

Early Learning Council

Meeting Notes

January 17, 2012

Approved: March 13, 2012

Present:

Maria Erlandson, Kelly Monson for Jeanne Ayres, Erin Sullivan Sutton, Denise Mayotte, Miriam Mohamed, Sue Hoeft, Carolyn Smallwood, Victoria Campoverde , David Cournoyer, Carol Miller, Mary Vanderwert, Scott McConnell, Dianne Haulcy, Donna Henning, Representative Jenifer Loon, Sara Carlson, Karen Cadigan, Yeu Vang, Barb Fabre, Patty Nordahl, Jill Timm, Fred Senn and Barb Yates

Unable attend:

Representative Nora Slawik, Art Rolnick, Senator Terri Bonoff, Jacqueline Cross, Molly Rieke, Michelle Zadra, Senator Pam Wolf

Public Members:

Becky Revier, Cindy Wendorff, Deb Spencer, Jane Ryan, Wendy Walz, Debra Spueth, Nancy Jost, Teri Steckelberg, Jodi Wambeke, Steve Brisendine, Regina Schmitz, Renee Nolting, Linda Vanderwerf, Kathleen James, Maggie Lundorff, Deb Campbell, Peggy Stary, Valerie Walstrom Mary Lockhart-Findling, Rachel Jeppesen and Mary Orr

Welcome and Goals:

Barb Yates, chair, welcomed council members and guests to the meeting. She thanked all those who had helped put together the morning site visit, the panel discussion, and the meeting logistics.

Approve Minutes of December 12, 2012

Sara Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2011, meeting. The motion was seconded by Miriam Mohamed. The motion was approved.

Race to the Top

Karen Cadigan gave an overview of the Race to the Top Award.

Minnesota received one of nine Race to the Top awards for 45 million dollars over the next four years. The application put forth a plan that built on the work done to date. Agency staff and others will now work to implement the plan to enhance early childhood systems throughout Minnesota.

The plan focuses on four areas: High-quality accountable programs, promoting early learning and development outcomes, great early childhood workforce, measuring outcomes and progress. There is statewide benefit as well as deep impact in four communities with persistent rates of high early childhood poverty with supporting infrastructure to hit the ground running.

The plan includes:

- Expand Parent Aware statewide
- Incentives for school districts that offer preschool
- Early childhood scholarships in four target communities. (State scholarships available in other areas)
- Promote early learning and outcomes
- Coordinate professional development
- Measure outcomes and progress

The council will need to determine ways to support the Race to the Top plan. Questions that remain include: what outside of the Race to the Top plan needs to be considered, what is the council's role as the plan is implemented, how does the plan compliment the Early Learning Council's strategic report.

Carol Miller gave an overview of the grant received by the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ promise Neighborhood)

Minneapolis received a \$28 million federal grant over next five years.

The NAZ Promise Neighborhood is a collaboration of over 50 organizations and schools who work with children and families in North Minneapolis to build a culture of achievement so that all youth graduate college ready. Families and children move through a "cradle to career" pipeline that provides comprehensive support from pre-natal through age 18 through family engagement, education and family support. The project has been piloted for the last two years; the grant allows it to reach additional children and families.

Council Committees

David Cournoyer reported on the meeting of the subgroup to look at committees. The group had recommended that a survey be developed to gain additional information on priorities of council members. 51 percent of the members had completed the survey to date. It was recommended that the form committees will take should be determined following a decision on the function. Time will be devoted during the next meeting time to consider council responsibilities.

Guiding Principles

Denise Mayotte reported on the work being done on the Guiding Principles. It was determined that the Guiding Principles could build on work of previous Council. They can be updated to better reflect the current scene in Minnesota. The format of the principles will include sections that provide belief, commitment and actions statements. A draft of Guiding Principles for this council will be sent out to all council members and be discussed at the next meeting.

Willmar and Central Minnesota Program Highlights

Sara Carlson, Jodi Wambeke and Steve Brisendine gave an update on opportunities and successes of early childhood programming in Willmar and Central Minnesota. They highlighted the deliberate engagement of traditional as well as non-traditional community assets (such as the fire station, police department, baseball and local cable access) that come together for mutually beneficial projects with high impact.

Requests for Speakers and/or Council updates

Discussion regarding requests for speakers included the following points:

The council may want to revise bylaws at some point.

Requests from media should go to the chair.

It may be helpful to develop a communications plan with talking points that all members can use to provide a consistent message. The plan could include short biographies of each council member and a power point containing what the council is and what it is to accomplish

When addressing another group, council members are encouraged to learn from the group and bring it back to the Council.

Next meeting (March 13) and potential agenda items:

- Committees –survey and facilitated discussion
- Guiding principles
- Does the council want to do some more visiting in other places and where would we want to go?
- Orientation on state agencies and government

Public Comment:

Nancy Jost invited the group to look at Promising Strategies activities and programs for the wellbeing of our youngest children and their families on the Minnesota Initiative Foundations website. Nancy thanked Sara and others in Willmar for being a good example of what is taking place in greater Minnesota communities.

Adjourn

Erin Sullivan Sutton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Denise Mayotte seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10.