

Minutes

(Digitally recorded)

EC3 Meeting / November 6 & 7, 2014

Idaho State Capitol Building, House Majority Caucus Room, Boise, ID 83702

Attendees:

Members: Sherry Iverson, Shannon Dunstan, Kathy McGill, Christy Cronheim, Paula Mason, Ellen Neff, David Allen, Senator Fred Martin, Gary Rillema, Kris Spain, Emily Petersen, Bill Foxcroft, Ericka Rupp, Holly Whitworth, Nancy Luevanos, Judge Greg Culet

Excused: Beth Oppenheimer, Sara San Juan, Justin Coleman, Natali Pellens, Mechelle Wilson

Guests: Omair Shamim, Lauren Ertz, Aubrie McArthur, Monique Farrow, Taylor Raney

Staff: Sue Harpold, Diane Foote

Meeting Called to order at 11:07

Co-Chair Sherry Iverson opened the meeting with a welcome, housekeeping items and introduction of the new Executive Director, Sue Harpold. Previous to this position, Sue worked with the Head Start program for twenty-five years in a number of different roles, but primarily as the Children's Service Manager with Friends of Children and Families in Ada and Elmore counties. Her responsibilities have been mainly curriculum, instruction and assessment. Sue has a Master's Degree in Human Development and an early childhood specialization. Several areas of particular interest to her are working with families in poverty plus emerging populations. She looks forward to working with the Council and serving the early childhood community.

The Council members introduced themselves to Sue and identified their titles, agencies and length of time on the Council.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The September 2014 meeting minutes were approved contingent on two corrections: 1) Page 1-change "Senate" to "House" for meeting location; 2) Page 5-change "MVC" to "MCH" in Kris and Jacquie's presentation.

Conflict of Interest Statement: Statements were signed by those who were not in attendance at the September meeting.

Education and Child Care Committee – David Allen

David presented the Core Competencies at the Early Years Learning Conference at Boise State October 30th and had participants use the document to solve specific scenarios. After receiving feedback, the committee will be doing a deeper crosswalk on several sections. Also, an online training for paraprofessionals was suggested plus the standards will also serve the high school community when setting up dual credits. Shannon Dunstan submitted the core comps to national contacts of an early childhood consortium and received high kudos as the most comprehensive and easiest to read. Once the final copy is finished they have asked to post it on the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center's site for other states to review. <http://ectacenter.org/>

A next step will be of balancing to make sure it is not so cumbersome. An analysis found a way to align the competencies with the professionalism section. A newer version will be ready for uploading to the ECIC website soon. The Council offered up thanks for the hard work of the committee on this project.

The committee brainstormed ideas to coordinate graduates and certified people in the state with available jobs. A job posting site was suggested. The committee has invited Shannon to join the next conversation as sustainability is an issue in communities who want their teachers to stay for several years.

Home Visit and Parent Education Committee – Gary Rillema

The committee's home visiting assessment survey brought in a 70% response rate of the 23 programs who received the survey. Some of the programs included Head Start, Early Head Start, Nurse Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers. An executive summary of the results was completed and presented at the Home Visit Summit October 28. Survey results of strengths and weaknesses were studied by the participants in breakout sessions on each topic. Gary will report more on the Summit tomorrow.

Several districts will receive home visiting programs due to expansion funds and expand services in other districts. A fully operating program includes four registered nurse home visitors and one fulltime nursing supervisor. Funds will also support two home visitors and a half-time supervisor in some districts. Several models of programs are being studied to decide options for the state. Christy commented on the importance of not duplicating programs which can confuse families and Gary agreed the goal is to make sure more homes are visited in a quality, comprehensive way in a coordinated fashion utilizing same assessment tools.

Data and Resource Committee – Paula Mason

The committee will be developing a needs assessment regarding ACEs. A connection with Trevor Storrs with the Alaska Children's Trust has been made to share their state's ACEs needs assessment. Sherry will be pulling questions from their assessment that pertain more to Idaho and the goals of the committee. Once compiled the questions will be available for the Council to review before it goes out to identified agencies that serve children 0-8 years of age. The committee would like to utilize Idaho's Children's Trust Fund as a home base for dispensing the assessment and gathering the results. It was suggested to launch the assessment at the Children's Trust Fund conference in March.

Lunch and networking

Regional Early Childhood Committees – Holly Whitworth

Holly reported on highlights from the Regional Early Childhood Committee and their activities:

- "Screen Time" brochures were distributed to all regions for sharing with families
- Contact with each region's mental health boards has been made by most of the regions. Melissa Carico has information for a contact in Region 6.
- The "Crying Plan" is being promoted in each region at various venues.
- EC3's strategic plan and how to implement the framework into each RECC has been a focus.

Region V is currently looking for a co-chair and Paula Mason suggested Jill Andrus. The RECC by-laws require 20% parent membership with the remainder being school districts, Head Start, ITP, private non-profits, etc.

Region VI has scheduled a Buddy walk and several activities collaborating with other agencies.

Region VII had a presentation by Shannon Dunstan on the SSIP (State Systemic Improvement Plan) and the social and emotional trainings that Shannon is organizing for summer 2015. It will be open to parents and teachers and community members as it travels around the state. Region VII will also be purchasing vision screening equipment for ITP and others. They are working with the School for the Deaf and Blind to research proper equipment.

Sherry said the AAP would like to partner with the regions in a Block Fest™ Day statewide. Currently, three regions are planning a Block Fest™ in the near future.

Governance Committee – Sherry Iverson

The committee discussed the possibility of a newsletter to ensure information from EC3 meetings and collaborations are being shared with agencies and all those working with Idaho children 0-8 years of age.

Hand Washing Resources/Infectious Diseases – Gary Rillema

There have been an estimated 5 cases of children hospitalized in Eastern Idaho from Enterovirus D68 with several other cases around the state. He introduced the Council to “Scrubby Bear” who teaches proper hand washing techniques. A video is available on YouTube. Discussion also centered on home visitors and the issues of hand washing in families’ homes. Most programs, such as Head Start, have their own techniques for staying in compliance with hand washing standards.

The Crying Plan – Sherry Iverson and Monique Farrow, RN, St. Luke’s

The Plan is located on several websites: Idaho Children’s Trust Fund, Idaho Chapter of The American Academy of Pediatrics, Family Advocates. Please contact Sherry for information on placing the Plan/link on your website. The Plan was rolled out in a press conference October 27th and has been introduced at several events around the city. Monique presented a tool kit that will be sent out to all birthing hospitals and then implemented as part of the discharge process. (Her PowerPoint is available on the EC3 portal --

<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3/Home/tabid/2593/Default.aspx> The packet includes:

- Baby t-shirt – “I Cry. Do you have a plan?”
- Hard copy of the Crying Plan
- Letter from the State of Idaho
- Tips and talking points
- Flyers and Posters
- PowerPoint presentation by Dr. McPherson for staff regarding case studies, statistics, triggers (posted on the Idaho Perinatal Project website -- <http://www.idahoperinatal.org/crying-baby.php>)

The Plan will also be shared with the community, Idaho STARS, family physicians, etc. A crying plan for toddlers is in the future and Sherry is looking for volunteers to be a member of that committee.

Omar is requesting training for Early Head Start health coordinators at their February conference. Melissa would like this measure placed on their next patient-centered home learning collaborative in Regions VI & VII at the end of April.

Blended Certificate/Special Education – Professional Standards Commission – Taylor Raney, SDE

Taylor is with the Professional Standards Commission which oversees teacher issues and standards for preparation of teachers. In reviewing the Special Education and Early Childhood standards, it was discussed that the only certification aside from early childhood is a K-12. It was discussed the possibility of splitting up by exceptionality. The proposal is to split into a K-6 and K-12 certification that would have teachers demonstrating proficiency with elementary students versus secondary. There is a concern that it will shrink the hiring pool of certified special education teachers. An alternative proposal would be to add endorsement language to include only elementary and only secondary. The ultimate goal is the quality of education and what is best for the students. The hope is to get it before the 2016 legislature. Questions:

- 1) Will this impact early childhood special education certification? No
- 2) Can a teacher receive the K-6 endorsement after entering the workforce? Yes
- 3) Regarding the alternative route to certification: Can an early childhood special education teacher also qualify for the k-12 or the new k-6 if they do not meet the requirements (elementary and/or secondary degree or special education from another state)? Yes, it would be a teacher with a new certification as opposed to content specialist.
- 4) What are the steps that an early childhood educator would take to become certified in special education? They would need to declare to the Board this is their plan and they would begin with calling Taylor.
- 5) What is the process and how long does it take to become certified in special education? A certification in K-3 is required plus a recommendation from the District.

David expressed the need for the SDE to partner with EC3 and the Consortium on Special Education when looking for direction on this issue. Several Council members may attend a meeting in December on the standards. EC3's Governance committee offered to write a letter of support to Taylor and the Board.

Medical Home Portal – Melissa Carico and Erin Salisbury

Erin introduced the Council to the Medical Home Portal which is a free resource tool for physicians and parents who care for children with special health care needs. Based out of Salt Lake, it covers resources in Utah, Idaho, Montana and New Mexico with over 3,000 resources specific to Idaho. Categories include Parents & Families, Physicians & Professionals, Services & Resources, Diagnoses & Conditions, and Newborn Disorders. Within the resources for Parents are pdf forms to use in building a care notebook. Currently, there is no page dedicated to parent connections. Please contact Erin if you have resources to add to the website.

<http://id.medicalhomeportal.org/>

State Systemic Improvement Plan/Baseline Indicators – Shannon Dunstan

Shannon is gathering information from EC3 regarding setting new baselines for the annual progress report. This information will be presented to the Special Education Advisory Panel next week. Input will then be gathered from special education directors and teachers.

Discussion details are below. Shannon's PowerPoint is also available on the EC3 portal --
<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ec3/Home/tabid/2593/Default.aspx>

- Indicator 6: Least Restrictive Environment: Section 612(a)(5) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that students with disabilities, including preschool students, are educated to the maximum extent appropriate in regular classes with appropriate aids and supports. Currently there are only 2 schools for early intervention in Idaho - Madison in the Boise school district and Pocatello. Even though Idaho does not have publically funded preschool it does not exempt us from trying to educate our IEP students with non-disabled peers. Two Considerations:
 - 1) Increase the number of children in a regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program: Recommended 2.0% increase
 - 2) Decrease the number of children receiving their special education services in a separate education class, separate school or residential facility: Recommended 0.5% decrease

- Indicator 7: Early Childhood Outcomes: Involves all students receiving special education services that are between the ages of 3-5 years.
 - 1) Positive Social and Emotional Skills including Social Relationships Progress toward Typical Development: Recommended increase per year of 0.5%
 - a. Exiting at Age Expectation: Recommended increase per year of 0.5%
 - 2) Acquiring and Using Knowledge and Skills, including Communication and Early Literacy Progress toward Typical Development: Recommended increase per year of 0.5%
 - b. Exiting at Age Expectation: Recommended increase per year of 0.5%
 - 3) Taking Appropriate Action to Meet Needs Progress toward Typical Development: Recommended increase per year of 0.5%
 - c. Exiting at Age Expectation: Recommended increase per year of 0.5%

Shannon also addressed updating the current Anchor Assessments used statewide. It was agreed the list does need updating and it was suggested to contact the universities for assistance from the assessment instruction professors.

ITP Evidence-Based Practice – Christy Cronheim

An early intervention evidence-based practice utilizes every day, family and community activities as natural learning opportunities to support child learning and development. Coaching as an interaction style provides parents and caregivers the recognition of what they are already doing to support learning.

Using a multi-disciplinary team, one member is selected as the primary coach who receives coaching from other team members on their specific field of expertise. Joint visits occasionally occur with a goal of coaching the primary coach and the family to build confidence and knowledge.

ITP’s initiatives include strengthening early intervention evidenced-based practices by:

- Early intervention evidence-based training: a statewide training for 7 teams was held in August.
- Mentor training
- Implementation of a statewide mentor program
- Consistent messaging

Stewards of Children – Roger Sherman

The Stewards of Children’s Darkness to Light Program has a goal of 12 million people trained in order to impact the issue of child sexual abuse which breaks down to 57,000 in the state of Idaho.

A 2-hour online training program opportunity is being offered to some states in collaboration with local YMCAs. Idaho has 10,000 slots that need to be utilized by the end of 2015. The training is located on the Children’s Trust fund site and the Treasure Valley YMCA site in both English and Spanish. Normally, the cost is \$10, but these slots are being offered free of charge. A database tracks scores along with completion certificates.

Potential trainings include 1500 foster parents in the foster care program with the Department of Health and Welfare along with the Idaho Youth Ranch who will do mandatory trainings for employees. Ongoing training is available in their Partner in Prevention program. A train-the-trainer event will also be held in Boise January 16th as face-to-face trainings are also available.

Head Start Collaboration Report – Omair Shamim

Omair reported on the success of the Early Learning Years Conference at Boise State. Good feedback was received on all guest speakers and breakout sessions. A suggestion was partnering with IDAEYC an annual statewide conference around early childhood. Other Head Start/Early Head Start highlights:

- The program is working with Shannon and the SDE on collaboration between school districts and Early Head start to serve children with special needs.
- The Office of Head Start sent notification expanding the Early Head Start program as a center-based model. Unfortunately, not many Idaho programs applied for this grant due to leadership turnover in several programs across the state. Individual programs can apply and two programs – one in Idaho Falls and a tribal program in Shoshone Bannock – did apply, but have not yet heard back.
- Monitoring changes are coming to the Head Start world. Usually, programs are reviewed every three years, but now each program is on a 5-year grant cycle. Previously if you were a grantee you were a grantee for life. Now certain criteria need to be met and if not your program goes into competition and another program may be awarded the grant. The lower 25% will automatically fall into competition.
- Idaho Head Start is hosting a training conference in February.
- Other priorities are partnerships with Idaho Oral Health Alliance to prevent early childhood caries and the State Lead Advisory Committee to prevent lead exposure.

Strategic Plan – ALL

Additions were suggested by Bill Foxcroft:

1. Add “Head Start Performance Standards” to **Standards**
2. Under **Early Education and Care/Quality Child Care**, add “c) Support standards developed for Head Start and Early Head Start as benchmark quality indicators. 2019
3. Add “Carolyn Kiefer/Omair Shamim, Idaho Head Start Collaboration Office” to **Contributors and Reviewers of the Plan**

All additions were approved by the Council.

Home Visit Summit – Gary Rillema

The Home Visit Committee hosted the Home Visit Summit on October 28th as a preconference to the Early Years event. Attendees included home visiting programs and public health districts. Presentations on collective impact and the home visit survey results were given with a root cause analysis and discussion following. Several thoughts surfaced:

- Shared information and use of release of information forms is critical.
- A centralized intake system is needed for less duplication.

Deborah Drain will be presenting the results of those discussions at the next Home Visit committee meeting in December.

A request for a presentation from Strengthening Families to EC3 was made. It will be added to the agenda for January along with a discussion of the benefits of home visiting to be shared with the legislature in the future.

ITP Committee Update – Lauren Ertz

On September 22, the committee hosted an OSEP TA visit during which an overview of Idaho's Health & Welfare system statewide plus in-depth data analysis was presented. OSEP was impressed with the thoroughness and commented no further analysis is needed. OSEP suggestions are to leverage existing programs and processes and work off the strengths of the state. Several strengths recognized are the HUB structure for connecting with regions and the database. A concern of the committee's is the focus of the SIMR – social and emotional skills – is too broad and the suggestion was to narrow it and start with regions with systems in place, keeping in mind the goal of eventually implementing statewide.

The State team workgroup met for a more in-depth infrastructure analysis and developed a set of hypotheses which was presented to the small stakeholder group. The list of 14 hypotheses was narrowed to 7 and will be sent to field staff and contractors for their feedback. The areas of focus are:

- Professional Development
- Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Process
- Policies and Procedures

Next steps involve confirming or rejecting hypotheses based on feedback to identify root causes and improvement strategies, develop a theory of action and then submit SPP/APR Indicator 11 to OSEP.

Lunch/Networking

Agency Reports –

State Department of Insurance/Kathy McGill: The Department of Insurance has reviewed plans for the upcoming year and there will be 198 medical and dental plans offered on Your Health Idaho. Open enrollment runs November 15th through February 15th. Everyone enrolled in 2014 will be automatically enrolled in their state plans unless they choose a different plan. Special enrollment periods exist for situations such as job loss, divorce, marriage, etc. All plans are now on a calendar year. The website offers information on plans and tax credits. Kathy offered promotional items for the members and can order more for agencies to distribute.

State Systemic Improvement Plan Stakeholder-SDE/Shannon Dunstan: They have chosen to address how students on IEPS perform in comparison to typically developing peers on standardized test. They will be looking at growth as opposed to proficiency. A SIMR has yet to be identified. Several future projects include:

- Spring training statewide for kindergarten and special education teachers on the early childhood outcomes imbedded into IEPS.
- A 5-day summer 2015 institute is being planned. They hope to use digital badges around the training. Digital badges are an assessment and credentialing mechanism that is housed and managed online.
- Statewide school-based Medicaid training

Shannon suggested training for the Council on Idaho's Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment Program (EPSDT) to be placed on a future agenda.

Regarding the previous day's discussion on setting targets for indicators, Shannon asked OSEP if a target could be set based on actual 2-year data and they said yes. Shannon will run it past the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) next week.

CHIC-Medicaid Update/Melissa Carico: CHIC did a provider survey statewide to all physicians on what should be the next learning collaborative topic with ADHD the chosen topic. The learning collaborative is scheduled in two locations around the state for March 2015. The Preventing Childhood Obesity collaborative has just wrapped up.

Medicaid applied for a \$63 million grant and has been in discussion with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS has requested a new budget narrative for \$40 million.

Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) and TANF/Aubrey MacArthur (for Ericka Medalen): The upcoming child care and development block grant is being amended and should pass by the end of November. It will dramatically impact child care rules and regulations with increased requirements for education, safety and emergency planning, and increased quality requirements. Additional funding will be available to implement the new requirements. Currently, ICCP is approximately 66% aligned with the bill as it was written initially. They will have two years to comply with original requirements and amendments.

Higher Education/David Allen & Ellen Neff: They will be reviewing the early childhood special education credential in December. ISU has begun to graduate ECSE students with the blended certificate and Ellen will have a cohort of sixteen who will be entering the program over the next eighteen months. Boise State now has a Master's program online. There is concern buy in has been lost at the bachelor level and also around higher education's vision for the sustainability of the blended certificate.

Idaho Head Start Association/Bill Foxcroft: The quarterly meeting of the Head Start Directors was held last week with recruitment as a topic. Low wages play a big part in recruiting and keeping directors and staff. The annual meeting is scheduled for February 9, 10 & 11, consisting of training and a legislative day in collaboration with IDAEYC and Voices for Children.

HELP, Inc./Holly Whitworth: The Parents as Teachers program is involved in a pilot program with the PAT national office regarding quality endorsement and she has been working on those details. She is also looking forward to collaborating with Gary on home visiting.

Maternal Child Health Assessment/ Jacquie Watson: All data collection has been closed and involved over 250 responses. The Boise State Center for Health Policy will be compiling all data and organizing the top priorities for the Department and other partners to review. This will bring new indicators and measures for Idaho.

Regarding the expansion, on the State level they were granted approval to hire a limited service position to support the \$3.4 million grant. The position will be a Health Program Specialist and will be posted next week.

The expansion award received in September 2014 to September 2016 will have an opportunity for expansion funding which will be awarded in March 2015 and go to September 2017.

Judiciary System/ Judge Greg Culet: Magistrate judges receive a binder on child safety to understand children's issues which is beneficial in distinguishing between a case plan and a safety plan. It is also beneficial at this level of court because of the variety of cases they oversee.

He has been asked to update a training video for parents dealing with divorce and custody and would like to present information on the Crying Plan. Sherry referred Judge Greg to Kathy Wells, Colorado's Crying Plan, to collaborate as she recently finished a video.

Children's Trust Fund/Roger Sherman: They are focusing on building training around neglect as 75% of child maltreatment is neglect. The Strengthening Families Institute is March 17th & 18th.

Idaho AAP/Sherry Iverson: Sherry reminded everyone to share information on several poisoning issues:

- Tide laundry pods
- Vapor devices with fruit flavors

Also, a new delivery of heroin that looks like pebbles is being used in planters, etc.

Final Business

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5th and 6th. A DHW conference room has been reserved and has video conferencing capabilities, if needed.

Adjourned at 1:11pm