



# BEST BEGINNINGS ADVISORY COUNCIL

June 10-11, 2015  
Great Northern Hotel, Helena  
**Meeting Notes**

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## JUNE 10

### AGENDA:

8:30-9:00	Continental Breakfast – Networking
9:00-9:30	Welcome & Introductions Julie Benson-Rosston, Facilitator
9:30-10:45	Review of Structure and Mechanisms Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief Kathy Rich, Best Beginnings Advisory Council Coordinator
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00-12:00	Division Administrators Updates
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:30	Governor's Office Update Siri Smillie, Education Policy Advisor for Governor Bullock
1:30-3:00	Reports from MECHV, HSSCO, CCDF, ECCS, MTPDG, HMTTP, Montana PLI - Advisory Council Requests
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:45	Work Group Discussion
4:45-5:00	Public Comment
5:00	Meeting Adjourned

### MEETING NOTES:

#### WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Julie Benson-Rosston, Facilitator

#### DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- Review of ground rules
- Housekeeping
- Review of agenda

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#### REVIEW OF STRUCTURE AND MECHANISMS

Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief

Kathy Rich, Best Beginnings Advisory Council Coordinator

## DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- Review of folder contents
  - Montana Appointee Handbook
  - Organizational Structure and Roles
  - Website Guide
  - Guiding Principles
  - Funding Sources
  - Decision Making
  - Objectives
  - Purpose
  - OPI Organizational Chart
  - DPHHS Organizational Chart
  - June Agenda
  - January 2015 Meeting Notes
  - Membership List
  - Acronym List

## DIVISION ADMINISTRATORS UPDATES

Jamie Palagi, Human and Community Services Division Administrator  
Todd Harwell, Public Health and Safety Division Administrator  
Zoe Barnard, Children's Mental Health Bureau Chief (Developmental Services Division)  
Sarah Corbally, Child and Family Services Division Administrator  
Stephanie Goetz, Child Care Licensing Program Manager (Quality Assurance Division)  
Terri Barclay, Early Grades Specialist, Office of Public Instruction

## DISCUSSION SUMMARY

### HUMAN AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

- Help Act – Medicaid Expansion
  - Partnering with the Department of Labor
- Increase to TANF benefits for families
  - Result of TANF strategic planning
- STARS funding received through general fund
- Reauthorization of the CCDF
- Service First Initiative
  - Office remodels
  - Operational changes
    - Online applications
    - Centralized phone number

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## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DIVISION

- School immunization bill passed
- Prohibiting sales of e-cigarettes to minors bill passed
- Screening expansion for colorectal screenings
- Increase in funding for tobacco use prevention
- Increase for asthma home visiting
- 18 sites implementing cardiovascular disease prevention programs – increased funding to add three more sites
- NAPA
  - IMIL training in April
  - Online nutrition / physical activity training through CCT
- Teen pregnancy prevention program grant application submitted
  - BBAC would advise the grant
- CDC – pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system
  - Starting in June – MT survey of 3,000 moms throughout the state

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## DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

- Funding for an Autism state plan
  - Amendment this fall
- House bill 422 passed – outcomes bill
- RFP (general fund) for Children's Crisis - \$200,000 for six communities over the biennium
- Co-occurring services – applied for a grant
- HB 347 – OPI – suicide prevention training for teachers

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## CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

- Almost 2,600 children in foster care – all-time high
  - 0 is the number one age
  - Almost 800 kids in care because of meth use
- Requested increase funding and it was approved
  - Looking to establish caseloads for workers
  - Revising and reviewing services and rates
    - Looking into therapeutic foster care
      - Will be requesting a work group in the future
- Online data system for case management
- Safe Care partnership with MIECHV
- Withdrew from the Title IV E Waiver

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION

- CCDF changes
  - Health and safety requirements
    - Training components
    - Comprehensive background check process
  - Pre-inspection and annual inspection for all facilities, including LCPs

- Consumer education
- Taking over Legally Certified Providers
- Complaint unit for CCL
- Raising the bar for minimum requirements
- Online application process

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#### OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- Run by a statewide elected official
- New preschool accreditation standards were passed by the Board of Public Education last November
- Expanded school breakfast – offered in almost 90% of public schools
- Striving Readers received a one year extension in ten districts and with three Head Starts
- Will continue to receive funding for the MT Preschool Development Grant
  - Early childhood professionals in those communities are able to receive financial assistance for education starting this fall

#### ACTION NEEDED

- Child and Family Services Division will be requesting a work group in the future for therapeutic foster care

#### GOVERNOR'S OFFICE UPDATE

Siri Smillie, Education Policy Advisor for Governor Bullock

#### DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- STARS to Quality - \$2.4 million state dollars
- Help Act – Medicaid Expansion
- Mental health bills
- Investments into CPS
- Full unemployment benefits for those who leave work due to domestic violence
  - Available to victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, or stalking
    - Includes coverage if your child is experiencing this
- Breakfast before the bell – over 40,000 students receiving breakfast at school in the classroom
- Early Edge did not pass
  - Reflecting on process
- Capacity building opportunities
  - Board of Public Ed preschool standards go into effect this July
  - MTPDG
  - National Governors Association – technical assistance grant
- Collective impact model to connect graduation matters with local coalitions

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#### REPORTS FROM MECHV, HSSCO, CCDF, ECCS, MTPDG, HMTTP, MONTANA PLI - ADVISORY COUNCIL REQUESTS

## DISCUSSION SUMMARY

### **Maternal and Early Childhood Home Visiting**

- PowerPoint presentation

### **HSSCO**

- 3 handouts were provided

### **CCDF**

- Charter
- ACF documents about the Act of 2014

### **ECCS**

- The Montana Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant is addressing the mitigation of toxic stress and trauma in infancy and early childhood. It is a \$140,000, 3 year grant

### **Preschool Development Grant**

- The purpose of the grant is to build, develop, and expand high-quality preschool programs so that more children from low-and moderate-income families enter ready to succeed in kindergarten and in life.

### **HMTTP**

- The Healthy Montana Teen Parent Program utilizes a community-based approach to provide services to expectant and parenting teens (ages 14 – 24) and their children through contracts with school and community-based providers.-funding ends in 2017
- Patty Butler is the interim grant manager
  - The position has been posted

### **Montana PLI**

- PowerPoint presentation
- Using ASQ as their integrated data system

## WORK GROUP DISCUSSION

### DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The following work groups met for initial goal setting and discussion:

- HMTTP- Review of sustainability Plan
- MPDG – Question Development PreK Needs Assessment
- CCDF – Expulsion and suspension in early care and education programs
- Policy development/review for CCDF subsidy
- CCDF health and safety requirements
- ECCS – Statewide messaging

The following work groups were identified, but did not meet at this time:

- Assessment
- HSSCO

- CCDF homelessness and housing in the early childhood population (0 to 8)

## PUBLIC COMMENT

The group was asked for public comment – no public comment was given

# JUNE 11

## AGENDA:

<b>8:00-8:30</b>	Continental Breakfast
<b>8:30-8:45</b>	Welcome and Announcements
<b>8:45-10:15</b>	Presentation on the Northern Cheyenne Child Care System Cindy Burns, Child Care Specialist, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Care Ann Knows His Gun, Executive Director Northern Cheyenne Tribal Care, Mariah Walkslast, Health and Safety Specialist, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Care Carrie Small, Activities Coordinator, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Care Christy Hill-Larson, Special Projects Coordinator, Early Childhood Project Libby Hancock, Director Early Childhood Project
<b>10:15-10:30</b>	Break
<b>10:30- 12:00</b>	Work Group Development /Work Group Discussions
<b>12:00-12:30</b>	Lunch
<b>12:30-1:00</b>	Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership presentation Melinda Wade Corso, AWARE Early Childhood Services Director
<b>1:00-2:00</b>	Work Groups report back
<b>2:00- 2:15</b>	Break
<b>2:15-2:45</b>	Work Groups report back
<b>2:45-3:00</b>	Public Comment
<b>3:00</b>	Adjourn

## MEETING NOTES:

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- Review of ground rules
- Housekeeping
- Review of agenda

## PRESENTATION ON THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE CHILD CARE SYSTEM

Cindy Burns, Child Care Specialist, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Care  
Ann Knows His Gun, Executive Director Northern Cheyenne Tribal Care,  
Mariah Walkslast, Health and Safety Specialist, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Care  
Carrie Small, Activities Coordinator, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Care  
Christy Hill-Larson, Special Projects Coordinator, Early Childhood Project  
Libby Hancock, Director Early Childhood Project

### DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- Training requirements for all providers/staff
  - 18 hours of training is required per year for all directors and staff
  - Stipends are provided to staff once they complete a training
  - If a parent is attending training, they need to submit a training verification
  - They are working on getting all providers on the registry
  - Trainings are staggered based on the needs of providers
    - Mandatory reporting twice a year
    - Trainings may increase as the needs increase
- Annual inspections for all providers
  - 1 announced visit and 1 unannounced visit are conducted
  - Providers are required to submit a self-certification or complete health and safety checklist.
    - Discussions will take place with provider and parent(s)/guardian(s) agreeing to the completed self-certification/health and safety checklist with signatures from both.
  - If a health and safety violation is found, the provider has three days to resolve the issue; a follow up inspection is conducted.
  - A thank you letter is sent in addition to an inspection letter to each provider annually
  - If they haven't fixed an issue in the three days given, they are suspended
    - "suspension" means they are not paid for the time watching children during that time
    - Three providers have been suspended within the last year, but they complied quickly
- Background checks for all providers/staff/adults in the household
  - Applies to all provider types, including license-exempt
  - Tribal criminal history
  - State criminal history
  - FBI criminal history
  - Sex Offender Registry
  - Child Protection Background Check with Bureau of Indian Affairs Social Services Department
  - Drug test for all providers and staff; regardless of relationship to children
    - This includes adults in the households of providers
- Payment details for the families/providers
  - Both parents and providers submit time sheets

- Melody Olson with the Early Childhood Services Bureau provided the Northern Cheyenne CCDF with a copayment calculator
- A sliding fee scale is used to determine eligibility
- Invoice once a month to families – they pay the copay directly to Northern Cheyenne CCDF
- Services provided to providers and families
  - Northern Cheyenne CCDF provides a monthly newsletter with recipes and physical activities and other information
  - Birthday cards are sent each month to children
  - HOPA Mountain donated books to the Northern Cheyenne CCDF. Carrie reads to the children in child care and provides books
  - Field Day in June for the children
  - July 1 – Little Cheyenne Day (drums, crafts, activities)
  - Provider appreciation day – feed the providers and celebrate them
  - Who pays for the meals?
    - The providers do
    - They save their receipts to report for taxes
    - They aren't on the CACFP because of the paperwork – downside to state forms (their provider application is 5 pages, and the parent CCDF application is 4 pages)
    - Hatseske (Dull Knife) Child Care participates in the CACFP– Mary Musil is hopeful that others would participate

#### ACTION NEEDED

- NC would like to get some of the trainings offered through ECP and STARS
- Patty and Cindy are sharing their preprints and state plans
- Work Group to discuss next steps
  - Communication with local coalition should be a discussion point
- Consumer education – portal
  - Would like to get providers in the portal
- The leadership team will now train to get others on the registry now that they are all on there
- Use the model set by NC for the other 6 tribal nations – fill vacancies on the council

#### EARLY HEAD START/CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION

Melinda Wade Corso, AWARE Early Childhood Services Director

#### DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- Funding awarded last year
  - Chose to partner with existing child cares
- Slide with number served = what they are funded for
- Funding available to accommodate children with special needs
- Ratio discrepancies have been an issue or some programs
- CDA payment built in if a provider is not in STARS
- Parents can take PD trainings and it is funded



- Evidence based practices
  - Creative curriculum
  - Pyramid model – social emotional component
- Payment based on the slot, not attendance

## WORK GROUPS REPORT BACK

### DISCUSSION SUMMARY

#### HMTTP Sustainability

- Shelly will send Kathy the notes for their group work

#### MTPDG

- Identify all eligible children
- Determine if additional classrooms are needed
- List of questions for facilities to be able to understand the supply and demand within communities

#### CCDF – Expulsion and Special Needs Policy

- Will have a WebEx to begin working on building policy structure
- Behavior or health-related risk
- ADA law – you are not allowed to expel a child with a disability
- Expulsion policy will be for all providers
- There are a lot of reasons for expulsion – they will be working towards finding those reasons

#### CCDF – Subsidy Policy

- Next steps: meet later this summer to update/view status of policy changes

#### CCDF – Health and Safety / Consumer Education

- Need information from parents
  - Survey to understand how and where parents get information
  - Focus groups
- Would like to hire a position to focus on consumer education
- Look at others states to get ideas
- Apps
- Text alerts for providers
- Next steps:
  - Talk to Jon Ebelt (PIO for DPHHS)
  - Steph will be researching and identifying stakeholders

#### ECCS - Trauma Informed Care

- Bring into the group: ChildWise, U of M, MSU, NAMI, Kids Count, Erin Butts
- Webinar on July 28
- PSAs
- YouTube and other forms of social media
- Brochures, magnets
- Writing a children's book

- From a baby's/young child's perspective
- Geared towards young moms and dads
- List of strategies – will bring to the BBAC October meeting to get feedback

#### Northern Cheyenne Training

- IT/Preschool certification – get a few trained so they can provide the trainings
- Jamie will travel to Lame Deer
- Discussion with CCR&Rs about training opportunities
- Distance learning
- Conversation with college in Lame Deer to offer CDA classes

#### ACTION NEEDED

##### MTPDG

- The needs assessment survey will be shared at the next BBAC meeting

##### CCDF – Health and Safety / Consumer Education

- See if the Northern Cheyenne data system will work with the portal

##### Northern Cheyenne Training

- Recommendation : fill vacant slots for tribal representatives in BBAC
- Have Kelsen Young present at Northern Cheyenne

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

The group was asked for public comment – no public comment was given

#### NEXT MEETING DATES:

- October 7-8, 2015 –Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena
- February 10-11, 2016 - Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena
- June 22-23, 2016
- October 2016