

**ACT 14: Early Learning Council
Hanahau`oli School-Professional Development Center
1922 Makiki Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
15-3110 Pahoia Village Road Pahoia, Hawaii 96778**

**Thursday, May 17, 2012
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

Council members in attendance:

Kaina Bonacorsi, Keiko Nitta (for Deliana Loretta Fuddy), Christine Jackson, Christina Cox (for Charles Larson), Dee Jay Mailer (phone conference), Steve Shiraki (for Kathryn Matayoshi), Kanoe Naone, Pamela Perkins (phone conference), Lora Perry, Robert Peters, Angela Thomas

Absent:

Lynn Cabato, Linda Johnsrud, Barbara Yamashita

I. Opening and Welcome

- Meeting called to order by Chairperson Robert Peters at 1:37 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of 04/19/12 meeting were approved.

III. Legislative Update (T. Lock/S. Teves)

- SB 2545
 - Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL) is administratively attached to the Governor's Office effective July 1, 2012 at the request of several legislators.
 - The EOEL will be administratively attached to the Department of Education beginning July 1, 2015.
 - Current ELC members will continue as members of the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) until their current terms expire.
 - Effective July 1, 2012, five new members, one from each of the following groups, are able to join the ELAB:
 - the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council,
 - the parent group,
 - the Hawaii chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
 - the home-visiting program providers, and
 - the Hawaii medium early learning providers.

- The five new ELAB members will serve interim terms until they are confirmed by the 2013 Legislature.
- The appropriation of \$300,000 will include funding for:
 - EOEL staff to be hired by September 2012,
 - EOEL and ELAB travel costs, and
 - Planning costs for the State Plan which includes the targeted 4-year old implementation plan.
- The Head Start Collaboration Office and the functions of the Pre-Plus Program will be transferred from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the EOEL.
- T. Lock suggested the ELC thank the Senate Education, Senate Ways and Means, House Education, and House Finance Committees, in writing, for their support of SB 2545.
- Communication of SB 2545's effects on communities is forthcoming.
- T. Lock is leading the plan for a 2-day ELAB retreat in July to include new and current members and to re-establish the role of the ELAB.
- S. Teves reported some legislators supported SB 2545 with reservations. The reservations were due to not having an implementation plan before establishing a repeal date for junior kindergarten. Legislators in the 2013 session may challenge the repeal date.
- SB 2778 – Childhood Obesity Prevention Task Force (COPTF)
 - A COPTF will be established effective July 1, 2012.
 - Appropriations from the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement special fund will support the COPTF and DOH's collection of obesity data, childhood obesity awareness, and promotion of best practices to improve healthy life choices.
 - The COPTF includes 19 members and lead by the Department of Health (DOH)'s Director.
 - The ELC, also operating as the State Advisory Council (SAC), must select a representative, at its June meeting, to attend and participate at COPTF meetings.
- SB 2800 – DHS licensing exemptions
 - This bill was introduced by the Governor's Office to add exemptions for any kindergarten, school, or program licensed by the Charter School Review Panel, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools, or any federal agency and certain child care programs conducted by the counties from child care licensing by the DHS effective July 1, 2013.
 - Kathy Murphy reported HAEYC sent in a petition asking the Governor's Office to veto the bill due to their strong reservations regarding the unintended consequences regarding the health and safety of children.
 - S. Teves stated bills with a July 2013 effective date may be up for discussion during the 2013 Legislature.

IV. Fiscal Mapping Project Message (D. J. Mailer)

- The Fiscal Mapping Project's message draft was shared.
- Revisions and input should be emailed to R. Peters and D.J. Mailer as soon as possible.

- Review and support for coordinating efforts from the state agencies (DOE, DOH, DHS) are needed prior to the project report's distribution.

V. Quality Ratings and Improvement System (QRIS) Update (G. Fong)

- The QRIS name change is at the request of the DHS Director.
- A press release from DHS on May 10 contained the QRIS overview, goals, program administration, and pilot information.
- General QRIS inquiries can be directed to Grace Fong (956-5303, gfong@hawaii.edu) or QRIS Coordinator Janina Martin (956-7232, martinj@hawaii.edu)
- QRIS presentations/materials will be created for groups to use to build awareness of the system.
- Pilot site assessments are approximately half completed.
- The Policies and Procedures Manual is being revised and forms being updated.
- The QRIS pilot is already providing a wealth of information regarding the details and challenges of this type of system that will inform the larger system development.
- The continuation of purposeful and systematic dialogue amongst the stakeholders will inform future discussions of funding, development responsibilities, implementation timeframes, and sustainability over time.
- C. Cox shared the DHS-established feedback group for the QRIS is very helpful.

VI. Action Items (R. Peters)

- The Expanding Opportunities for Early Childhood Inclusion brochure was endorsed by the ELC.
 - An action plan is currently being developed with stakeholders and national technical assist personnel.
- The CANOES Trainer Competencies document was also endorsed by the ELC.

VII. Team Marley (A. Thomas)

- Due to recent events involving young children and traumatic experiences on the Island of Hawaii, a conference focused on long-range effects of traumatic experiences on children is being planned for August 2012.
 - Robin Karr-Moss will be the guest speaker along with a panel including DHS and public safety personnel.
- A. Thomas is seeking partners for funding and resources to expand the conference statewide.

VIII. Governor's Office Updates (T. Lock)

- National Governors Association (NGA)
 - Deliana Fuddy (DOH), Lea Albert (DOE), and T. Lock attended a NGA meeting in early May along with 37 states and Guam.

- The “One Science” concept related to clear, convincing, hard science about the importance of prenatal to five as a critical development period in human development.
 - To produce healthy development in children and lessen the impact of adverse childhood experiences, children simply need positive interaction with a caring, attentive caregiver.
- State Early Childhood Action Strategy
 - T. Lock reported work continues on the state’s Prenatal to Grade 3 early childhood plan, renamed as the Early Childhood Action Strategy.
 - The Early Childhood Action Strategy will be an over-arching, high level plan which includes two-year work plans with organized core strategies, prioritized resources, and measurable indicators.
 - Components include:
 - Healthy, well-timed births,
 - Health and development on track,
 - Supported and supportive families,
 - High quality child care and early education,
 - Continuity in early childhood experiences, and
 - Effective teacher and learning in K-3 classrooms.
 - The implementation plan for the targeted junior kindergarten group is also included in the action strategy.
 - A statewide engagement process is planned for the various early childhood settings and communities.
 - Hawaii Community Foundation resources and the SAC grant are assisting with the planning process.
 - 80% of the plan will be completed by September 15, 2012.
- SAC grant
 - T. Lock has developed job descriptions for staffing and currently procuring contracts.
 - The SAC grant funds will be used for:
 - Expanded opportunities for families,
 - QRIS system,
 - Development of the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS), which is also supported by P-3, and
 - Professional development, in coordination with Hawaii Careers with Young Children.

IX. Learning Lab (K. Naone)

- The last Kellogg-sponsored Learning Lab was held earlier in May in Choctaw, Mississippi with racial equity as the focus.
 - A strong message from the Learning Lab was to use an equity lens to close achievement gaps in national school transformations.
- Current Grade 3 reading scores indicate significant achievement gaps.

- Identifying root causes along with prioritized funding will help close the achievement gaps.
- Hawaii’s state team at the Learning Lab discussed the concept of “scope and sequencing” as it relates to a funding plan.
 - “Equity is not equal”.
 - Funding needs to meet the school district’s needs.
 - Business as usual must stop for significant change to take place.

X. ELC Sub-Committee Reports

- Public Will (K. Naone)
 - A recent Be My Voice strategic planning session raised the possibility of hiring a lobbyist to move the early childhood message forward and to strengthen grassroots efforts.

XI. Public Comment (R. Peters)

- Steve Shiraki: Lynn Cabato (Head Start agency representative) will be serving an interim term on the ELC/ELAB until the 2013 Legislature’s confirmation.
- Mike Fahey: shared quotes to strengthen and encourage members to continue the ELC’s work.

XII. Review of Meeting Decisions and Communications (R. Peters)

- Early learning and development was a priority during the 2012 Legislature. EOEL funding will assist with planning Hawaii’s Early Childhood Action Strategy. Thank you to Terry Lock’s work on legislative bills and Dave Tom’s legislative information via emails and reports.
- Edits to the Fiscal Mapping Project message must be emailed to R. Peters and D.J. Mailer as soon as possible.
- QRIS presentations/materials will be created for groups to use to build awareness of the system.
- The ELC endorsed the Expanding Opportunities for Early Childhood Inclusion brochure and the CANOES Trainer Competencies document.
- “Team Marley” conference is scheduled for August 2012 on the Island of Hawaii and possibly statewide.
- The ELC members would like to continue the racial equity discussion that was the focus of the recent Kellogg Learning Lab.

XIII. Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 21, 2012

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Place: Hanahauoli School – Professional Development Center
1922 Makiki Street, Honolulu, 96822**

Agenda items:

- Senate Bill 2800 – DHS licensing exemptions concerns
- ELAB membership discussion
- Fiscal Mapping Project message review
- HELDS discussion on engagement process

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):

July 19	August 16	September 20
October 18	November 15	December 20

XIV. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

In attendance:

Kathy Murphy
Mike Fahey
Elizabeth Park

GG Weisenfeld
Liz Chun
Terry Lock

Dave Tom
Grace Fong
Randall Nishiyama

Steve Teves
Melodie Vega
Diane Young