

**NEW MEXICO EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**(ELAC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 22, 2018**

**Albuquerque, NM – UNM CE Room 123**

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

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

Excused: Debbie Montoya

Quorum established at 9:18 am by Erica Stubbs.

Agenda review and community introductions.

Motion to approve March 22, 2018 Minutes

Franz motions to approve; Olga Second. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Childcare Plan**

**Alejandra Rebolledo Rea, CYFD**

* Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
  1. CCDBG Act signed into Law 2014
  2. Since then we have had to do make changes in the way the childcare program works in the state.
     1. Enhance the health and safety requirements
     2. Consumer Information
     3. Access for stable child care (12 month certification)
     4. Enhance quality of child care
     5. Workforce development
  3. Every 3 years we have to submit a plan and once approved, we receive funds to provide services.
     1. Initial planning meeting took place in April. ELAC members were invited and participated in the planning session.
     2. Regional meetings with training and consultation partners
     3. Meetings with State and Community agencies, CCDF and Tribal partners.
     4. Survey created to obtain input from childcare providers, parents and community partners who are unable to attend meetings.
     5. As we are gathering input – it will be implemented into the plan.
     6. Initial plan draft posted on www.newmexicokids.org website May 29th.
  4. Integrated Functional Sections. Eight main sections that participants had an opportunity to participate.
     1. Define CCDF leadership and coordination with relevant systems.
* Coordination with other entities including PED, DOH and HSD
* Coordination with programs within CYFD
* Coordination of services for children and families who experience homelessness
* Coordination for children with disabilities and developmental delays
* Coordination for children with Behavioral Health/Social Emotional needs
* Coordination for the development and implementation of the Emergency Preparedness Plan
  + - * Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) required elements
        + Planning for coordination of services to CCDF families
        + Coordination with Emergency Management agencies and key partners
        + Regulatory requirements and technical assistance for childcare providers
        + Provision of temporary childcare services after a disaster.
        + Rebuilding child care after a disaster
      * Updates made during FY18
        + Added infants and toddlers as a specialized group in need of accommodations during an emergency.
        + Clarification that lockdown procedures are the same as shelter-in-place procedures.
        + Added Detainment and Deportation of Guardian as an additional emergency plan guidance for childcare providers.
        + Due to organization change, changed CYFD Statewide Licensing Manager to CYFD Regional Regulatory Unit Manager.
      * Updates for the 2019-2021 Cycle – Revisions in the Plan include language that ensure relevance, applicability and compliance with Federal and State regulations.
        + Organizational Structures, entities and roles have been updated
        + New partners have been identified
        + Required training to childcare providers to comply with Federal regulations
        + Orientation to early learning partners including ELAC
        + Opportunities for consultation to assist local programs in the development and update of their emergency preparedness (specific request)
        + Implement Plan as part of Early Learning Cross Sector Efforts
        + Promotion and communication
        + Translation of the Plan to ensure access
    1. Promote Family Engagement through outreach and consumer education.
       - * Based on public feedback:

Ensure Coordination among the diverse website related to early learning

Enhance parental education opportunities using online, social media, etc.

Expand councils and other opportunities for family advocacy.

Expand community opportunities for parent education

Ensure translation of the Plan and related documents to Spanish

Ensure up to date and accurate reports for Health and Safety violations are available for public review

* + 1. Provide stable childcare financial assistance to families
       - * 12 month certification supports continuity of care
         * The online application coming up will be a positive change
         * Co-pays

Range from 1.6% to 6.8%

Continue exploring GRT on childcare costs

* + - * + Continue working towards increasing available and affordable after school programs
        + Childcare for at-risk families – coordination with Protective Services
    1. Ensure equal access to childcare for low-income families. Discussion on raising eligibility to 200% FPL.
       - * With the implementation of childcare reauthorization, NM childcare costs increased. – more children, longer hours, higher cost per child
         * NM childcare needed and received $25 million for FY19 State General funds to keep current level at 150% FPL.
         * The need for FY20 is about $50 million (once the $25 million is received, the need is less)
         * NM is receiving additional $18,3 million discretionary childcare funds which will be used to ensure support at current FPL for FY20.
         * By FY21 the need will be again – calculations not finalized.
    2. Establish standards and monitoring process to ensure the health and safety of childcare stettings
       - * Online training
         * Onsite training
         * Onsite consultation
         * Will request waiver for components of the criminal background check required by the Federal Government that may result in a burden to childcare programs.

Conducting background checks on all new (prospective) childcare staff before they can start employment.

* + 1. Recruit and retain a qualified and effective childcare workforce. Recommendations to include in the plan:
       - * Align 45-Hour training within other areas in other trainings
         * Explore equivalencies
         * Increase online training
         * Information on training calendars share with licensing so surveyors can also offer support during their visits.
         * Expand scholarship opportunities
         * Continue exploring opportunities for pay increase to childcare educators.
    2. Support continuous quality improvement
       - * Promote TQRIS – FOCUS widely for communities and families
         * Develop plan to revise and publish the FOCUS validation tools
         * Continue alignment with Early Learning Programs
    3. Ensure Grantee Accountability
       - * Transparency – report to public the results of internal reviews and audits.
         * Corrective Action Plans for the Lead agency
  1. Next Steps
     1. May 29, 2018 the Notice for Public Hearing, along with the draft plan will be posted on the NM Registry, Albuquerque Journal and Las Cruces Sun
     2. May 25, 2018 letters to licensed providers, stakeholders, and tribal partners will be sent.
     3. The public hearing will be held on June 19, 2018, 9 am – 12 pm at the Apodaca Hall, 2nd Floor PERA Building.
     4. Based on feedback received both during public comment and the Public Hearing, the plan will be revised before submitted to The Office of Child Care.
  2. Questions:
* Barbara: In terms of background checks will there be allowance to hire a prospective employee prior to completing the background check? Or will we have to wait to employ the prospect until they’ve cleared?
  + Alejandra: We are working with a waiver system that will allow the prospect to be employed up to one year while the background check is being conducted. Other states are faced with this same issue with the federal government.
* Michael: Do you have any data showing that 12 month enrollment affects eligibility?
  + Alejandra: Yes we have data showing that in a 12-month cycle 90% of the families return. A small percentage don’t return at all and another small percentage return to another program.
* Michael: Reimbursement rates have increased from an average of $326 in 2013 and $521 in 2017. Are we seeing salary increases for program employees?
  + Alejandra: Yes, we know some programs who have raised their wages and have experienced lower turnover rates. They also have scholarship programs for employee retention. CYFD cannot dictate wages but we can encourage programs to pay better.
* Michael: How can we align trainings that CYFD is providing with higher education institutions?
  + Alejandra: Is that an offer that we can write into the Plan?
  + Michael, yes absolutely.
* Andy: Are there changes to the section on children/families with disabilities section due to federal mandates or is this something CYFD wants to handle differently?
  + Alejandra: We heard feedback that there needs to be more collaboration between the local communities and the state. We plan to provide training to our consultants so they can help programs with the referral process so that families have better access to services.
* Andy: Does ELAC have a role as far as endorsing the plan or approval even though there isn’t a federal mandate?
  + Alejandra: As a body we can decide on what role ELAC can take.
  + Andy: Maybe not at this meeting, we can decide the role of ELAC.
* Shannon: Alignment of trainings with higher education coursework would be a great opportunity to develop a stronger workforce. Expanding scholarship opportunities directly affects enrollment, which builds a stronger workforce. What are the plans for expanding scholarship opportunities?
  + Alejandra: Due to the current RFA for scholarships, I cannot speak to specifics. However, we are sending out a mass mailing to all in the field. There is some money from Home Visiting Program that we are putting towards scholarships.
* Barbara: The pay schedule which the $25 million monies needs to be more timely.

**Reflections from ELAC Recommendations for Next Cycle**

* Andy – Early learning governance group is forming as a continuation of Race-to-the-Top. There may be a memorandum of understanding to solidify the group and the relationship between the 3 groups and ELAC outlining the governance issues and role of ELAC.
* Larry – ELAC should be brought back into statute giving statutory authority. From a business perspective – early learning is in a good position and more businesses are paying attention and need to engage in this area because ultimately it affects them.
* Janis – My position in ELAC is not in the executive order; however it should be. I represent children’s health, children’s mental health and children with disabilities; which there should input/placement for a representative of this community in ELAC.

Larry motions to adjourn, Janis seconds motion carries

Meeting adjourns at 12:30 pm

**Next Meeting TBA**

***Respectfully Submitted By***

***Mari Galvez***