

**NEW MEXICO EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**(ELAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 22, 2018**

**Albuquerque, NM – UNM CE Room 123**

Meeting was Call Order by Barbara Tedrow, ELAC Chair, at 9:17 am. She welcomed the committee and thanked UNM Continuing Ed ECSC for hosting the meeting.

Roll was called for the meeting. Present: Shannon Rivera (Zoom), Elizabeth Beers, Franz Joachim, Erica Stubbs (Zoom), Janis Gonzales, Andy Gomm (Zoom), Michael Weinberg, Barbara Tedrow, Olga Valenzuela-Zavalo, Janis Gonzales, Larry Langley, and Ray Jaramillo (Zoom).

Excused: Debbie Montoya

Quorum established at 9:18 am by Barbara Tedrow.

Agenda review and community introductions.

Motion to approve January 10, 2018 Minutes

Beth motions to approve; Janis Second. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Business Plan – Early Childhood Funders**

**Michael Weinberg**

* Funding group consists of Keeler Foundation, Thornburg Foundation, Santa Fe Community Foundation and Maddox Foundation.
* Sought the help of Bellwether Education Partners who has created a draft plan. Chose this group because they could speak the language of fiscal conservatives.
* Audience of plan are the gubernatorial candidates after primary election. In hopes that one or more would take ownership of the plan and use as one of their platforms.
* Created a steering committee – involve the business community to be champions of the plan. We still need early childhood input on the plan, which still needs work.
* Bellwether needs to be talking to the community – thus far not everyone is on the list.
* Vision: All New Mexico children receive high quality and affordable early learning and development services to prepare them for success in school and life.
* If NM focuses on 5 Levers:
  1. Leverage local community capacity to improve program implementation.
  2. Coordinate state systems to be greater than the sum of all parts.
  3. Build highly effective early childhood workforce business environments.
  4. Conduct outreach and engagement to build awareness and understanding of benefits of support.
  5. Expand programs with quality to increase access for young children.

**Legislation Update & Child Care Plan**

**Alejandra Rebolledo Rea**

* Legislative Update
  + Childcare ask $25 million to keep up with current families so that we don’t have to disenrollment any children.
  + Secured the $25 million from the state.
  + Also secured another $25 million from the federal government.
* Childcare Accountability Act – challenges programs enough to improve their quality but not so much that it would eliminate programs.
  + Where they are, establishing foundations and adding quality levels.
  + Programs reporting data CYFD collecting and analyzes, holding accountable.
* Home Visiting
  + $1.5 million funding
  + Tiers Level – need to support families that have a higher need. So established Level II. Allows programs to hire people with higher credentials and longer periods of time. Still shaping like Level I so that it becomes solid program.
  + RFP to meet the higher level of services.
    - Higher tiers for high needs families - specialize in homeless population (living in car, shelter, under a bridge) – very high needs families.
    - Level II S – babies that were in NICU and returning to hospital.
    - Looking for partners.
    - Start a Home Visiting in Dona Ana County and eastern part of state.
  + Early Pre K program – opportunity to extend their days and expand 3 & 4 year old programs. Helps in rural communities where they have Head Start and Pre K children.
* CYFD received $150K for starting the Nurse Family crisis models.
* Childcare Plan – in order to continue receiving federal funds for childcare the state must present a plan on how the funds will impact childcare in NM.
  + State seeking input from Early Learning Network – the communities around the state who are providers, educators, and families.
* Questions:
  + Andy – Is ELAC written into the Childcare Accountability Act as a recipient?
    - Alejandra – I don’t recall
  + Andy – Are we allowed to discuss the RFP with various communities such as Home Visiting throughout the state so that we can inform them about the RFP and they have time to prepare?
    - Alejandra – there may not be time and once the RFP is released I cannot discuss the RFP.
  + Ray – Why are we not making it a priority in these RFPs for quality early childcare by giving some type of token as a point, ½ or ¼ points? We need to state the quality issue into the RFAs so to encourage the minimal childcare centers to be at a higher level quality center.
    - Alejandra – We are working to change this so that quality is recognized as requirement in order to receive subsidies. In order for a program to apply in RFP they have to be enrolled in FOCUS.
  + Michael – Nice job to CYFD in advocating for increased appropriations.

**ELAC Annual Report**

**Erica Stubbs**

* There were 2 updates but I decided not to include before sending to: Governor’s office, LFC, LEFC, LHHS.
* LHHS would like the report in electronic format so they can share throughout the committee. Have not heard from any other recipients.
* The report will be on the web site.
* Questions/Comments:
  + Michael – Are there any updates on Priority Goal #2?
    - Alejandra – we are starting the assessment process. We ran out of time due to RFP going out late. We are still committed to these steps.
  + Olga – can we change my affiliation status from CYFD to Head Start Collaboration Office?
    - Barbara – maybe we change everyone’s affiliation based on how it’s written in statute
    - Erica – I will change it to match what’s on the web site.

**Race To the Top Sustainability Plan**

**Andy Gomm**

* Race-To-the-Top ended 5-year grant this year of a $37.5 million grant.
* Plan Background
  + Contracted with Policy Equity Group, Jeff Capizzano to help write plan.
  + Input was survey format sent to more than 1300 with 234 respondents, interviews with over 20 stakeholders and group forums.
  + Developed a web site as way of branding RTTP so that we can continue aligning and working collaboratively.
  + Not intended for asking for funding.
* 4 Recommendations – serving as an Executive Summary. Full report outlines achievements and challenges
  + Governance
  + Accountability
  + Access
  + Quality
* Next Steps:
  + Governance
    - Formalize an agreement between CYFD, DOH and PED with a 3-4 year term date so it’s not tied to government terms.
    - Establish formal relationship and accountability with ELAC
    - Coordinate communication via e-newsletter, website and social media
  + Quality
    - Continue to expand FOCUS
    - Promote FOCUS quality rating system
    - Expand Professional development achievements including Pyramid framework that utilizes Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning.
    - Align and coordinate the delivery of professional development and technical assistance.
  + Access
    - Expand the investment zone initiative to additional communities.
    - Conduct a comprehensive community assessment that examines the unmet early learning needs.
    - Utilize ECIDS data to enable parents to search by zip code or county for early learning providers.
  + Accountability
    - Evaluate and clean up data before developing reports.
    - Expand ECIDS to include Head Start and Early Head Start as well as the 23 Indian tribes.
    - Develop a data dashboard to visually display data.
    - Establish ECIDS data governance committee to oversee the implementation of ECIDS.
    - Utilize statewide KOT data.
* Next Steps for Plan
  + Cabinet secretaries endorsement
  + Newsletter and website
  + Early learning governance monthly meeting
  + ECIDS governance monthly meeting

**NMBR Early Learning Project**

**Larry Langley**

* The Steering Committee has been formed and groundwork will begin in the next 4-5 weeks
* The report is only about 10% of the project and the majority of the information will be compiled from other reports.
* The report will read like the front page of the newspaper. The headlines will say what Early Learning is in NM and how it’s funded.
* The report will be disseminated throughout the state through Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and other business organizations in early summer.
* The goal is for every single New Mexican to know what early learning is.
* The piece is mean to be an awareness and promotional piece so that the public understands how important early learning is for the future education and ultimately the economy.
* Once disseminated, it will have it’s own website.
* Questions:
  + Andy – Does the idea of creating a strong viable early learning childcare system resonate with the business community, in so that they have a productive workforce?
    - Larry – Yes, that was the gateway to breaking into this issue of how important early learning will impact the whole cycle of economic development.
  + Barbara – Has the steering committee been formed?
    - Larry – Yes, ELAC is the core of the committee and there will be some additional folks, as well as, pulling information from the various reports that are currently available.

**Public Comment**

Judith Lavender – NMAEYC

* Co-coordinator for the National Public Policy Initiative which is building structure and policy for the early learning childhood profession. Called Power to the Profession.
* NM one of 5 states chosen to be part of the Initiative due to the early learning structure in place and the work that has already been done.
* Great work from NMBR and we would like to discuss how to partner and be a part of that project.

Larry motions to adjourn, Franz seconds motion carries

Meeting adjourns at 12:20 pm

**Next Meeting:**

* Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 9am – 1pm; UNM Continuing Ed, Room 123; Open/Public Meeting (Possible Lunch Party)

***Respectfully Submitted By***

***Mari Galvez***