

ELC Direct Services Subcommittee: Infant/Toddler Focus Group
January 19, 2011 Meeting Notes
Haseko Center

Attendees: Malia Taum-Deenik (Zero to Three Early Court); Kathy Murphy (HAEYC); Melody Vega (HCYC); Lora Perry (Partners in Development/ELC); Anna Peters (GBA Kauai County Coordinator); Grace Fong (UH Center on the Family); Sue Brown (DOH/Early Intervention Section); Liz Chun (GBA); Helene Kaiwi (DOH/Maternal Child Health Branch); Keiko Nitta (DOH/Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Coordinator); Chris Jackson (Head Start Collaboration Office/ELC)

Welcome & Introductions: Chris welcomed the group and self-introductions were made.

Rationale for Convening the Group:

- *Environmental Scan:* Identify who is doing what related to infants and toddlers (resource mapping), as well as identify issues group might want to work on. Members took turns using the draft Infant/Toddlers Services Matrix as a vehicle to provide a status report of what services they are providing & what some of their agency issues are related to their work.
- *Legislative Opportunities:* Liz shared about the “One Voice for Hawaii’s Children: 2011 Legislative Action Plan for Early Childhood System Development” which provides a platform for legislative action being proposed around Early Education and Care, Health, and Parent Education & Family Support
- *Zero to Three TA grant:* Hawaii is one of five (5) states in the second round of technical assistance awards provided by Zero to Three to enhance and expand Early Head Start and Infant/Toddler services within our state’s early learning system. A state team of five (5) will be traveling to a conference in Portland, Oregon in mid-April to network with other states and to discuss issues related to leveraging resources, data coordination, EHS partnerships with child care and home visiting programs, and developing state-level policy priorities for infants and toddlers. On-site consultation (one visit) by a Zero to Three staff will also be provided through this TA grant award.
- *ELC Framework (draft):* A draft of the ELC framework was shared which describes a vision for a comprehensive, coordinated early learning system. This document represents a broad stroke of general desired outcomes and strategies to support the collective efforts of both the ELC and public/private stakeholders, and will be used with funders, policy makers and others to engage them in supporting the vision and sustainability of such a system.

Agency/Program/Initiative Sharing: See description under “Environmental Scan”.

Additional Notes from Sharing:

- *Early Intervention Services:* IDEA Part C services for children birth to three with developmental delays. In 2009, budget cuts necessitated the elimination of the “environmentally at-risk” and “biologically at-risk” categories. The eligibility criteria is now more restrictive. In 2008, EIS served 3508 children; in December 2009, the child count was at 2080. Two (2) purchase-of-service contracts replaced two (2) state programs.

- *Women, Infants & Children (WIC)*: State receives federal funds for WIC services; serve over half of children born each year; need to be Medicaid eligible and be at “nutritional risk”.
- *Healthy Start*: With budget cuts, all but two (2) programs were eliminated (Ewa & Hilo), as well as in-hospital early identification assessment. Rainy day funds in 2009 may be released soon to re-start the early identification process, as well as to enroll more families into the existing programs. An Evidence-Based Home Visitation (EBHV) federal grant supports the implementation of the “Nurturing Program” at the 2 Healthy Start sites. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) federal Home Visitation grant has provided funding for Phase 1 and 2 planning; awaiting phase 3 funding to increase home visitation program partnerships.
- *DOH Parenting Support Contracts*: Funded through State general funds, these include a “Parent to Parent” contract with Baby Hui, Parent Line (administered by Child & Family Service), and TIFFE’s community outreach services for children, birth to three.
- *Zero to Three Early Court*: Hawaii is one of eleven (11) states piloting this initiative which involves bring early childhood development into the court system. The goal is to provide infants and toddlers with continuity of care (children often in foster care for up to 24 months), as well as promote positive parenting. Case reviews occur once a month (versus once every 6 months as required by statute) which enables the court team to assess and monitor monthly progress, help parents plan the next week or month’s schedule of appointments, etc.
- *UH Center on the Family*: Recently developed an Infant/Toddler framework to use as an assessment of quality in I/T settings (both in center-based and home-based settings). Developed measures of quality and are now proposing how to use these within the system. Programs do self-assessments and then get assistance for quality improvement – this will help build the foundation for a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) here in Hawaii.

Review of Draft Matrix: See description under “Environmental Scan.” Members were asked to expand upon or revise the draft matrix prior to the next meeting. Chris will send this out electronically, along with the meeting minutes.

Identify Additional Partners: Suggestions of folks to invite to the table included PATCH (they were invited but couldn’t attend); Infant/Toddler Center Directors; Enhanced Healthy Start, Sherry Noelte or Lani Au (HCC Instructors), Hi’ilani (Kamehameha School’s 0-3 program), Public Health Nurse, Alu Like/Pulama I Na Keiki, GRADS program (DOE pregnant and parenting teens program).

Next Steps: Partners to fill in matrix and send to Chris to consolidate before next meeting.

Next Meeting: February 24 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Place TBD.