

ELC Direct Services Infant/Toddler Focus Group
I/T Steering Committee Meeting Notes
11/21/11
Haseko Center

Present: Cindy Hirai, Keiko Nitta, Mike Fahey, Shelley Weatherwax, Ellen O'Kelley, Grace Fong, Mary Ann Nemoto, Marja Leivo, Chris Jackson

1. Because the phone in the conference room was not working, Chris called Brenda Watanabe (PATCH) prior to the meeting to update her as to the status of the steering committee's work and to solicit feedback on documents sent previously. Brenda mentioned that she is doing final edits to the CSEFEL Infant/Toddler modules which will then be rolled out between January and March 2012 on Maui and in Hilo. Also planning to pilot offering I/T webinars in the future, but because self-study webinars are not credit-bearing, trying to get an approved I/T trainer to deliver the webinars. Steering Committee emphasized the need for clock-hour training to be credit-bearing to help with DHS staff licensing requirements for infant/toddler caregivers.
2. Chris updated the group about her email to B. Gebhard and Barbara's response as to options for on-site TA. Barbara is suggesting using the draft work plan as a possible structure to "frame" our TA request. She is posing the following options: a) move current plan to a final plan with priorities for more immediate action; b) work on various components of a strong home visiting system; or c) get more information about I/T specialist networks and modules for I/T consultants to discuss applicability for HI.
3. Shelley shared about the new federal Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Network, including the 6 National Resource Centers, the state T & TA Office, and the Regional T & TA resources available to Head Start and community partners. She also shared about conversations the State T & TA Office has been having with the State HS Collaboration Office around the possibility of an Infant/Toddler summit for direct service practitioners in late summer.
4. Marja shared about her recent national meeting of State Child Care Administrators in D.C. In particular, she shared information about Virginia's Infant & Toddler Specialists Network, along with some documented outcomes as a result of this infrastructure.
5. Further discussion around I/T Specialist Networks and the new I/T Consultant Competencies ensued. The group felt it was important that we work with Higher Education to ensure that these competencies are included as part of courses offered in order to develop a cadre of qualified infant/toddler specialists who bring consistency to their onsite work with programs.

6. Discussion on the draft Infant Toddler work plan (draft 11.2.11) indicated the need to link it to the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge application the State recently submitted in order to provide some context for the goals and activities being suggested. It was expressed by members that because this age group was not specifically targeted in the application that we needed to make the case for its importance by “drilling down” further into the goals in the RTT. In this way, when the State Early Childhood Coordinator Terry Lock convenes the Governor’s Summit to share more about the Race, she can help advocate for the 0-3 population specifically.
7. A suggested 2-day onsite in April 2012 was proposed as follows:
 - Day One: State Summit to share “the lay of the land” re Infant/Toddler agenda in Hawaii
 - Keynote: National perspective on I/T agenda (ZTT resource: Barbara or Cindy)
 - Local Initiatives/Updates: “State of the State of Infants and Toddlers in Hawaii” (e.g., COF publications, Training Opportunities, I/T consultants, Home Visiting network, etc.)
 - Panel: How the I/T agenda impacts the following: School Readiness, QRIS, TQAS, ProD, Licensing
 - Day Two: Facilitated discussion around a policy agenda and plan with department heads, legislators, and key stakeholders. Share what other states have done around legislation, policies, and/or deliverables for Hawaii to consider. How can the ELC Framework be used in this context?
8. Next Steps:
 - Participate in ZTT TA call on 11/19 @ 11 a.m.
 - Schedule next I/T Steering Committee meeting after TA call to clarify onsite desired outcome/next steps
 - Discuss I/T agenda @ 11/30 RTT Work Group Leaders’ meeting
 - Convene a planning group to begin brainstorming ideas/resources for summer I/T Summit for Practitioners
 - Invite Higher Ed to the table for future meetings