

# Early Childhood Advisory Council

July 20, 2017

10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

OCCRRA

2760 Airport Drive Columbus, OH 43219

## AGENDA

*Attendees: Joni Close, Barbara Haxton, Sandy Oxley, Asyia Haile, Stacey Yergin, Todd Barnhouse, Kim Hauck, Wendy Grove, Rebekah Dorman, Valerie Alloy, Icilda Dickerson, Gail Montana, Stephanie Byrd, Angel Rhodes, Michael Batchelder, Marcia Egbert, Judy Romano, Stephanie Siddens, Sandy Oxley, Susan Peet, Margret Hulbert, Tess Elshoff, Karen Lampe, Anita Armstrong, Shancie Jenkins,*

*Did not attend: Kara Wentz, Day Chesney, Debe Terhar*

*Visitors: Shannon Jones, Lynanne Wolf, Laura DiCola, Kim Tice, Lauren Monowar-Jones, Bonnie Hubbard N.Iosia, Eric Karolak, Jessiac Voltolini, Sarah Huffman*

### Welcome & Approval of Minutes

*Joni Close, Chair*

*Angel Rhodes, Co-Chair*

- Welcome to new members: Gail Montana, Senator Peggy Lehner, and Sandy Oxley.
- Todd Barnhouse motion to approve June minutes as written. ECAC members approve.

### Budget Implications

*Angel Rhodes, Co-Chair*

- Discussed the path of the budget bill from the Governor's Office through the legislative process, and the implications for early childhood funding, given the budget constraints. Early childhood did not experience as deep of cuts as other areas due to Senator Lehner and GroundWorks assistance.
- Senator Lehner provided perspective stating the difficulty of the budget constraints in moving the early childhood agenda forward this biennium. The budget resulted in a neutral position from last year.

Agency Budget Updates:

- **Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Wendy Grove and Stephanie Siddens**
  - Preschool Special Education: Currently, preschool special education operates with a 1:6 teacher to student ratio in Ohio Administrative rules. House Bill 49 brought preschool special education ratios into Ohio Revised code and changed it to a 1:8 teacher to student maximum ratio.
    - Senator Lehner clarified the addition came from the House. Matt Huffman strongly supported this change and strong objection did not occur.
    - The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act does not mandate specific caseloads or ratios for preschool special education classrooms. These are set by each state.
  - Early Childhood Education, Publicly Funded Preschool: ODE continues to work with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) on further alignment on such areas as attendance tracking and funding.
  - Early Childhood Education: Currently, only four year old children are eligible for Early Childhood Education (ECE) slots. The budget included language that by October 1<sup>st</sup> if a provider has served all eligible four year olds, a request can be submitted to ODE to serve three year olds in remaining, open slots. ODE is currently determining a process and will communicate how the application/approval process will go. Angel reminded ECAC this is not an opening for a number of ECE slots to be allocated to three year olds; the intent remains to serve all eligible four year olds so that each high needs child will have at least one year of high quality preschool to prepare them for kindergarten. Senator Lehner concurred that this was the legislature's intent.
    - *ECAC Comments:*
    - Currently, ODE has enough ECE slots to serve approximately 28 percent of eligible four years olds under 200% FPL.
    - The addition of three year olds to remaining slots can assist with the unserved slots and underspent funds.
    - 70 percent Pre-4-Cle hitting saturation for up take.
    - Goal to have at least one year of experience for all kids under 200% FPL prior to Kindergarten;

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- Concern expressed with the first round of slots that's were distributed; some areas weren't prepared and lost slots. The state should review those areas that may need another opportunity for additional slots.
- ODE is aware of the obstacles and challenges and will consider all when creating the policy.
- The most recent ECAC workgroup looked at school district typology vs. the 12 service delivery regions of the state and currently working through the number available to be allocated. 1200 new slots will be available. A communication will be sent regarding the process.
- Providers reported March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 on numbers of enrollment vs. allocation. Providers were able to keep all allocated slots if there were at least 75% enrolled. If they were enrolled at a percent below 75% of their allocated slots, ODE removed all unfilled slots and reduced the allocation to the enrollment number.
- Appalachian Pilot: 125 slots to up to 2 Appalachian counties. Process forthcoming. A pilot because we are collecting additional information from the sites on children development, successes and challenges in that geographic area.
- Pilot Project Parent Choice Demonstration: in this current fiscal year, ODE and ODJFS, will identify a process that can be tested in the field during SFY 2019 allowing parents a process to approach an eligible provider to directly enroll their child. The language is permissive.
- The budget also included permissive language that allows schools with Kindergarten, administering the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), to administer the non-observation items (performance tasks and selective response) up to two weeks before the first day of school. ODE has communicated this and expects more schools to take advantage of the allowance in future years to come.
  - Broader discussion regarding test reduction. An Assessment advisory group recommended eliminating the KRA so districts can administer a selected tool. Superintendent recommendations to the state board and did not include elimination of KRA, but committed to continuing discussion on time, usefulness, etc.
  - Immediate report may help with the KRA and usefulness toward teachers. An Instant Individual Student Report (ISR) will be available to the teacher when the assessment is completed. The raw data is always available, but it will not calculate a sub-domain score individually, except for the Language and Literacy sub-area. There is an immediately available language and Literacy report, available once those items are completed.
- **Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), Kim Hauck**
  - Part C early intervention lead. Slight cut with overall budget and working internally to determine how to keep early intervention whole.
  - Central Coordination/Intake: the funding falls under the Ohio Department of Health. Help Me Grow (HMG) name remained in the budget as is (early intervention and home visiting can use this logo moving forward). Chosen single vendor for intake center, Cleveland Site Center; early intervention will work with the advisory council August 15<sup>th</sup> to come up with funding allocations to send funds back to locals for outreach.
    - The local funding has yet to be announced; DODD is reviewing numbers with ODH and ensuring accurately.
    - This is of large interest at the local level. Current Hospital Based Child Find will be preserved at current funding.
- **Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Sandy Oxley**
  - Central Coordination: The contract was awarded to Cleveland Sight Center; training was conducted with new vendor. ODH and DODD staff have collaborated on developing training curriculum and standards. The exact allocation of funds to invest in local outreach is not set due to HMG line item cut of 3.2% in budget as ODH determines how to meet federal MOE. The current central coordination contracts were extended for 30 days; the new coordination site will be live August 1<sup>st</sup>. Many current coordination sites want to continue to collaborate.
    - Further conversation needed regarding lessons learned from Whole Child Matters central intake.

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- Cuyahoga central site refers to programs that do not refer to state funding; can this continue? If the community wants to continue this way, yes.  
For counties with multiple state funded home visiting programs, a risk based algorithm will be utilized to determine the program that will most appropriately meet a family's needs.
- Infant Vitality: \$3 million increase, totaling \$7 million each year to continue work in Ohio Equity Institute communities to further implementation of innovative and evidence based strategies to reduce infant mortality.
- Mental Health: No budget changes.
- ODJFS:
  - Statement
  - Looking at continuing work.
  - Casino dollars: maintaining same appropriation, 20 million; 2.5 million support quality by providing Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants, 5million preschool slots, 12.5 million quality CC (2-star transition, rate increase and category collapsing in budget). Language included no cuts to the child care rates below December 2016.

#### Healthchek (Handout provided)

*Icilda Dickerson, Medicaid*

- In Ohio children under 21 are eligible for Early Periodic screening and diagnosis and treatment that includes physical, behavior and mental health services.
- If a child is enrolled in Medicaid, they have the ability to receive the screening and services within Healthchek.
- Approximately 3 million total enrolled in Medicaid, approximately 1.5 million are children under 21. Birth to 5 years approximately 33%, 500,000 children.
  - Unsure if data is complete; if a child is tested for screenings, various codes can be used for claims and submission.  
If it is a well child visit with no code separation, we cannot capture this in the data.
- Many children are not receiving dental; out of approximately 500,000 children birth to five years of age approximately 20% receive dental services. They should receive full scope, however, there is an access issue with dental providers in some areas.
- Lead Testing, children under 6, are required if enrolled in Medicaid and all others that live in the Ohio Department of Health designated zip codes. In 2016 statewide, over 161,720 children were tested for lead poisoning and approx. 75% are enrolled in Medicaid. Of those enrolled in Medicaid approx. 21% of children birth to five received a lead test.
- This is not a separate program and does not require an additional application process. Once enrolled within Medicaid, Healthchek services are available.
- *ECAC Feedback:*
  - 50 percent overall receive lead test; ODH testing included all children eligible.
  - Heard doctors will not due lead testing as they say it is no longer an issue.
  - Access to dental is impossible within rural counties; available dentist will not take children on Medicaid.
  - Working to overcome these cumbersome ways to submit claims.
  - Toledo requires landlords to show rental homes are lead free.

#### InfoOhio Early Childhood Resource

*Wendy Grove, ODE*

- A new partnership, ODJFS, ODE and Governor's office, goal to support child care providers, teachers, and parents of early learners through technology.
- Early this fall, an early childhood resource portal will be available. Currently, most resources on InfoOhio are grade 3 and above. We are starting with preschool ages. We are also creating an evaluation rubric for use with online resources. The rubric will be publicly available and will list quality resources across the Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards.

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#### Striving Readers Grant

*Stephanie Siddens, ODE*

- In May, the US Department of Education released a grant funding a three-year program for state education agencies to support literacy, birth to grade 12. Anticipated 4 to 8 states to win the award with an average amount of \$18 million (awards could go from \$3 million to \$80 million).
- ODE applied by the deadline July 17<sup>th</sup> 2017
- If awarded, 95% of the funds go to local entities, with the remaining 5% staying for administration at the state level. Of that money which goes local, grantees must spend 15% on birth to 5; 40% on elementary school grades and 45% on middle and high school grades.
- Required to convene a literacy state team to focus on goals. Melissa Weber Mayer is the literacy administrator and leading the work.
- Ohio applied for 35 million with the intent to leverage early literacy, preschool to 3, where ODE is investing in Professional Development (PD) in teachers. 5% of budget will support building PD for grant recipients.
- Grant applications will be scored in September. It was not restricted to school districts. Competitive application process will occur if awarded.

#### Strategic Plan (slide deck, Framework)

*Angel Rhodes, Co-Chair*

*Cynthia Hunt, Optimum Technology*

- Currently in process of developing the state plan through 2025. ECAC assisted with the initial step of developing vision, mission, and Service Delivery Areas (SDA).
- The cross agency leadership team has been working on the Plan in its monthly meetings The BUILD cross-agency team has worked with other states and national leaders. Cross agency leadership requests ECAC input on process to date.
- ECAC provided feedback on Vision, Mission, SDA language, Goals and Outcomes

#### General Updates from Members

*Rebekah Dorman, Invest in Children Cuyahoga County Together We Thrive Cuyahoga Kids*

- Displaying new mobile website for Cuyahoga County (<https://www.cuyahogakids.org/>) to connect children to community resources and allow the sharing of coding to other communities that are interested.
- The website provides real time information to families by age range.
- Community partners have the ability to add information as needed to increase attendance at events and organizations.
- 211 live chat available during business hours (Cuyahoga County only).
- Searching for child care and preschool will only return high quality and Universal Pre-K sites.
- Basic family needs and resources are provided.
- Metrics are tracked to determine use. Some partners are interested in placing a kiosk for access.
- Future goal to incentivize for specific places (i.e. free admission, membership, etc.)

*Barbara Haxton, Ohio Head Start Association*

- Head Start funded \$13 million dollars to expand space and teacher numbers due to the extended day requirement.
- 2020 requires 6 hours a day or more with available funding. 3,452 children will be moved from part day to full day (6 hours or more). A funding increase for Ohio of \$13,189,414 for permanent operations, and \$5,678,025 one-time funding for start-up costs.