

Delaware Early Childhood Council Meeting

February 1, 2008

DeIDOT Building, Dover

Review of on-going initiatives supported by the Council

1. Governor's Office - Sally Coonin

- Governor's proposed Budget was shared (handout)
No new initiatives in budget
All information on State of Delaware web site
February 20 Governor will share budget General Assembly bill tracking
- Handouts
State of the State (January 17)
Governor's Vision for Delaware
Department of Education Budget for FY 2009
- Questions and comments from the Council
New Economic Investment –
Can Early Childhood be included in this? Child care providers provide for children and families in the state.
Adult Education and Training Grant
Can this support early childhood qualifications for child care?

2. Vision 2015 - Dori Jacobson

- Vision 2015
In 2005, superintends came to the business community to develop a partnership between schools and businesses
Summit was held to determine what needs to be done for Delaware to become competitive in the world by 2015
Rodel Foundation has been deeply involved in both staffing and helping to finance Vision 2015
- What do we need to get there?
It needs to be as simple as possible
Policy – to change the system
- LEAD Committee - Leadership for Education for Delaware
Findings of Committee:
 1. Cost efficiency study on funding for public education was just completed. The committee looked for efficiencies to ensure that most education funding directly helps children. Early Childhood Education needs to be priority for the savings realized by the efficiencies.
 2. The committee examined the way education funding is raised and distributed in Delaware DOE. Recommendations were made on how funding can be generated more efficiently and included an analysis of the distribution of state and local tax money. Huge discrepancies were found between districts in the north and south. There is a need to improve the adequacy and equity of funding.
 3. Performance Dashboard for Schools –
Reporting on the performance of schools needs to be simplified in order to communicate that information to parents

- Vision Network
Focus: Getting the Vision 2015 approach into schools
10 schools are currently involved and were provided small grants
Questions to answered by the Vision Network:
 1. What are the best practices in school leadership – for teachers and Administrators?
 2. How we change culture in schools
- Partnerships and Public Will are developed by media opportunities – Vision 2015 will inform the public and media
March – funding governor’s candidates debate on education
- Rodel is an endowed foundation in Delaware with a mission of strategic philanthropy 2 areas of focus:
Families need good schools
Schools need to be creative and high performing

3. Delaware Child Care Subsidy Program - Eulinda Dipietro

- Handout - Delaware’s Child Care Subsidy Program
- Question – Training for child care center providers on working with disabilities

4. Social Venture Partners – Terri Murphy

- Handout – Social Venture Partners Delaware
- SVP’s Mission - Quality Early Childhood services for all children
Focus - Children living in poverty in Wilmington
Have a partnership with Al DuPont Hospital for behavior management training for parents and teachers. A manual for classrooms has been developed. A copy was shared with the Council.
Sherlynn Aurelio also consults with the SVP funded centers on supporting transition to Kindergarten.
Mentoring program has been created for the– business community partners to support programs
The Council asked if the manual could be shared with other early childhood programs. Terri will check and get back to the Council.

5. Child Mental Health Grant –

Applied for grant in partnership with AI and U of DE
Capacity building included
Serving children Birth to Six - TA and assistance

6. TEACH, Advocacy, Delaware Stars for Early Success

- TEACH - Scholarship for Delaware Program
96 working on AA
One working on Directors Certificate
For information on new grants (Call Debbie Taylor)
- Advocacy
Wednesday, Feb 27th JFC Hearing for the Division of Social Services
Letters of testimony are needed
April 9th Advocacy Day – Save the Date
Two new bills will be introduced:

A bill to formally create Delaware Stars for Early Success
A bill to ensure that POC rates keep pace with the increase in the market rate

7. Integrated Professional Development Task Force – Kathy Wilson

- Handout Integrated PD Create system –
- Focus – To build a cross sector fully integrated professional development system aligned with the K-12 system
Project Team – first step
Linked to P-20 council – Governor developed council to look at education from EC to Higher Ed
- Question – is there a plan for training when participants do not implement concepts?
- Meeting with Adult Education – Need for screen child care providers to determine their literacy level. Many providers are struggling; some are at 3rd grade reading level
- Great partnerships have already been developed

8. Delaware Early Childhood Council 2007 Recommendations (handout)

Priorities suggestions from Council:

- Subcommittees to be developed
- County Level Councils
Ready Communities: can we add County Councils?
- Children's mental health –
ECCS/ mental health team from Delaware to work on collaboration
Qualifications for new child care center rules: helping programs meet new qualifications. There is a need to market the professional to new people