omair Shamim, Shannon Dunstan, Bill Foxcroft, Beth Oppenheimer, Lauren Necochea, Evelyn Johnson, and Rod Gramer; they have discussed at length how to develop an Idaho approach for early learning. They researched different models of early learning programs in other states.

What the piece of legislature is NOT:

- It is not designed to be the answer for an early learning program in Idaho; it is however a start.
- It is not designed to be a comprehensive early learning program that is designed to meet all children’s needs from ages 0-5
- It is not designed to be solely an extension of the school districts.

What the piece of legislature IS:

- Designed to address the needs of children not entering kindergarten meeting benchmark on the IRI.
- Designed to give parents a choice.
  - Parents need to be given a choice.
  - Families that can afford to send their children to an early learning program typically do and those that cannot afford it don’t.
  - Why is it ok for some parents to afford to send their children to an early learning program while others are not given the choice?
- Designed to serve four year olds.

At this time the legislation is being called the Idaho School Readiness Act. It includes a home option for families that are at home with their children. The legislation would give local communities opportunities

to develop a local collaborative which could look differently in each community. The Collaborative could look like a YMCA, or a child care program that partners with a school district. The state would provide 50% of the cost and the local collaborative would be responsible for raising the remaining 50% of the costs to manage the program. The local collaborative would have control of what services were offered with the requirement that services meet quality standards and the Idaho Early Learning Guidelines. The in-home component is included in the legislation because there is no chance that the act will be passed without it. The in-home component has not been fully developed however, there is an in-home technology program that is very popular and the feeling is that if this is not included in the act it will become its own piece of legislation and be passed. So far the feedback that is coming in about the proposal has been positive.

Senator Martin: When talking about early childhood education programs and in presenting them to the legislature, if the terms “pre-k” or “preschool” are used, there will be no support. If it is called the Idaho School Readiness Act, it will get attention and have a better chance of being passed. The reasons behind this are money and control. Right now the legislature is focused on a 5 year program to get k-12 funding back to the 2008 level. When the recession hit revenue dropped 21%. School funding is 62% of the state budget. Because of the 21% reduction in revenue the funding had to come out of either health and welfare or schools. The Council is encouraged to contact to their legislators regarding the legislation; however do not use the terms pre-k or preschool.

Beth: As soon as the School Readiness Act has been written the Council will be informed and encouraged to be advocates for the act.

#### **Break**

#### **Home Visiting Communication Planning Toolkit: Holly Whitworth and Deborah Drain**

**(Presentation is available on the portal <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3> – please refer there for further information on the details.)**

In Idaho there are 3 evidence- based Home Visiting Programs: Early Head Start, Nurse Family Partnership, and Parents as teachers. There are 10 Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs, 5 Early Head Start Programs, and 2 Parents as Teachers programs. There is 1 program for military families at the Mountain Home Air Force Base.

In July 2014 the Home Visiting & Parent Education Committee conducted statewide survey gathering information from all Home Visiting Programs on what their organizations were doing and they identified common issues. Once the issues were identified, in October of 2014 a Home Visiting Summit was held. The Summit allowed all of the stakeholders to discuss Home Visiting and work through some of the common issues that were identified. At the conclusion of the Summit major issues identified were financing, sustainability, technical assistance, public engagement, partnership and collaboration, and coordinating of funding. An overarching issue was the need for common messaging about Home Visiting in the state of Idaho.

Home Visiting Programs in Idaho currently reach less than 2% of Idaho's children under age 5. Knowing that, it is important for Home Visiting to integrate with other early care and learning systems and to have the same messaging strategy and outcomes.

Home Visiting provides improved outcomes for children in Idaho, reduces child abuse and neglect, increases school readiness, decreases remedial programs and services, and decreases incarceration rates.

The Home Visiting & Parent Education Committee has reached out to the RECCs (Regional Early Childhood Committee) to gather data in an effort to work on Home Visiting's messaging strategies. The committee is using a Home Visiting Communication Planning Toolkit to gather information, and the toolkit is in use in all 7 regional RECC committees. The committees have a due date of September 23, 2015 to gather their data and turn it in. Once the data is received it will be analyzed to identify common issues. This data will be compiled and taken to the Home Visiting Summit to be held on November 3, 2015.

Bill: There are actually 9 Early Head Start Programs. It would be beneficial to involve the tribal programs in the RECC Committees. Holly stated that all tribal programs have received a letter inviting them to join their regional RECC Committee. Holly suggested there be a follow up to the tribal programs. Omair will contact the directors of the tribal programs and ask them to become involved with the RECCs.

### **Holly Whitworth and Deborah Drain – Home Visiting & Parent Education Goals**

**(Presentation is available on the portal <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3> – please refer there for further information on the details.)**

Part of the MEICHV (Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting) Grant is systems integration with ECCS (Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems) as they are both recipients of HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) funding. In the statewide assessment of Home Visiting Programs, needs have been identified over the last 2 funding phases.

The primary needs are:

- 1-Needs Assessment and Program Planning: Recruiting and retaining families.
- 2-Partnerships and collaboration: Need for integration of home visiting with other early childhood services.
- 3-Public engagement: Proactively engaging the media and lawmakers.
- 4-Financing and sustainability: Need for sustainable funding.
- 5-Financing and sustainability: Coordination of funding streams.

Additional future goals:

- By October 2015, support plans and implementation of second statewide Home Visiting Summit.

- By September 2016, Partner with RECCs statewide to understand and better integrate home visiting into Regional Committees.
- By September 2016, assess all available training in the state that supports home visiting competencies; produce a systems analysis report of gaps and duplications.
- By September 2017, align home visiting professional development, training, and technical assistance with State QRIS for Professional Development.
- By September 2017, through the EC3 Home Visiting and Parent Education committee develop a common understanding and vision of high quality home visiting as it fits within the service delivery system serving families and young children in Idaho.

There may be a future need for endorsement and support from EC3 to the Home Visiting & Parent Education Goals and feedback is always welcome.

**Sue Harpold, Omair Shamim, Beth Oppenheimer – Review of the Executive Order and recommendations from the Governance Committee**

**(Hand out of PowerPoint was provided and is also available on the portal <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3> – please refer there for further information on the details of the presentation.)**

Sue, Omair, and Beth met to compare the Executive Order from 2006 and from 2011. There were a few differences that need to be discussed so that the Council can make recommendations for additions/changes to the Governor's office.

- The 2006 Executive Order states: to Increase public awareness of quality early care and learning programs as a critical part of the foundation to promote healthy families and communities;
- The 2011 Executive Order states: Increase public awareness of quality early childhood programs as a critical part of the foundation to promote healthy families and communities;

The difference in language is the use of “quality early care and learning programs” versus “quality early childhood programs”. Bill Foxcroft moved for the language to stay as “early childhood programs” and be changed throughout the entire executive order to be early childhood programs. The motion was not seconded and was withdrawn.

In further discussion, Roger Sherman moved for the Executive Order ad hoc committee to go through the order and change the word “programs” to “resources” at their discretion wherever it aligns and maintains the intent of the order. The motion was seconded by Beth Oppenheimer. Holly amended the motion to maintain the use of “programs and resources” where applicable and the amendment was accepted. The motion carried.

- The 2006 Executive Order states: Expand the council's scope from birth to three, to all children from birth through eight and their families;
- The 2011 Executive Order states: Expand the council's scope from birth to three, to all children from birth through eight and their families;

Beth stated that if the order reverted to “birth to eight” it would reinforce a continuum of care and education. Beth moved for further discussion on this issue before a motion can be made. The council was in agreement. This topic will be discussed at the October Governance Committee meeting.

- The 2006 Executive Order states: At least two (2) public or private providers of early intervention services;
- The 2011 Executive Order states: At least 20 percent private providers of early intervention services;

The members of the council agreed that this is a typo, that the order should always have reflected 2 public providers of early intervention services. The Executive Order ad hoc committee will discuss this topic further and report back to the Council.

- The 2006 Executive Order states: A representative of either the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Services or an American Indian Head Start program;
- The 2011 Executive Order does not include this provision.

The Executive Order ad hoc committee has recommended that this be added back onto the Executive Order as it is a requirement of the Head Start Reauthorization Act. The council made the decision to reference the Head Start Reauthorization Act to find out what exactly is required. The Executive Order ad hoc committee will discuss this topic further and report back to the Council.

- The 2006 Executive Order states: A representative of the Governor's office.
- The 2011 Executive Order does not include this provision.

Sherry: it was difficult for the Governor's office representative to attend meetings. When the current Governor was elected his office did not feel that attendance on the Council was a need. Sherry recommended that we discuss this with the Governor's office before it is added to the Executive Order.

### **Sue Harpold & Jennifer Surrusco – Adverse Childhood Experiences in Idaho: What do we know?**

**(Presented by PowerPoint and available on the <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3> – please refer there for further information on the details of the presentation.)**

Jennifer presented a history of ACEs data as well as the results of the NHSC Data (National Survey of Children's Health) showing Idaho's results compared to other states. She also presented data from the National Survey of Children's Health.

Jennifer also presented on the Idaho ACEs Awareness Survey that was distributed at the IAEYC Conference on September 11/12, 2015. This information provided data on awareness of ACEs in Idaho. This is a small data source however; this is a first step in understanding the needs in Idaho. Bill will distribute the survey at the Idaho Head Start Association Conference. As an incentive to turn the survey in, there were 2 IAEYC memberships given away as a raffle.

### **Lunch and Networking**

#### **Roundtable/Program reports:**

**Ellen Neff:** The College of Southern Idaho has started a Kindergarten Lab. The lab provides an opportunity for students to get hands on experience with children. This is a collaborative with Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, and Special Education. Ellen will report on this again at the May meeting.

**Emily Petersen:** Region 5 RECC is getting going again and has recruited some new members. The committee will meet on September 28, 2015.

**Amada Flores:** Migrant Seasonal Head Start started in July this year due to the grant coming in a little late. The program will run through the second week in November. Enrollment is at 796 children for the year. This winter there will be 6 winter programs instead of 4. It is the same funded enrollment.

Migrant Seasonal Head Start received a \$200,000.00 grant for 2 years from the Cambria Foundation. This grant is to be used to build capacity in health literacy; specifically reducing/preventing childhood obesity and diabetes. Migrant Seasonal Head Start is working with Saint Alphonsus, Interpath Lab, and Migrant Health Clinics around the state and is working with the University of Idaho to evaluate their program. Amada will be able to report on the progress and results at the next meeting.

**Beth Oppenheimer:** IAEYC just completed the first Idaho AEYC Conference in over 10 years and thanked EC3 for their sponsorship. The conference was a great success with tremendous feedback. The conference was capped at 150 people; it is undecided if this conference will be an annual event.

Idaho also AEYC held their annual Stick Your Neck Out for Idaho Children event to honor those who have made a tremendous impact in the field of early care and education. Former EC3 Executive Director, Lorraine Clayton was honored at this event as well as Leann Simmons and Cathy Kowalski.

Idaho AEYC is building a statewide advocacy committee to promote the School Readiness Act in Idaho. If anyone is interested in participating in this committee they can contact Beth.

Idaho AEYC has been continuing the development of the Ready for Kindergarten Program. This program provides parents with skills to effectively prepare their children for school through play-based learning. Parents receive an hour workshop 3 times a year. The first workshop is focused on early literacy, the second is focused on early math, and the third is focused on social-emotional readiness. This program has been going on in northern Idaho for quite some time and has seen a lot of success. This program has been started in the Magic Valley area (Jerome, Gooding, Wendell, and Twin Falls) and in the Caldwell area. The biggest need right now is family recruitment in order to get the word out. The program is free to families and EC3 members are encouraged to spread the word.

**Sue Harpold:** Next grant report is due November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Governor's Annual Report has been completed and sent to the Director for review and approval. This is the third year of the grant and which end July 31, 2015. Sue anticipates the release of a funding opportunity award in March.

Sue and Katie have been reviewing and refining the Early Childhood Information Clearinghouse. The current website is has been in existence a long time and needs to be updated. There has been discussion about changing the name of the page to the Early Childhood Coordinating Council. The new website will include a page for Regional Committees as well.

EC3 has purchased a retractable banner as well as display boards that were on display at the IAEYC Conference. The banner and display boards are designed to provide information about the Council and the Regional Committees as well.

The Crying Plan has been translated into Arabic and Swahili.

RECC Chairs met at their annual meeting June 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. It was a good opportunity to meet the Chairs and learn the needs of specific regions. By-laws were discussed; the bylaws for the regions are all a little different. A priority for the year is reviewing and revising the by-laws as well as providing the

Committees with tools such as recruitment letters, books, promotional items (coffee mugs, pens, bags) to publicize the committee and help the local community understand the Committee's work.

Sue and Katie have also been working on promoting and increasing traffic on EC3's Facebook page.

**Bill Foxcroft:** The Head Start Association Conference is February 8-10, 2015 in Boise. There are 5 separate tracks at the conference: Directors, Family Services Managers, Health and Nutrition Managers, Education Managers, and Parents. If any council members have information that they feel would be useful to share at the conference, they are encouraged to contact Bill. The Association is planning another Legislative Day. This will be a good opportunity to start talking about the Early Childhood Legislation with Idaho's Legislators.

Revisions to the Head Start Performance Standards have been proposed and the comment period is just ending. The Office of Head Start is very focused on using research and evidence to improve early learning. As a result a number of changes have been proposed:

- Programs will move to full day/full year; this would result in fewer spots available for children. Right now there are about one million children in Head Start around the country; the change to the standards would result in 200,000 children being dropped from the program.
- Home-based programs would be eliminated and all programs would be center-based. If the home-based programs are ended, there are several communities that will no longer have any type of Head Start Program.
- The "two generation" emphasis is being reduced. Head Start has always had a multi-generational approach providing school readiness for children while also being an anti-poverty program. Family support services focusing on family engagement and building support systems for low-income families would be reduced.

The Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership received a Head Start expansion grant to expand Early Head Start services. They now have 80 slots in Idaho Falls and surrounding communities.

**David Allen:** BYU Idaho is starting to do more online courses. David is currently working on a strategies course for Early Childhood Special Educators.

The Education and Childcare Committee has the "Idahoearlycareandeducation.com" website up and running and Katie is monitoring it for postings. We have authorization for 3 months only and then the website will need to move to another home. Beth offered to consider hosting it.

The Education and Childcare Committee is considering cross walking the Core Competencies with the Head Start performance standards in order to see if there are any "holes" in the competencies.

**Kent Hobbs:** The Pocatello School District has been putting focus on poverty and homelessness in conjunction with Bannock County Junior Justice; they are working on trauma and the effects of trauma.

**Melissa Crist:** Idaho STARS is continuing work on QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System). In July they started preparing to verify programs that are moving to the highest steps of quality. They are doing

of work at step 3 right now and preparing for programs at step 4 and step 5. Step 5 includes serving children with disabilities. If the child's Individualized Family Service Plan demonstrates collaboration with the provider and includes goals that intentionally support the child in that group setting that can replace the inclusion plan that is required as an indicator.

Idaho STARS has recently revised their training evaluation system and is starting to roll that out. They are looking at quality of content, making sure that all of the trainings that are developed at Idaho STARS are tied to the Early Learning eGuidelines, Council for Exceptional Children best practices, and national standards, in addition to the presenter's skills with adult learners.

Idaho STARS has completely revised their Childcare Health Consultant Program. As of Monday, September 19, 2015, the program will be fully operational. This program is focused on supporting health and safety in early care and education settings. They have hired a registered nurse, a licensed counselor, an individual with an Infant Mental Health Endorsement, and a childcare health consultant with a background in health and wellness.

Idaho STARS has also done some work with The Crying Plan. Dr. Noreen Womack is their Childcare Liaison and has adapted a training presentation with information on abusive head trauma and introducing The Crying Plan. This presentation has been used as training for Childcare Providers to introduce that topic and it has also been tied into safe sleep practices.

The Early Childhood Workforce Study will be rolling out on October 12, 2015. Julie will be able to share the results of this survey at a future meeting.

**Greg Culet:** The Statewide Conference of Idaho Judges will be held on Monday, September 19, 2015. One of the session's speakers is Dr. Lori Sicafuse. Dr. Sicafuse's presentation is "A trauma informed approach: what judges should know". This presentation should be valuable for judges at all levels.

Greg also reported on the EC3 Outreach Committee which consists of Justin Coleman, Emily Petersen, Greg Culet, and Gary Rillema. The Committee could use additional members with knowledge of how outreach messaging works so that the committee can be effective. Anyone interested in joining the committee is encouraged to contact Justin Coleman.

**Omar Shamim:** The Head Start Committee has been talking a lot about the Performance Standards as Bill reported on earlier. The committee will continue to discuss and report to the Council at the next meeting. The Department of Education provided training on social emotional development for Head Start staff, child care staff and public school teachers at 7 sites across the state with 537 attendees (20% from Head Start, 15% of community partners & childcare, and 65% teachers from the school districts). The training was very well received.

Head Start will be providing domestic violence, sexual abuse, and oral health and nutrition trainings sometime in January or February.

The Head Start Collaboration Office is work on their 5 year goals and strategic plan. Omar will send out a needs assessment survey to all of the Head Start Programs asking them to identify their strengths and

training needs. An important piece of the Head Start strategic plan is to align with the strategic plans of other agencies and organizations such as EC3, IHSA, and MEICHV. Omair will report on this at the next meeting.

**Jolyn Sellin:** Federal law requires all substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect to be referred to the Infant Toddler Program for an assessment of needs. Frequently barriers such as parental consent come up because consent is required for the assessment. Child Welfare does have a medical consent and release form when children come into the Foster Care program however this does not work for the Infant Toddler Program. Work is in process between Child Welfare and the Infant Toddler Program to iron out some of the details and possibly make some changes that would allow Infant Toddler program to complete the initial assessment and bring it to the court to encourage parents to give consent for the children to participate in the Infant Toddler Program.

**Kathy McGill:** Idaho Insurance Carriers have finalized their premium rates for 2016. Most of the carriers have raised their rates (averages range from 7% - 20%). Information on the rate increases and decreases can be found on the Department of Insurance website at [www.doi.idaho.gov](http://www.doi.idaho.gov). For any plan where the rates were raised by 10% or more, the carrier had to provide an actuarial justification of why the raise was warranted.

People who are enrolled in individual health insurance plans and want to change plans for next year can sign up for 2016 from November 16, 2015 through January 31, 2016 through Your Health Idaho.

People having issues with their insurance company regarding coverage or payment can go to the Department of Insurance website at [www.doi.idaho.gov](http://www.doi.idaho.gov) and file a complaint.

**Roger Sherman:** The Idaho Children's Trust Fund trains and provides technical assistance support around the state for issues with child abuse prevention and neglect. The Trust Fund is presently providing Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse Prevention training. They have recently provided trainings for the Nez Perce Tribe in Lewiston. The Annual Conference is going to be held on March 15-16, 2016. Anyone interested in doing workshops is encouraged to contact Roger. Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse Prevention training will be held in Idaho Falls on October 27, 2015. If anyone wants to attend, it is open.

Roger will be sending out a request for nominations for the Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award next week. The trust fund is looking for nominations of organizations that have done significant work around preventing child abuse and neglect.

**Cindy Brock:** The Department of Medicaid put out their first parent education piece for EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment). There will be a website for EPSDT off of the Medicaid homepage. The website will have information for parents and providers.

Medicaid's alignment with SHIP (State Healthcare Innovation Plan) is moving forward. There will be new rules for Healthy Connections published in October.

**Cathy Johnson:** All of the regional RECCs have received the Home Visiting Communication Planning Toolkit and have started to turn in their data. All RECCs are involved in community activities, promoting The Crying Plan, Screen Time Brochure, BLOCKFest, have purchased books and DVDs that are going out to libraries in their communities, and are having trainings at their meetings. Cathie will provide a more detailed report that Katie will send out to the Council.

**Rebekah Casey:** The Council on Developmental Disabilities is moving into their 5 year strategic planning process. There will be a needs assessment given out to determine what the resources, strengths, and abilities are in the state. The Council has been working with Optum when children and adults with developmental disabilities are not getting the services needed.

**Sherry Iverson:** Sue will be taking medical leave in November. Sherry and Justin will be the contact and support along with Katie in her absence.

**Adjourned at 2:12pm**