

Early Childhood Advisory Council

April 16, 2020

Minutes

Call To Order

The meeting of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was called to order at 1:01 pm on April 16, 2020 using the teleconference service WebEx.

Chair, John Roden announced to the Council, the resignation of Representative Regina Huff. Representative Huff served well and was a valuable asset to the ECAC.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Kevin Brown, Travis Burton, Twila Burdette, Senator Danny Carroll, Mary Pat Regan representing Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of Education and Workforce Cabinet Jacqueline Coleman, Anita Dowd, Amy Duvall, Kim Fithian, Paula Goff, Amy Hood, Tamra Parker, John Roden, Sally Shepherd, Amy Smith, and Sarah Vanover. The following members were not in attendance: Secretary Eric Friedlander and Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of Education and Workforce Cabinet Jacqueline Coleman.

Approval of Minutes, February 12, 2020

The Council unanimously accepted the minutes of the February 12th, 2020 meeting.

Update from Partner Agency's.....

Chair Roden opened the floor for partnering agency's to provide updates.

Division of Childcare Sarah Vanover
Ms. Sarah Vanover, Director, Division of Child Care informed the Council that as of March 20th all licensed, certified, and registered childcare programs were closed in effort to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. However, there are less than 100 limited duration childcare centers that remain open. Those facilities are located throughout the Commonwealth and aim to support essential workers and their families during this pandemic. For inquires pertaining to the qualifications of an essential employee for childcare services, please continue to review the COVID-19 website at <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>. Ms. Vanover also announced that the Childcare Development Fund (CCDF) State Childcare Plan has been amended to pay based upon enrollment, not attendance and the Division of Childcare will be responsible for all parent co-pays during this time. A federal waiver for subsidy support has been submitted for childcare facilities serving essential employees. The third round of Corona Virus aid, known as the CARES Act, has been awarded and Kentucky is to receive \$67.74 million dollars in aid. This funding is specifically directed towards childcare and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services is currently working on a plan that will allow for the funds to support childcare industries throughout the Commonwealth. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Kentucky Board of Education Kevin Brown
Kevin Brown, Interim Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education, announced that all 172 schools within the Commonwealth have been closed to in person classes since March 16th. A meeting between Governor Beshear and school superintendents will be conducted to provide information pertaining to the determination if in person classes will resume. Mr. Brown also provided updates for schools participating Non Traditional Instruction (NTI) and the Summer Feeding Program. To date, there has been \$194 million dollars received from the Cares Act, which will be distributed through the Title 1 formula to school districts. These funds can be used for anything related to education and the COVID-19 pandemic. A second fund called the

Governors Fund will provide \$43 million dollars. The Governor’s Office and KDE will collaborate to provide recommendations on how the money should be spent.

Department of Public Health Paula Goff
Paula Goff, Part C Coordinator, First Steps, Early Childhood Development Branch, Department for Public Health updated that the First Steps program will provide tele intervention with written consent. However, only a fourth of the parents served by First Steps agreed to tele intervention as many do not have WI-FI or internet access and most prefer face to face service. Since the HANDS program is very interactive, it is difficult to accommodate tele intervention, however, the HEART program has been using recovery coaches and reaching out to moms for support. HEART will also utilize virtual group sessions and more details are expected.

Kentucky Chamber of CommerceTravis Burton
Travis Burton informed the council that the US Chamber of Commerce is launching a grant Monday, April 20 that will provide \$5,000 for business with 3-20 employees. More information and how to apply for the grant can be found at Savesmallbuisness.com.

Senate Bill 45 Senator Danny Carroll
Senator Danny Carroll provided an introduction and overview of Senate Bill 45. Although there was difficulty with language, Senate Bill 45 was able to move very quickly. Mr. Carroll recognized Shannon Smith, American Heart Association, for her hard work. Senate Bill 45 standardize quality measures related to nutrition, sugary drinks, screen time and outdoor activity time in all licensed centers throughout the state. This will also require the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to work with ECAC and the Childcare Advisory Council.

Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of Education and Workforce Cabinet.....
Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of Education and Workforce Cabinet Jacqueline Coleman expressed her appreciation for everyone’s hard work and sacrifice during this difficult time.

Deputy Executive Director Sally Shepherd
Sally Shepherd, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates on some of the events happening within the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC). The GOEC staff have been working remotely since March 16th and although it was a challenging start, Ms. Shepherd expressed staff have done a wonderful job with communicating through email, WebEx, and conference calls. Ms. Shepherd announced that many of the GOEC staff have been assisting with unemployment insurance claims in addition to their normal job duties. Although, this has been strenuous for staff nevertheless, it has been important for the GOEC to do their part during the pandemic.

Ms. Shepherd also spoke about the canceling of the Early Childhood Institute (ECI) due to the pandemic. ECI was initially scheduled for June 3rd-5th and has now been rescheduled for June 7th-11th , 2021. Planning for ECI 2020 included sessions by high quality national experts and contracts for those experts were already in place. However, once the decision was made to cancel ECI Ms. Shepherd advised the Council the experts were asked to amend their contracts for in person sessions to virtual trainings. Virtual trainings will initially be held live and will be recorded and a plan is in place to house them on ECE TRIS with access to recordings for up to two years. Access will be free of charge for early childhood providers and will give providers the ability to take classes at their leisure and receive TRIS credit.

Ms. Shepherd gave an update on the Professional Development Framework and the Early Childhood Standards and reported that the GOEC is still continuing to work with the Professional Development subcommittee and the TQRS Subcommittee. The initial Professional Development Framework and the Early Childhood Standards review and revisions from content

experts are due on June 30th. However, Ms. Shepherd noted there is a plan in place that will give the GOEC periodic updates as the revisions progress as well as the ability to give feedback and work with content experts.

The GOEC is following up on possible grant opportunities. Building the Strong Foundation for Families through Zero-three, which focuses on assistance to support states and strengthen the comprehensive policies for children aged birth to three. Ms. Shepherd shared that the Kentucky Educational Development Cooperative (KEDC) is cultivating systems focused on capital to create a partnership with the Kellogg's Waters Foundation, KEDC, the GOEC and the Kentucky Head Start Association are planning to provide resources and support to leadership development in early childhood.

The GOEC applied for a grant in collaboration with Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS) and National Implementation Research Network on April 14th with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for secondary analysis and data for early care and education systems and are currently waiting for the outcome.

Ms. Shepherd informed the Council that the new website for the GOEC is anticipated to go live in May 2020. There have been many delays due to the election and change in administration however, Kentucky Interactive has been working diligently through the obstacles to get the website completed. The new website will also include a new web address which will be <https://kyecac.ky.gov/>.

Preschool Development GrantJoe Roberts

Joe Roberts, Program Manager for the Preschool Development Grant B-5 (PDG B-5) and announced that Kentucky was granted a no cost extension through March 31 and work can continue through June 30. Kentucky carried over funds from KYSATS, KDE, CHFS, PDG Closeout Activities and Family Learning Kits. Re-tasked ECI and training dollars were used to support families learning at home through the COVID-19 crisis. Family Learning Kits were designed in collaboration with Lakeshore Learning and three kits were developed by age: Infant/Toddler, Preschool, and Pre-k. Online applications for families are required as well as for families to watch an online training prior to receiving products. An internal process has been developed to receive applications, track online training, and shipping of kits to families and homes. The GOEC will utilize Community Early Childhood Councils to promote the kits to families with the most need and connect families with additional resources including purchasing more kits and family recruitment. Mr. Roberts spoke about continuing to work with federal partners to explore additional flexibilities. Closeout activities and final reporting could be extended, and the current plan is for all activities to be complete by June 30. Mr. Roberts's presentation can be found on the Governor's Office of Early Childhood's website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Community Early Childhood Council Update Amanda Flanary

Amanda Flanary, of the KY Governor's Office of Early Childhood gave an update on the Community Early Childhood Council's grant cycle process. There were 34 intents to apply, that covers 104 counties. The GOEC continues to provide technical assistance to potential CECCs with how to establish regional collaboration. The due date for the applications is approaching and it is still unclear how many applications will be received. Ms. Flanary announced if anyone is interested in assisting with grant review to please reach out to her. Grant submission dates are determined by the Finance and Administration Cabinet and dates be changed. Any unexpended funds from current CECCs must be returned at the end of the fiscal year.

A CECC Spotlight has been proposed to give a glimpse of the great work the CECC are doing. Monthly Webinar's have been established which discuss an array of topics. Ms. Flanary's presentation can be found on the Governor's Office of Early Childhood's website at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Approval of Kentucky Transition to Kindergarten Plan Brenda Hagan

Brenda Hagan and Anna Shepherd of the KY Governor’s Office of Early Childhood presented the Kentucky Transition to Kindergarten Plan. Ms. Hagan offered information pertaining to the research of Kentucky’s current transition plans and made recommendations. Research of transition documents from other states was used to develop successful strategies for Kentucky. Through PDG funds plan a transitions coordinator, and infant and toddler coordinator was hired and plans were created to develop a statewide transition plan under the guidance of the birth-three subcommittee. The workgroup developed guiding principles to support the process and maintain Kentucky’s vision for transitions. The workgroup broke the plan into four key components called transition points. The workgroup concentrated on transition point three: Transition To Kindergarten (TTK). There are four transition points which are Prenatal to Home, Home to Early Care and Education, Preschool to Kindergarten, and Kindergarten to Third grade. The Workgroup and B-3 Subcommittee focused on the transition to kindergarten and created a template using the framework of ready children, ready families, ready schools and ready communities. The final TTK plan is complete, and it is recommended for approval from ECAC by the B-3 subcommittee, transitions workgroup and the transitions coordinators.

The Council unanimously accepted the Transition To Kindergarten Plan.

Conclusion and Adjourn John Roden

Chair Roden thanked everyone for being at the meeting today. Chair Roden opened the floor for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Amy Smith, second by Travis Burton.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm