

# Interagency Resource Management Committee

## Meeting Notes

January 5, 2011 8:30 to 10:30

Department of Health and Social Services, Wilmington

### *IRMC Strategic Leadership Agenda:*

- 1. Establishment of a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system*
- 2. Establishment of a comprehensive and coordinate statewide early childhood data management system*
- 3. Full implementation of the state's early childhood quality rating improvement system, Delaware Stars for Early Success*
- 4. Addressing the early development and learning needs of the population of children living with families with incomes that fall below 200 percent of poverty*
- 5. Application of early childhood standards across programs focusing on the Early Learning Foundation and Delaware Stars Program Standards*

Attending Members: Secretary Lillian Lowery, Chair, Secretary Rita Landgraf, Secretary Vivian Rapposelli, Mike Morton (for Russell Larson) and Jennifer Carlson (for Ann Visalli), and Dan Rich, Ex-Officio

Others attending: Paul Harrell, Debbie Gottschalk, MaryKate McLaughlin, Jim Lesko, Rosanne Griff-Cabelli, Leah Jones and Janet Carter

### **Home Visiting Update – Results of the State Needs Assessment (Strategic Goal #1)**

Leah Jones, DPH, shared the federal requirements for home visiting funded by the Affordable Health Care Act. Eight domains of child and family outcomes have been identified as targets. States will be required to use an evidence-based home visiting program as defined by the Administration for Children and Families. Delaware successfully completed the second stage of the application process – completing a state wide needs assessment. The purpose of the assessment was to identify communities with high concentrations of premature birth, low-birth weight infants, and infant mortality, including infant death due to neglect, or other indicators of at risk prenatal, maternal, newborn, or child health; poverty; crime; domestic violence; high rates of high-school drop-outs; substance abuse; unemployment; or child maltreatment.

The expectation was to obtain community specific, valid data. This was met by establishing 18 zones created by aggregating zip codes. Three zones in Wilmington were identified as having the greatest need. Further analysis was conducted in Kent and Sussex to identify communities in need should there be an opportunity to provide enhanced services in these communities.

The next step in the application process is to develop a state plan for home visiting. ACF has not yet release guidance for the state plans.

### **Integrated Early Childhood Data System – Progress Report (Strategic Goal #2)**

Jim Lesko and Janet Carter, DOE, provided a conceptualization of the integrated early childhood data system. Two systems currently in development were shared – the Delaware Practitioners in Early Childhood and Delaware Stars. The Delaware Stars database is a model for the integrated system. It will be built upon program data from the Office of Child Care Licensing's system and will link to the qualifications information in DPEC. Regular updates on progress will be provided.

### **Early Learning Foundations – Alignment and Community Outreach (Strategic Goal #5)**

Jim Lesko, DOE, presented the revised Early Learning Foundations for Preschool and Infants and Toddlers, as well as the readiness calendar for families. The Getting Ready calendar offers families twelve months of activities fully aligned with the Preschool Early Learning Foundations. Children provided these learning opportunities before entering kindergarten will ready for kindergarten success. Currently in development is a similar document for the Infant and Toddler Early Learning Foundations.

### **Early Childhood Council Report – 1) Mission, Vision, Strategic Goals 2) 2011 Work Plan and 3) Provider Concerns (Strategic Goal #1)**

Dan Rich, Chair of the Delaware Early Childhood Council, presented the ECC's Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals along with its 2011 Work Plan to the IRMC. (Attached) The work plan is fully aligned to the ECC Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals. One initiative of the ECC is to complete a needs assessment as required by the grant. Dan offered that the needs assessment could be used to test policy changes that the IRMC may be considering. He also offered that ECC policy briefs could be used to investigate topics of interest to the IRMC. One of the first initiatives of the ECC is development of a website for communication with the early childhood community. The website could also provide the same service for the IRMC. Dan requested the assistance of the IRMC's staff to work with the ECC on communication. Secretary Rapposelli encouraged the ECC to connect their website to the Departments' websites to share information with the early childhood community.

### **Interagency Early Childhood Planning Group – First Meeting and Relationship to IRMC and ECC (Strategic Goal #1)**

Jim Lesko, DOE, reported on the first meeting of the Interagency Early Childhood Planning Group. The Planning Group is moving forward to advance the goals set by the IRMC.

### **Update from Secretary Rapposelli**

Secretary shared that she met with the ECC at their December meeting. She had an opportunity to affirm the Governor's commitment to ensuring that children are ready for kindergarten success and answer questions from the ECC. She will serve as liaison to the ECC representing the Governor and the IRMC.

***Next Meeting: March 15<sup>th</sup> 10 to Noon; DHSS***

# Delaware Early Childhood Council

## Mission

**Promote the development of a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system, birth to eight, which provides the highest quality services and environment for Delaware's children and their families.**

## Vision

- **Ready children:** children who are physically and emotionally healthy, have access to high quality early learning experiences, and enter school prepared to succeed
- **Ready families:** families with the knowledge and resources needed to successfully support their children's development and learning
- **Ready early care and education programs:** programs that effectively support the growth, development, and learning of all children and are staffed by teachers who are well prepared, well compensated, and well supported
- **Ready communities:** communities that embrace their responsibilities for enhancing the quality of life of young children and their families through collaborations across all sectors.
- **Ready schools:** schools that build upon and further enrich the learning foundations of young children and accelerate their continued success

## Strategic Goals

- Strengthen governance and alignment of early childhood policies, programs, practices, standards, and financing that enhance outcomes and uniform oversight across state agencies, and expand collaborations with private and nonprofit partners and federal agencies.
- Integrate service delivery across agencies and sectors to address the developmental needs of all young children and their families, especially those placed at risk because of developmental delays, poverty, neglect or abuse, and other risk factors.
- Enhance the State's data and information system to fully incorporate early childhood, and use that system as well as periodic analysis of programs, policies, and outcomes to monitor and improve state services, inform and assist private service providers and schools, and enable policymakers to identify what is working and what is needed.
- Establish and coordinate a statewide, cross-sector early childhood professional development system that includes partnerships with K-12 education, higher education, business, and community institutions and that enables all early childhood providers to participate in affordable, high quality professional development.
- Enable early childhood providers to achieve and sustain increasing levels of quality as defined by appropriate early childhood standards, including the State's early learning guidelines, child care licensing regulations, Delaware Stars for Early Success, and national accreditation standards.

- Improve the alignment and efficient use of early childhood funding across agencies and increase public financing to meet the true cost of quality early childhood services for all families across all geographic locations, socio-economic groups, and child ability levels; this includes adequate compensation and tiered reimbursement to all qualified providers, the full financing of Delaware Stars, increasing subsidies to low-income families, and integrated funding of Delaware's early childhood programs with elementary education.

## Delaware Early Childhood Council

### 2011 Work Plan to Advance Strategic Goals

- Strengthen governance and alignment of early childhood policies, programs, practices, standards, and financing that enhance outcomes and uniform oversight across state agencies, and expand collaborations with private and nonprofit partners and federal agencies.
  - Fully implement the revised governance structure and mandate to the Delaware Early Childhood Council and the IRMC; include a year-end report on implementation in the Council's annual report
  - Initiate improvements in the system of policy communications, planning, and management among early childhood state agencies, those served by those agencies, private and nonprofit institutions providing early childhood services, and K-12 education.
  - Plan and initiate a statewide early childhood needs assessment that is based on a model of reflects the standards as definite by the ECC's mission statement
  - Plan and initiate a workforce and compensation analysis that includes evaluation of the impact of workforce and compensation conditions on the quality of and access of early childhood services available to all Delaware families
  - Develop and disseminate policy briefs on key early childhood policy alignment and program improvement issues
- Integrate service delivery across agencies and sectors to address the developmental needs of all young children and their families, especially those placed at risk because of developmental delays, poverty, neglect or abuse, and other risk factors.
  - Conduct and scale up the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment so that it provides a comprehensive and reliable measure of developmental outcomes and preparation for school success,
  - In coordination with the IRMC's Interagency Early Childhood Working Group, initiate programs to strengthen communication between early childhood providers and agencies on factors impacting service delivery
  - Survey districts and early childhood programs to determine current collaborations to support readiness for and transitions to kindergarten
  - Initiate regular meetings for districts and early childhood programs interested in collaborating on strengthening support to young children and their families
- Enhance the State's data and information system to fully incorporate early childhood, and use that system as well as periodic analysis of programs, policies, and outcomes to

monitor and improve state services, inform and assist private service providers and schools, and enable policymakers to identify what is working and what is needed.

- Collaborate with the P-20 Council, the IRMC's Interagency Early Childhood Working Group, and K-12 information systems group to develop a shared vision of an integrated early childhood data system that is linked with the K-12 data system.
- Complete initial planning for an integrated data system
- Establish and coordinate a statewide, cross-sector early childhood professional development system that includes partnerships with K-12 education, higher education, business, and community institutions and that enables all early childhood providers to participate in affordable, high quality professional development.
  - Convene Higher Education Committee to improve alignment of higher education programs with the early learning foundations and early childhood competencies
  - Develop proposals for strengthening statewide, cross-sector early childhood professional development.
- Enable early childhood providers to achieve and sustain increasing levels of quality as defined by appropriate early childhood standards, including the State's early learning guidelines, child care licensing regulations, Delaware Stars for Early Success, and national accreditation standards.
  - Review and address impediments to implementing quality standards and propose options for overcoming those impediments, thereby enabling providers to achieve and sustain increasing levels of quality.
- Improve the alignment and efficient use of early childhood funding across agencies and increase public financing to meet the true cost of quality early childhood services for all families across all geographic locations, socio-economic groups, and child ability levels; this includes adequate compensation and tiered reimbursement to all qualified providers, the full financing of Delaware Stars, increasing subsidies to low-income families, and integrated funding of Delaware's early childhood programs with elementary education.
  - Design and implement a new and improved website for the Early Childhood Council that serves as an on-going, interactive communication tool with the early childhood community
  - Expand and strengthen the early childhood network including partnerships with the Wilmington Early Care and Education Council, Sussex Early Childhood Council, Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children, Family, Support Coordinating Council, Delaware Coalition for Early Learning, United Way of Delaware, Delaware School Districts, Charters and Private Schools, and Vision 2015
  - Develop Early Childhood Council policy and procedures manual