

# Minutes

(Digitally recorded)

## EC3 Meeting / February 6 and 7, 2014

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 450 W. State, Boise, ID, 83702

### Attendees:

**Members:** Sherry Iverson, Shannon Dunston, Kathy McGill, Christy Cronheim, Greg Culet, Carolyn Kiefer, Beth Oppenheimer, Melissa Carico, Sara San Juan,

**Members By Video Conference:** Paula Mason, Ellen Neff, David Allen

**Applicants for Appointment:** Emily Petersen, Bill Foxcroft, Mechelle Wilson, Ericka Medalen, Holly Whitworth

**Guests:** Chad Cardwell, Jacquie Watson (for Kris Spain), Annie Dalgetty, Deborah Drain, Roger Sherman, LeAnn Simmons, Denise Chuckovich

**Staff:** Lorraine Clayton, Diane Foote

Meeting Called to Order at 11:09am

Sherry Iverson opened the meeting with a welcome to new members and introductions.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The November 2013 meeting minutes were unanimously accepted.

**Steward's of Children Training:** At November's meeting, the Darkness to Light Stewards training on child sexual abuse was given to council members prior to the meeting. As a takeaway, council members reported trainings that have been implemented around the state. Paula reported she sent two of their IESDB staff to the training who will, in turn, train forty others at a May in-service. Ellen requested Paula's trained staff work with the Education Department at College of Idaho in Twin Falls. In eastern Idaho, Holly reported two trainings were done with one additional person being trained as a trainer. Justin Coleman also took the facilitator training here in Boise. For further information on classes please visit the website @ [http://www.d2l.org/site/c.4dICIJOkGcISE/b.6288133/k.2796/Idaho\\_Find\\_a\\_Facilitator\\_Near\\_You.htm](http://www.d2l.org/site/c.4dICIJOkGcISE/b.6288133/k.2796/Idaho_Find_a_Facilitator_Near_You.htm)

**Council membership:** Ericka Medalen is the applicant to replace Genie Sue Weppner and Bill Foxcroft is the applicant to replace Stan Burton. Emily Petersen applied as a parent representative. Mechelle Wilson applied for membership as the mental health representative. Applications have been submitted to the Governor's Office for consideration. Holly Whitworth is the applicant to represent the Regional Early Childhood Council.

**Washington Legislator Visit:** Dr. Noreen Womack has been in touch with Senator Steven Litzow from Washington State, who is sponsoring a bill on early childhood in his state senate this session. Senator Litzow's visit is tentatively planned for April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Council discussed and would like to be invited to the event and asks for more information from Dr. Womack. It is the role of EC3 to educate, not support these legislative actions. Attendance at this event places the Council on safe ground, but a vote would be necessary before a decision to collaborate or sponsor could take place. Please check the following link to find details on the bill; HB 6127 -- <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=6127&year=2013>

### Education and Child Care Committee Report – David Allen

David would like to report the committee is in the process of revising what they have written for Idaho's Core Competencies for Early Care and Education. They are addressing holes found in analysis. Some on the committee feel we should rewrite and others feel a revision will do. David feels a revision will produce a strong document. He needs feedback from the Council on whether to invest more time. The options were discussed and in order to stay on schedule, it was tabled until the next morning.

## **Home Visiting and Parent Education Committee Report - Deborah Drain reporting for Gary Rillema**

The committee is working with IT at Health and Welfare to develop an online survey for feedback in the statewide self-assessment project. The letter going out with the survey has been approved by the Governance Committee. Deborah reported they want to make sure they are engaging tribal programs, so the process has begun to make that connection.

In addition, Idaho MIECHV finalized their federal report and submitted the first draft on October 30<sup>th</sup> followed with several revisions and a final submittal on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The areas for quality improvement include; improving timeliness of screeners; improving performance on early outreach in the areas of tobacco risk education, screenings for domestic violence and working with families regarding safety plans.

## **Data and Resource Committee Report – Paula Mason**

The committee will be meeting in person March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to work on a project brought to their attention by Rick Harris, Senior Data Analysis with ITP, on the referrals coming in through Child Protection Services and ITP. The committee will concentrate on how to utilize databases to make sure referrals are getting to the correct programs. Christie commented that ITP is working with Child Welfare to update the current referral requirements to address inconsistencies. She would like to attend the meeting and work with the committee.

## **Head Start Committee Report – Sara San Juan**

Shannon Dunstan, State Department of Education, asked the committee to help develop a statewide professional development system for children's development in social and emotional areas. There are several agencies involved including Idaho STARS and Aim Idaho. Shannon will be addressing the Council tomorrow regarding the project in more detail and the Council will then be asked if the Head Start Committee has permission to move forward in supporting the project.

*Networking/Lunch – meeting convened at 1:30 pm*

## **Albertson's Foundation Proposal - Sherry Iverson**

Several council members have attended meetings regarding the Foundation's awareness campaign on education for young children. The Foundation is requesting Early Childhood Coordinating Council support and Carolyn moved that the Council make contact with the Albertson's Foundation to offer support. The vote was unanimous. The Albertson Foundation did ask Lorraine to specifically involve EC3 and also requested names to be added and submitted for the project.

## **In Depth Presentation on new State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) – Christie Cronheim**

Christie introduced her Program Specialists, Lauren Ertz and Melaine Shephard and presented an overview of the SSIP.

- SSIP purpose is a multi-year, achievable plan that increases capacity of early intervention programs to implement, scale up, and sustain evidence-based practices and improves outcomes for children with disabilities and their families.
- Proposed SSIP activities have 3 phases: Analysis/Plan/Evaluation
- Year 1 – FFY 2013 – Delivered by Feb 2015 / Phase I Analysis
- Year 2 – FFY 2014 – Delivered by Feb 2016 / Phase II Plan
- Year 3-6 – FFY 2015-18 – Delivered Feb 2017-Feb 2020 / Phase III Evaluation

The Council discussed evidence-based practices and how they relate to research, the value of interventionists and families and other variables. Please refer to Christie's PowerPoint for details. Please see Portal <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3/> for PowerPoint.

## **Strategic Planning – Sherry Iverson and Lorraine Clayton**

The Council discussed in November who is missing from membership which generated a list of 14 entities with the top two selected through a voting process; Business and Idaho Children's Trust. Members can be added as ad hoc or through the application process via governor's office for approval. It was suggested the business member represent other businesses that are interested in early childhood education such as Idaho Business for Education. The Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry and the Treasure Valley Partnership were also mentioned as ad hoc possibilities. It was decided to approach Idaho Business for Education to be a guest at the May meeting.

Regarding the Idaho Children's Trust Fund, it was voted unanimously to ask Roger Sherman to apply for Council membership at the discretion of the governor.

Followed was discussion around adding a faith-based member as an ad hoc member. It was suggested it be taken back to the Regional Early Childhood Council because of their knowledge of local organizations. Holly will address it with RECC on their next conference call.

Brainstorming continued with discussion on Parent Education and Family Strengthening; are they the same or different? It was agreed there is overlap between the two and they will work on them together to clarify.

A draft definition for pre-k was decided: Pre-K is an education and development program for 3, 4, and 5 year olds that include the whole child for ultimate preparation for success in life.

Goals of the Council were reviewed with discussion on how the six focus areas; health, social and emotional development, care and education, family self-sufficiency, parent education and systems will support the Council's seven goals. Priorities within each focus area were decided at November's meeting and now strategies and measurable outcomes are needed.

Regarding Goals 6 and 7 which speak of access to high-quality childcare and early learning opportunities to support school readiness:

### **Focus Area – Child Care and Education:**

Pre-K Education: Build on current IdahoSTARS program and QRIS work to increase the numbers of child care settings and programs who meet certain levels of accreditation.

Strengthen linkages and relationships between parents and professional who serve young children with better partnerships:

Break

## **Welfare and Child Care (ICCP) - Ericka Medalen**

Ericka is the Program Manager for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Idaho Child Care Program. She discussed activities from the current legislative session and three rules that were brought forth and passed for child care.

- 1) A rule in place is that all child care providers will have health and safety inspections. This needed to be modified to include those children in their own home. It is now a training practice done by inspectors as opposed to a pass/fail inspection.
- 2) A new co-pay structure went live in November. Families qualify now based on income and the copay will be the same no matter what child care facility they use.
- 3) Tiered reimbursement encourages providers to take families who qualify for child care assistance. Currently, providers can choose to take only high income families.

Ericka's Department will be focusing on four items this year:

- Quality will be the highest priority with mentoring from national trainers, live trainings and webinars along with improving consumer education
- Professional Development
- Licensing
- Subsidies and tiered reimbursements

Questions arose regarding whether or not child care is provided when attending school through online classes. At this time, online classes do not qualify for child care, but members of the Council feel it needs to be addressed in the future as a high percentage of schools are offering class time through webinars, etc.

### **IdahoSTARS QRIS Essential Trainings – Beth Oppenheimer**

The Quality Rating and Improvement System was rolled out several years ago. IdahoSTARS is now looking at improving the system and one action was to streamline the essential trainings. The idea is child care providers will have access to professional development starting with basic training as many providers in Idaho may only have a high school degree.

Depending on the class, it will be offered with a live trainer, online self-study or DVD. There is a waiting list in learning libraries for providers to use training videos and they are looking at how to expand their capacity around the state.

Currently, out of five steps, Steps 1 and 2 are available with Steps 3, 4, 5 becoming available in 2014.

Beth addressed the QRIS rubric – one for center-based and one for home-based. The goal is that the programs will insure providers are reaching certain levels within each step. Please see Beth's handouts for details.

### **Early Learning Guidelines – Carolyn Kiefer**

The original guidelines were rolled out in 2009 with the knowledge that within 3 years updating would need to be done. There are five domains:

- 1) Approaches to Learning and Cognitive Development
- 2) Motor Development, Physical Well-Being, and Health
- 3) Social and Emotional Development
- 4) General Knowledge
- 5) Communication, Language, and Literacy

The goals with revision were to update the research and align with Idaho Core Standards. Major editing was done, though the original electronic architecture did not work and data had to be reentered with a new format.

It is designed on two axis with sixty-four goals. It gives great flexibility as it enables the user to search by age group for goals or use other axis just for goals. All documents can be copied and pasted into a child's IEP and can also be printed for parents. A matrix is included as a supplemental document for each domain as a terrific teaching tool enabling teachers to go deeper into content.

All trainings have to be linked to these guidelines and standards. They are also tied into pre-service trainings at the colleges and universities. Additionally, there is a document that crosswalks with Idaho early learning guidelines and Idaho core standards which is also cross walked with national Head Start early learning framework.

The hope is to roll out the revised guidelines by February 14 and will be available on the Health and Welfare website and on the State Department of Education website. Carolyn and Shannon Dunstan will begin webinars for professionals around the state April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **CLASS Presentation (Emotional Support, Classroom Organization and Instructional Support) – Annie Dalgetty**

Annie is providing information on a class observation tool which is a teacher/child observation tool used in Head Start programs across the country. It is used to identify how classrooms are scoring in classroom interaction. Idaho Head Start is the only program using this tool in Idaho. The tool contains 3 domains; Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, Instructional Support and within each of the domains are ten dimensions. She has data for average scores for our region which is Idaho, Alaska, Washington and Oregon.

It was asked if there is any movement towards utilizing the tool in kinder outside of Head Start. In other states there is, but in Idaho we are required to use the Danielson tool. Some states are using this tool in their QRIS programs. All Idaho Head Start programs are using the tool, but no mandate exists to force them to use it. It is advantageous to be familiar with it as it is what is used for evaluation. If a program overall scores are low or fall below 10%, they will have to re-compete for the grant.

Training to become a certified observer requires two-day training, in addition to passing a reliability portion. The cost is \$175 plus the cost of shipping materials. Training is not open to everyone as priority is given to Head Start staff.

Adjourned 5:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

EC3 Early Childhood Coordinating Council - DAY 2 - February 7, 2014 8:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Iverson. Several members joined in by phone this morning due to weather. Unfinished business from yesterday was addressed:

- Regarding the definition for pre-k education. The statement from the previous day is: *Pre-K education is an education and development inclusive program for three, four, and five year olds that include the whole child for ultimate preparation for success in life.* Please see revised statement on page 11.
- The Council asked David what they could do to help him and the committee finish the core competencies project. He feels the committee is strong, but welcomes anyone who would like to join. He would also appreciate assistance with editing. The council will be signing and sending thank you notes to the members of the committee and to their employers.
- Questions were answered regarding QRIS.

### **Idaho Voices for Children Nourishing Task Force - Lee Ann Simmons, Executive Director**

The Hunger Relief Task Force has a hunger summit every two years. One of the outcomes from the last summit was to have a children's coalition to end childhood hunger. Idaho Voices was asked to lead the effort to put together a coalition and write a strategic plan. One of the first tasks was to identify who needs to be at the discussion table. The coalition is made up of many groups with the key provider of food for children being the State Department of Education with all of their school programs.

Research from around the state uncovered gaps in feeding Idaho's children. Gaps such as access, ideology, and coordination between programs were found. Four Identified gaps and the goals associated are:

- 1) Schools with limited or no breakfast and lunch during the school year for children who qualify for free and reduced lunch and those in the working poor category – GOAL: All of Idaho's children are provided nutritious meals through school districts' USDA breakfast and lunch programs. Currently 55% of the children receiving school lunch are also receiving school breakfast. The target is 70%.
- 2) A Comprehensive program statewide to 'feed the children' outside school time (both those who qualify for free and reduced lunch and those in those working poor category) - GOAL: Reduce the gap between outside and inside the bell meals for children. We will increase awareness and expand availability of food to children when they aren't in school.
- 3) Families of Idaho children from 0 to 5 are difficult to reach and understand the need – GOAL: The food insecure families of Idaho children from 0 to 5 are educated about and have access to available resources to assist them in feeding (including breast feeding) their children nutritious meals resulting in increased participation in these services and programs and better health outcomes.
- 4) Data and information on childhood hunger is in multiple locations and sometimes not accessible to stakeholders or the public – GOAL: Provide a Nourishing Idaho's Children map that links currently existing maps and data and show the following: Poverty, USDA food programs, Snap, Emergency food pantries and other relevant programs.

The coalition is refining data and how coordination between programs happens and the communication piece on how to support those groups, not necessarily dictate what they do.

Melissa offered help for getting data from Medicaid and LeAnn gladly accepted.

Please refer to LeAnn's handouts for key performance indicators and charts outlining specifics.

### **Statewide Researched-based Social & Emotional Training for Early Childhood Educators - Shannon Dunstan**

In 2015 the Office of Special Education Program requires every state to write a new state performance plan on what they will do within the twenty special education indicators. There is a shift from compliance indicators to performance indicators. The Special Education Director has set three performance indicator priorities:

- Indicator 3: Participation and Performance on Statewide Assessments
- Indicator 5: Participation/Time in General Education Settings – Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Indicator 13: Post School Transition Goals in IEP

Shannon does three other indicators that are around early childhood:

- OSEP Indicator 6: Least Restrictive Environment
- OSEP Indicator 7: Early Childhood Outcomes
- OSEP Indicator: 12: Transition from Infant Toddler Program

She sees their LREs in a much broader concept including Head Start partners, private child care providers instead of a separate school or classroom. She would like to have a much broader impact across state programs with a Statewide Systemic Implementation of Social and Emotional training using special education funding.

A task force has met and is looking at the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) and its trainings in Spanish and English for parents and teachers based on research from Vanderbilt University. The hope is to modify trainings for Idaho as opposed to creating new systems.

Shannon would like to look at how to systematically implement training that impacts teachers' ability to impact social and emotional development with a parent piece that moves the whole system forward. Shannon spoke with Sara regarding embedding the project into EC3's Head Start Committee.

Melissa and Shannon will meet and discuss the peer-to-peer piece from Optum which is currently in development and how it will fit into Shannon's project.

There was a motion for the Council to undertake this work around social and emotional development as one of its priorities. It passed unanimously. Sara requested adding additional committee members to support the project. The current committee is Carolyn, Shannon, Bill, Annie and Beth Ann Fuller. Emily, parent representative, would like to serve if her Council application is accepted. Paula recommended her pre-school teacher and Ellen will join the committee representing Aim Early Idaho and higher education.

### **Idaho's State Healthcare Innovation Plan – Denise Chuckovich, Deputy Director, Medicaid**

The Council viewed a video on the Statewide Healthcare Innovation Plan. SHIP is a statewide plan to redesign the healthcare delivery system, evolving from a volume-driven fee for service system to an outcome-based system that achieves the triple aim of improved health, improved healthcare and lower costs for all Idahoans.

The SHIP Steering Committee received recommendations from four workgroups; State/Regional Design, HIT/Data Analytics, Quality Measures, Payment Reform.

Idaho SHIP Model Elements

- Strong primary care system

- Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) – foundational
- Medical neighborhood
- Statewide Healthcare Coalition
- Regional Cooperatives (RC) support local primary care providers and medical neighborhood
- Health information is linked electronically by HER
- Data analytics critical for population health measurement
- Public and private payment systems aligned
- Patient engagement and accountability

Next steps:

- State submitted SHIP 12/26/2013
- SHIP Steering Committee continues to meet to develop Idaho Healthcare Coalition
- Anticipated release of Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) application for Model Testing Proposal (MTP) in February 2014
- State and SHIP stakeholders committed to continuing healthcare system transformation regardless of receipt of further CMMI funding.

Please refer to the SHIP Overview PowerPoint on the portal.

Break

### **Idaho Children’s Trust Fund – Roger Sherman**

The Strengthening Families Training Institute presented by the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund is March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at the Red Lion Downtowner. There will be a pre-institute work session, the Second Annual Call to Action on the prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 1:00-4:00pm at the same location. Registration, speaker bios and event agenda details can be found on the ICTF website- <http://www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org/>

The Stewards of Children education program is hoping to reach a larger audience and the key speaker, Kevin Trapani of the Redwoods Group, is leading an effort to bring the sexual abuse training program, Darkness to Light to all corners of the U.S. Following his talk, the group of 200 attending will be trained in Stewards of Children.

Regarding the spike in Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS), ICTF is promoting a website from Children’s Hospital in Colorado - <http://www.childrenscolorado.org/wellness-safety/calm-a-crying-baby> Workshops and education in the hospitals and doctors’ offices is also being organized.

HB 353 has passed the House with a vote of 49-20. It amends an existing law to revise provisions relating to the Children’s Trust Fund and various Board issues; service and removal of members, expansion of board’s ability to carry out the purpose of ICTF, solicitation and acceptance of grants, donations, gifts and other monies.

### **Head Start Association – Bill Foxcroft**

Bill reported on Head Start sequestration and how it has affected the 5,000 children in Idaho Head Start programs. The 5% cuts have been restored, but as a result of the original 5% cut, 305 slots were lost. Numbers of children, days of service, and salaries were all cut. Even though the 5% is being refunded, it is difficult to bring back children because of facilities being closed. It does offer an opportunity to change the focus.

### **State Department of Education - Kathy McGill**

Your Health Idaho reports it has met 106% of its enrollment goal which places Idaho is 4<sup>th</sup> place per capita. She feels it is the result of effective advertising and events in communities around the state. St. Al’s is sponsoring three events at their

facilities around the state utilizing consumer connectors who explain options, eligibility for tax credits and assist the public to enroll. Two days ago, the website was revamped and is getting attention from other states who want to transition to using a site other than the federal site. There has been talk about repealing the ACA, but Kathy says the bill was introduced and is stalled at the Ways and Means committee.

Holly needs Spanish-speaking assistance for families in her area. Kathy suggests contacting Your Health Idaho and asking for a translator. Sara San Juan says her Employment and Training office and Resource Center in Idaho Falls is providing parent trainings on the website and she will send Holly the contact information.

### **Regional Early Childhood Committees – Holly Whitworth**

Holly is the representative for the statewide RECC and gave a synopsis of the work regional councils are doing:

- They are reaching out to the medical community in terms of resource and referrals once a child is diagnosed with disabilities. It is done by supplying the doctors' offices with a list of agencies parent can turn to for services printed on a "prescription pad." The pads should be done by March. Sherry would like to put this information in Idaho's American Academy of Pediatrics newsletter.
- A parent exchange is underway for books, adaptable equipment, etc. Shannon also suggested the Idaho Assistive Technology Project for its lending library for equipment. Holly will add it as a resource and Christie would like to pursue using the exchange as a resource for ITP.
- Region 7, (Holly's), is hosting a 2-week block fest event in several school districts which invites parents and children to partake in the importance of block play. David requested the dates and will pass it on to his students to participate. It is scheduled for April and the dates will also be sent to the Council.

### **Parent Representative – Emily Petersen**

Emily has done leadership training for parents and the board of trustees for Head Start in her area. She is currently working out her schedule to once again attend RECC meetings.

### **Maternal Child Health – Jackie Watson**

Jackie, Kris Spain and Deborah Drain just returned from attending the Association for Maternal and Child Health Conference in Washington, Dc. Their grant which funds MCH activities is undergoing transformation. There is a triple aim of focus in response to healthcare reform. Because it is a block grant they are concerned about duplication of services. They will be focusing on:

- Reducing burden for states specific to the annual/narrative report by reducing it and making it more valuable. They will attempt to reduce data reporting by prepopulating the huge application with national data specific to states.
- Maintaining flexibility with funding of projects with a call to accountability and more measurable outcomes on the return of investment
- Revamping performance measures by distilling the meaningful indicators important to MCH

In 2015, the 5-year needs assessment will be conducted and she and others will be calling on EC3 and its members to gather information.

Their work with the CHIC project on medical home demonstration in eastern Idaho is supporting MCH in learning how public health fits into the medical home model of care. The goal is to eventually disseminate this model to all public health districts to make sure all children with special needs, including those in rural areas, are being served. This demonstration is receiving regional and national recognition. Jackie and Melissa are co-presenting at a regional webinar hosted through the University of Washington Center for Public Health Practice. The hope is to build a model that can be replicated. Care coordinators are excited and families are receiving better care.

## **Medicaid/CHIC – Melissa Carico**

The other piece of the CHIC project is they have identified a new medical director for the project, Dr. John ????, a retired pediatrician. He has committed to 25 hours per month and the contract is being completed.

The adolescent depression screening learning collaborative continues. They are learning who is using the process and if they know how to treat once a diagnosis is made. Initially, the screening was offered during well-child visits, but as a result of a specific outcome from a sick-child visit it is now offered at all visits. Three child psychiatrists in the state are working with physicians on individual cases with comprehensive support on medications, side effects, etc. Very good results are being seen.

## Networking/Lunch

### **Committee Reports**

#### **State Department of Education – Shannon Dunstan**

The State of Idaho recently submitted their annual progress report in regard to special education. Shannon spoke on the indicators that relate to early childhood.

- Under the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), school districts have to look at creative ways to have students without disabilities in their early learning programs age's three to five. Last year's state baseline was set at 31% for those Idaho children in inclusive preschool environments. This year it rose to 41.7%.
- In the Field of Practice, they have wonderful inclusionary practices in Coeur d'Alene where the early childhood special program is totally embedded in the Head Start Program. The Kuna school district spent time up north and now Kuna is on the track to do the same.
- Indicator 7, which involves how children do in the global outcome areas of social and emotional skills, early communication, literacy, and appropriate behavior skills, didn't do so well. There was a goal of 90% in the social and emotional arena that children would meet expectations with intervention, but the target was not met. Progress was made in other areas, but goals were not met. This is problematic. She believes the numbers will be shy of the target over the next two years because of imbedding early child outcomes in early childhood IEPs. Prior to this there was no accountability to know what they were reporting was actually reliable, but now that it is in the IEP they have verification that what they are reporting is what the child is doing. Shannon believes the data will have more validity.
- Transition from the Infant Toddler Program to school districts hit 100% this year. This is the first year this has happened. The results came from implementing a cross-reference system in place two years ago. What are still problematic are those children who are late referrals.

#### **College of Southern Idaho – Ellen Neff**

The College of Western of Idaho in the Early Childhood Education Program is focused on the recruitment of teachers and increasing retention numbers and finishing course work. They have 97% retention rate and completion rate. The Two-Plus-Two articulation agreement with Idaho State University is now in place where one certificate is being offered in southern Idaho through Idaho State University through online and CSI campus. All coursework meets their accreditation standards.

Region 5's RECC committee budget goes towards the Child's Day Out event which is collaborative effort with the Boys and Girls Club, Head Start and other cosponsors. Ellen's students will be providing activities that support the growth of the child. It brings children and families together to learn about community programs.

A past project, also funded with RECC money, was bringing Christine Roberts and her *Nurturing Pathways* program on sensory motor movements to their 2013 fall conference. With this knowledge, the Student Club is presenting 2 week classes for parents and children in movement and music. A nominal fee is being charged and the money generated will fund the students' trip to California to hear Beth Bach, well-known early childhood education teacher, speak.

Ellen wanted to let the Council know that Emily Petersen was Head Start Parent of the Year and she and her child went through the ITP program and the ITP lab.

### **Department of Health and Welfare / Children's Mental Health - Mechelle Wilson**

Mechelle addressed regional issues today regarding Behavioral Health coverage and its shift to Optum in September. They continued to build the bridge between Optum and providers. In Children's Mental Health, they have three priorities: 1) Children in crisis; 2) Children referred by court; 3) Voluntary kids who, traditionally, have been with Medicaid. They have now defined it to be those children with no insurance or under-insured. Collaboration is getting better at helping parents reach out to providers and services and is now a more streamlined process.

### **Head Start Collaboration – Carolyn Kiefer**

- Carolyn is working with Idaho STARS on QRIS which is part of her national priorities. She is in process with Annie Dalgetty to get national training products into QRIS.
- Planning has begun for the Early Learning Conference and Head Start is partnering with the Commission on Libraries on this event. It is a statewide, cross-disciplinary early childhood conference that happens in even-numbered years.
- The interagency agreement between Head Start programs and school districts has been rolled out after 2 years of work.

### **Stage 3 Strategic Planning – Sherry Iverson and Lorraine Clayton**

The goals marked as priorities and needing strategies were Health and Social and Emotional.

Health:

Improving Childhood Nutrition

- I. Provide representation and areas of expertise in children 0-5 years old to Idaho's Nourishing Children

Prevention

- I. Ensuring resources and communication on prevention of neglect specific to health care, food, housing, etc.
- II. Collaborate with CHIC targeting the 0-5 age group focusing on a preventative strategy that improves health with measurable outcomes
- III. Serving on the coordinating council for abusive head trauma and sponsoring education and trainings

Sherry will meet with Deborah, Melissa, Christie, Carolyn and Lorraine to fine tune this strategy.

Social and emotional:

Statewide training for EC providers and teachers

- I. Will develop and coordinate statewide training utilizing the Head Start Committee across programs and early childhood systems

- II. Will disseminate through sustainability efforts of essential trainings, archived webinars, and parent projects (Carolyn suggests linking to ELEG and it was decided future work will be done on the wording.)

Educate parents and teachers on how to appropriately support social and emotional growth

- I. Partner with the Albertson's Foundation on their 20 by 20 Campaign

## **PRE-K**

Working Definition and Talking Points – DRAFT

All Idaho children have access to an inclusive, high quality, evidence-based, age appropriate, education and development program for 3, 4, and 5 year olds that include the whole child for ultimate preparation for success in life.

- Pre-K allows parents/families to advocate for their children.
- Pre-K allows parent/family choice to provide a comparable education.
- Pre-K provides resources for families.

Adjourned at 2pm