

ACT 14: Early Learning Council
Hanahauoli School – Professional Development Center
Thursday, January 19, 2012
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Council members in attendance:

Kaina Bonacorsi, Deliana Loretta Fuddy, Joanne Taira (for Linda Johnsrud), Christina Cox (for Charles Larson), Steve Shiraki (for Kathryn Matayoshi), Kanoe Naone, Lora Perry, Robert Peters, Angela Thomas

Absent:

Pankaj Bhanot, Christine Jackson, Dee Jay Mailer, Pamela Perkins

I. Opening and Welcome

- Meeting called to order by Chairperson Robert Peters at 1:38 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of 12/15/11 meeting were approved.

III. Quality Improvement and rating System-QIRs (G. Fong)

- Project is moving from infrastructure building stage to implementation stage.
- Infrastructure building stage revealed complex processes involving:
 - Developing of policies, procedures, forms, job descriptions, hiring guidelines, etc.
 - Developing and coordinating of training for coaches and assessors.
 - Developing of the data system for feedback on what's working.
 - Department of Human Services (DHS) guidelines/processes.
 - Exploring the "true" cost of the QIRs.
 - Addressing the different, unique needs of each setting.
 - Researching and lessons learned since working on the QIRs.
- The coaching competencies document was jointly developed and modified from other national documents. The document includes the coach's job description and a list of essential skills.
- Challenges include:
 - The scope of training and support for coaches, especially in immersion pilot sites.
 - The extent of DHS rules is creating a longer QIRs implementation timeline.
 - The following is being requested for more information:
 - A chart/visual of participating sites, planning team, assessors, coaches.
 - A profile of participating sites costs
 - Details of the longitudinal data collection system.

- A replacement for GG Weisenfeld, one of the core contributors to the QIRs development, is in progress.

IV. Common Core Competencies (M. Vega)

- The ELC reviewed and endorsed the Hawaii Careers with Young Children's (HCYC) Common Core Competencies document to assist with developing the State's early childhood workforce.

V. Legislative Updates (T. Lock)

- Junior Kindergarten
 - A new interpretation of Act 183 (from the Attorney General's office) indicates junior kindergarten is a Hawaii DOE program and does not expire.
 - Representative R. Takumi introduced HB 1683 which states the DOE shall not offer or maintain junior kindergarten beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.
 - Senator J. Tokuda will introduce a senate bill that includes: junior kindergarten expiration beginning 2014-2015 school year, establishing the Office of Early Learning (OEL), reorganizing ELC as the Early Learning Advisory Board, development of an implementation plan for junior kindergarten and eventually all 4-year olds, and moves Pre-Plus from DHS to DOE.
 - Establishing the OEL is a step forward to establishing the Department of Early Learning (DEL). The OEL will be attached to the DOE and will support comprehensive services to children prenatal to five-years old. The OEL will need to demonstrate success with administering and coordinating programs and services in order to develop the DEL. The DEL may take up to 3 years to be developed and operational.
 - The Early Learning Advisory Board's role needs to be clarified and defined. The composition of the Advisory Board would be the same as the ELC with a few more added participants. As the ELC or an Advisory Board, the group must remain focus on comprehensive services related to health, safety, and learning along with family engagement.
 - The implementation plan for junior kindergarten is expected to be presented during the 2013 Legislative session.
- Governor's legislative action includes an appropriation bill (\$1 million) - \$500,000 to further ELC operations and assist with planning for the junior kindergarten implementation and \$500,000 to DOH to prevent childhood obesity.

VI. Systems Map Presentation (T. Lock)

- T. Lock shared an organizational viewpoint of Hawaii's early learning system.
- Components include: Governance and Leadership, Quality Improvement, Accountability and Evaluation, Financing, Public Engagement, Regulations and Standards, and Workforce Competence and Professional Development and their related agencies, groups, affiliations, and initiatives.
- The ELC Sub-Committees are aligned to the components.

VII. Fiscal Mapping Project (N. Toledo)

- The Finance Project presented a draft report of the Fiscal Mapping Project in December, 2011 and was given to the ELC Finance Sub-Committee.
- The report catalogued financial and human resources and did not disclose a total cost of an early learning system.
- The final report will be done soon and the ELC will work on data analysis and recommended next steps.

VIII. Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment – HSSRA (D. Tom)

- Public school teachers and administrators respond to the HSSRA online survey within the first month of each school year.
- Data analysis revealed the following:
 - Each school year as more children in the cohort qualify for Free and Reduced meals (low income indicator), less children in the cohort had attended preschool.
 - By counties, Hawaii has the highest % of children qualifying for Free and Reduced meals and not attending preschool.
- Hawaii's NAEP Grade 4 reading data revealed students of low income households scored lower than the basic level score than the students of non-low income households.
- HSSRA data, along with other information, motivates policy decisions.

IX. Sub-Committee Updates

- Public Will (K. Naone)
 - Be My Voice (BMV) are planning strategic events to move early childhood issues forward.
 - Legislation for a tax check-off to support early childhood has been introduced by Senator S. Tsutsui.
 - BMV website will be launched by the end of February and early childhood funding commercials will be launched by the end of the 2012.
 - Dean Okimoto (Nalo Farms) is soliciting retail placement/space for early childhood brochures.
 - Girl Scout cookies will be delivered in BMV packages. The Girl Scouts will also be visiting legislators and expressing the importance of early childhood.
 - Jamba Juice is donating 25 cents for each Fit & Fruitful smoothie sold through March 12, 2012 to the Hawaii Children's Trust Fund's One Strong Ohana campaign.
- Direct Services (R. Peters)
 - Several groups (Infant/Toddler Focus Group, Expanding Opportunities for Inclusion Work Group, and Family Engagement Work Group) have been meeting and focused on early childhood action plans.
- Quality (K. Bonacorsi)
 - Sub-Committee's focus is the QIRs pilot.

- As the QIRs expands to other settings, the group will prepare a document listing quality standards for each setting.
- Data (J. Taira)
 - T. Lock convened a meeting of different agencies/groups with a data focus.
 - Next steps:
 - Agreement on childhood data identifiers – prior to moving the State Longitudinal Data System forward, data projects, elements, and database collections must be mapped out.
 - Each data project must be aware of each others’ data collection content.
 - In the interim, reliable early childhood data and information is needed for message communication in the public will campaigns.
 - L. Fuddy shared that 99.9% of all babies are given the Newborn Metabolic and Hearing screenings. Another data point may involve the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, serving 40% of all pregnant women.
- Professional Development (M. Vega)
 - Feedback from the Early Learning Challenge Grant indicated a weak plan for Hawaii’s workforce development.
 - Next steps:
 - Draft goals to accommodate a larger system for practitioners.
 - Collect baseline data.
 - Monitor workforce development system.
 - ELC requests a briefing of Trainer Competencies at the next meeting.
- Finance
 - See VII. Fiscal Mapping Project

X. Public Comment

- Kathie Reinhardt: The current ELC meeting date is not posted on the ELC website. The meeting is posted 6 days prior on the State Calendar of Events. Request to add a link on the ELC website to the State Calendar of Events.
- Loretta Fuddy: One Strong Ohana Campaign was launched this week in collaboration with the Joyful Heart Foundation (founder and president is actress Mariska Hargitay), the Hawaii Community Foundation, and Hawaii Children’s Trust Fund.
- Mike Fahey: Keep focus on the vision for the future success of society. Stay strong forever.

XI. Review of Meeting Decisions, Future Discussions and Communications

- QIRs: Infrastructure building stage is moving forward. ELC requested a QIRs systems “map” including participating sites basic statistics, cost, and the DHS contract details with the provider.
- Common Core Competencies: ELC moved to endorse the document and HCYC will move forward to distribute and implement.
- Legislative issues: Careful consideration must be noted to include providing services for healthy, safe, ready to learn, and engaged families.

- Sub-Committee updates: Many early childhood groups have data components and coordinating the information between all groups continue to be challenging.

XII. Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2012

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Place: Hanahauoli School – Professional Development Center
1622 Makiki Street, Honolulu, 96822**

Agenda item:

- QIRs components overview
- Legislative issues
- Systems map presentation
- Trainer Competencies briefing (Professional Development)

Monthly agenda addition requests, including conference call site address, must be emailed to R. Peters and D. J. Mailer 2 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting to allow compliance with Hawaii’s Sunshine Law.

Future meeting dates for 2012 (3rd Thursday of the month):

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|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| March 15 | April 19 | May 17 | June 21 |
| July 19 | August 16 | September 20 | October 18 |
| November 15 | December 20 | | |

XIII. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

In attendance:

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Coreen Lee</i> | <i>Terry Lock</i> | <i>Kathy Murphy</i> | <i>Grace Fong</i> |
| <i>GG Weisenfeld</i> | <i>Kathie Reinhardt</i> | <i>Dave Tom</i> | <i>Liz Chun</i> |
| <i>Nonie Toledo</i> | <i>Linda Brown</i> | <i>Mike Fahey</i> | <i>Melodie Vega</i> |
| <i>Elizabeth Park</i> | <i>Anna Peters</i> | <i>Eliza Talbot</i> | <i>Dewayne Buttag</i> |
| <i>Russell Nishiyama</i> | <i>Diane Young</i> | | |