



# Best Beginnings State Advisory Council

February 5, 2014 – 1:00pm to 5:00 pm  
February 6, 2014 – 8:30 pm to 1:00 pm

**Holiday Inn Ballroom – Last Chance Gulch  
Helena, Montana**

## MISSION

The Best Beginnings Advisory Council's strategic goal is to ensure Montana has a comprehensive, coordinated, early childhood system that provides a governance structure and leads to strong collaboration in order to best meet the needs of Montana's youngest citizens.

## February 5, 2014

### AGENDA

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<b>1:00 – 1:15</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief Larry Wilkerson, Best Beginnings Advisory Council Coordinator
<b>1:15 – 1:30</b>	<b>Strategic Plan Overview</b> Jamie Palagi, Administrator, Human and Community Service
<b>1:30 – 2:00</b>	<b>Small Group Work</b> The council will break into small groups and identify talking points to share with the Governor's Office during the listening session.
<b>2:00 – 2:30</b>	<b>Presentation from the Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services</b> Richard Opper, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
<b>2:30 – 3:15</b>	<b>Early Childhood Planning and Listening Session with Governor Bullock's staff</b> Shannon O'Brien, Education Policy Advisor for Governor Bullock Siri Smillie, Communities and Safety Policy Advisor for Governor Bullock
<b>3:15 – 3:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:30 – 4:45</b>	<b>Integrating Home Visiting/Council Discussion</b> Denise Higgins, Family and Community Health Bureau Chief Deborah Neuman, Executive Director Thrive
<b>4:45</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>
<b>5:00</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>

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**Americans with Disabilities Act** - The Department of Public Health and Human Services is committed to providing meeting access through reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact the Early Childhood Services Bureau at (866) 239-0458.

**Public Comment** - in accordance with 2-3-103 (1), MCA, the Department will hold a public comment period. Please note that this is the public's opportunity to address the work of the Best Beginnings Advisory Council

## Meeting Notes

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### **1:00 – 1:15 Welcome and Introductions**

Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief

Larry Wilkerson, Best Beginnings Advisory Council Coordinator

- Review of agenda
- Welcome, Larry Wilkerson
  - New Early Childhood Systems Collaboration manager
- Introductions of Sarah Corbally, Jamie Palagi, Jane Smiley, and Rebecca de Camara

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### **1:15 – 1:30 Strategic Plan Overview**

Jamie Palagi, Administrator, Human and Community Service

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### **1:30 – 2:00 Small Group Work**

The council will break into small groups and identify talking points to share with the Governor's Office during the listening session.

- The advisory council grouped together by committee to brainstorm questions/information that they would like to pass along to the Governor's office

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### **2:00 – 2:30 Presentation from the Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services**

Richard Opper, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

- Mr. Opper spoke with the council

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### **2:30 – 3:15 Early Childhood Planning and Listening Session with Governor Bullock's staff**

Shannon O'Brien, Education Policy Advisor for Governor Bullock

Siri Smillie, Communities and Safety Policy Advisor for Governor Bullock

- The council asked questions and presented talking points to the Governor's office

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### **3:15 – 3:30 Break**

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### **3:30 – 4:45 Integrating Home Visiting/Council Discussion**

Denise Higgins, Family and Community Health Bureau Chief

Deborah Neuman, Executive Director Thrive

- Presentation by Denise Higgins, Family and Community Health Bureau Chief
- Presentation by Deborah Neuman, Executive Director Thrive
- Presentation by Matt Kelly – Local health committee in Gallatin County (and Dr. George Haines)
- Questions were asked by members of the council and public

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### **4:45 Public Comment**

- Jennifer Calder – MT Kids Count: First 8 years report. It has policy recommendations and other helpful information. Great PR pieces as we talk to partners. They are available on the sign in table
  - Find the document here:  
<http://www.montanakidscount.com/fileaccess/getfile/323.pdf>

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### **5:00 Meeting Adjourned**

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## AGENDA

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<b>8:30-8:45</b>	<b>Welcome and Announcements</b> Larry Wilkerson, Best Beginnings Advisory Council Coordinator
<b>8:45-9:00</b>	<b>Montana Early Learning Standards</b> Libby Hancock, Executive Director Early Childhood Project
<b>9:00-10:00</b>	<b>Panel Presentation- Serving Early Childhood High Risk Populations in DPHHS</b> Sarah Corbally, Administrator Child and Family Services Division Zoe Barnard, Children’s Mental Health Bureau Chief Wendy Studt, Part C Coordinator Patty Butler, Early Childhood Bureau Chief
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:30-12:45</b>	<b>Facilitated Discussion</b> Sarah Corbally, Administrator CFSD Jamie Palagi, Administrator HCSD
<b>12:45</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>
<b>1:00</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>

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## MEETING NOTES

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<b>8:30-8:45</b>	<b>Welcome and Announcements</b> Larry Wilkerson, Best Beginnings Advisory Council Coordinator
<b>8:45-9:00</b>	<b>Montana Early Learning Standards (MELS)</b> Libby Hancock, Executive Director Early Childhood Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Early Learning Standards will be available for order through the Early Childhood Services Bureau<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/earlylearningstandards.shtml">http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/earlylearningstandards.shtml</a></li></ul></li><li>Fun Family Activities were distributed – can be ordered through the Early Childhood Services Bureau <a href="http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/familyfun.shtml">http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/familyfun.shtml</a></li></ul>
<b>9:00-10:00</b>	<b>Panel Presentation- Serving Early Childhood High Risk Populations in DPHHS</b> Sarah Corbally, Administrator Child and Family Services Division Zoe Barnard, Children’s Mental Health Bureau Chief Wendy Studt, Part C Coordinator Patty Butler, Early Childhood Bureau Chief <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Presentation by <b><u>Zoe Barnard, Children’s Mental Health Bureau Chief</u></b></li><li>Presentation by <b><u>Wendy Studt, Part C Coordinator</u></b></li><li>Presentation by <b><u>Patty Butler, Early Childhood Bureau Chief (see PowerPoint presentation)</u></b></li><li>Presentation by <b><u>Sarah Corbally, Administrator Child and Family Services Division</u></b></li></ul>
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:30-12:45</b>	<b>Facilitated Discussion</b> Sarah Corbally, Administrator CFSD Jamie Palagi, Administrator HCSD <b><u>Themes</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Referrals</li><li>Funding/Budgets</li><li>Value of community coalitions</li><li>Community participation</li><li>Cross sector training</li><li>Messaging</li><li>Family support</li><li>Head Start/Home visiting</li><li>STARS</li><li>Partnerships</li></ul> <b><u>Upcoming Opportunities</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Directors symposium and early childhood conference</li><li>PD conference in April</li></ul>
<b>12:45</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>

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- We never thank our state government folks – thank you for this unprecedented access
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**1:00 Meeting Adjourned**

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**Next Meetings (dates subject to change):**

- **June 5, 2014 – Holiday Inn, Helena**
- **October 9, 2014 – Holiday Inn, Helena**

**Committee reports can be found on the Early Childhood Services Bureau website.**

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**Ex-Officio Members**

Child and Adult Care Food Program	Mary Musil
Child Care Licensing	Becky Fleming-Siebenaler
Child Protective Services	Sarah Corbally
Department of Labor and Industry	
Developmental Services Division	Rebecca de Camara
Developmental Services Division; Part C	Wendy Studt
Early Childhood Project	Libby Hancock
Early Childhood Services Bureau	Patty Butler
Family and Community Health Bureau	Denise Higgins
Family and Community Health Bureau; Home Visiting	Dianna Frick
Head Start Collaboration	
Montana State Library	Sara Groves
Office of Public Instruction	
Office of Public Instruction; Early Grades Specialist	Terri Barclay
Public Assistance	Stephanie Wilkins

**Volunteer Positions**

Business	Kriste Jensen
Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsors	Michelle Parks
Child Care Center	Collette Box
Child Care Family Home	
Child Care Group Home	David B. Cook
Child Care Resource and Referral Network	Eileen Donohoue
Early Childhood Higher Education	Dr. Cindy O'Dell
Early Childhood Project; Special Projects	Christy Hill Larson
Family Support	Deborah Neuman
Head Start Association	Debbie Richert
Military Child Care	Susan Ritter
Montana Child Care Association	Connie Sturgis
Montana Association for the Education of Young Children	Sharon DiBrito
Organized Labor – Union	
Parent	Holley Woosley Vennes
Philanthropy	Carol Townsend
Pregnant and Parenting Teens	Kelly Hart
Statewide Health Consultant Coordinator	Shelly Meyer
Eastern Montana-3 Community Council Coordinator	Brenda Stockert
Flathead County Community Council Coordinator	Erin Riggs
Gallatin County Community Council Coordinator	Marie Lowe
Lewis and Clark County Community Council Coordinator	Katy Bugni
Missoula County Community Council Coordinator	Anna Semple
Ravalli County Community Council Coordinator	Kayla Gieseke
Silver Bow County Community Council Coordinator	Lynette Petritz
Blackfeet Tribal Community	
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Community	Jeanne Christopher
Crow Tribal Community	
Fort Belknap Tribal Community	
Fort Peck Tribal Community	Viola Wood
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Community	Lucinda Burns
Chippewa Cree Tribal Community	Josette Bill

**BBAC Staff**

Best Beginnings Advisory Council Coordinator	Larry Wilkerson
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## **COMMITTEE REPORT: Family Support**

### ***Objective 7.2 Increase and improve coordination of parent education opportunities***

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#### ***Milestone 7.2.1 Family forum results reported to Best Beginnings Advisory Council***

Action:

Completed at October 2013 BBAC meeting

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#### ***Milestone 7.2.2 Statewide family support network created***

Action:

The Family Support Committee of the Best Beginnings Advisory Council, in partnership with Head Start State Collaboration and Maternal and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs held a meeting of family support providers on January 22, 2014 to discuss next steps in the development of a family support provider network.

Participants in the meeting analyzed and refined network objectives. They also defined possible network stakeholders and associated responsibilities or levels of engagement. They created recommendations for how the June 2014 Great Beginnings, Great Families conference could support and further the goals of the family support provider network. The group discussed possible names for the family support provider network. Attendees wanted to ensure the name would not be confused with the Billings-based Family Support Network.

The family support provider network is moving forward incrementally. None of the recommendations made in the meeting constitute decisions. Instead, the implementation of the family support provider network is an evolving process where the State is working to involve and create buy-in with a full array family support stakeholders throughout Montana.

The group agreed that it was comfortable with the Best Beginnings Advisory Council, Family Support Committee moving forward the work of refining the network's objectives and stakeholders unilaterally, and providing recommendations to a broader group of family support providers.

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#### ***Milestone 7.2.3 Collaborative parent education held in local, neutral environments***

Action:

This is an ongoing milestone as the first Family Forums were opportunities for parent education held in local, neutral environments. Further, the Great Beginnings, Great Families Conference is an opportunity to offer professional development, training, and networking opportunities to improve provider parent education and support. A Steering Committee working to plan the next Conference includes representation from the Family Support Committee and opportunities for feedback via monthly Family Support Committee meetings. Tentative dates for the next Conference are June 2 – 4, 2014 to be confirmed once meeting location is secured.



## COMMITTEE REPORT: Health

### Medical Home & Health Insurance

- Increased number of early childhood health specialists (4 trained but not yet working with ECSB)
- Unknown if more children with special health care needs are connected to medical homes (term medical home is still not widely understood by early childhood community)
- Unknown if more low income children/families are connected to health insurance (does DPHHS have data on families newly enrolled under ACA?)

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### Health Objectives

- 9.1 Increase access to health services and providers : currently the developing structure of early childhood health specialists will establish part of the base to promote this objective. Partnering within the many divisions of DPHHS will be essential.
- 9.2 Improve referral processes to promote increased access to health care: Current goal is to identify how to connect with populations newly insured through ACA Exchanges. Local communities and the private sector must be included to significantly affect referral processes.
- 9.3 Analyze policy approaches to improving access to health care: This must occur on all levels, from the governor's office/DPHHS/BBAC/Local communities. The Health Committee continues to identify how best to promote access to oral health care for children through work in local communities. We are actively seeking input through this council.
- 9.4 Improve early childhood nutrition: Significant progress is occurring at DPHHS (CDC grant through the Chronic Disease Bureau is working through a team of early childhood and health representatives to promote education of early childhood providers, beginning with Head Start, tribal, and STARS). Data gathering will continue to occur in local communities who are also working to improve early childhood nutrition through multiple curriculums and agencies. Targeted outreach occurred in September 2013 through the Ending Childhood Hunger Summit. County/tribal/agency delegations identified ways to work together in local communities to impact food security.



## COMMITTEE REPORT: High Quality Early Care and Education

- *GOAL 10.1 – Milestone 10.1.5 Role of resource and referral agencies analyzed: A committee consisting of ECSB staff, ECP, and CCR&R representatives has been put together and will begin meeting to discuss and analyze the role of the CCR&R's.*

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- *GOAL 10.2 – Shared service delivery plan proposal complete: during our call in December it was reported that the CCR&R Director's Network continues to work on this. They are working with what already exists in the state in order to enhance, not duplicate. Focus groups have occurred across the state relating to this and the data is being put together. There was a strong response in Bozeman and from the Eastern side of the state.*

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- *GOAL 10.3 – Milestone 10.3.1: Child care provider representation in Best Beginnings Advisory Council increased.*
  - We have added 4 new child care provider representatives to our committee. We are still waiting to hear back from others, and would also like to increase representation from providers on the Eastern side of the state.
    - Ruth White Wolf – family child care provider, Lame Deer
    - Hannah Danzer – Director at RMDC Preschool, Helena
    - Mary Bolick – Director at ASMSU Child Care Center, Bozeman
    - Lori Adams – Director at Clear Skies Childcare (group program), Whitefish

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- *GOAL 10.4 – Support child care professional development opportunities aligned with STARS to Quality Initiative.*
  - Conversations continue around the best approach for Program and Business Administration Scale (PAS/BAS) train the trainer, which this committee is working on.



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State Advisory Council  
February 5, 2014 – February 6, 2014  
Committee Chair: Libby Hancock (406) 404-1625, [LibbyH@montana.edu](mailto:LibbyH@montana.edu)

## COMMITTEE REPORT: Professional Development

The MT Early Learning Standards are completed and an online version is available at [www.mtecp.org](http://www.mtecp.org) on the home page under *What's New?* and will also be available soon on the [www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov](http://www.bestbeginnings.mt.gov) and the OPI website. Hard copies will be available to order by contacting Sarah at [sadams2@mt.gov](mailto:sadams2@mt.gov). A three hour online course is being developed by the primary author, Dr. Cindy O'Dell of Salish Kootenai College and will be available through [childcaretraining.org](http://childcaretraining.org). Approved training for early childhood teachers in MT will soon be identified by core and subdomains of the ELS. We encourage all cross-sector partners engaged in family support, parent education, home visiting, and others to utilize them as an educational tool. Future training around the standards is being conceptualized.

The MT Early Childhood Program Director Credential was launched in October and is available as an add-on option through the Early Childhood Project's (ECP) Registry for early childhood practitioners. We currently have 5 individuals at Director Credential I, 2 at Level II and 3 at Level III. We have 17 directors in the process of completing their application. There is a nine credit option for specific course work on Leadership and Program Management through UM Western that is taught in a cohort model that will begin in Summer or Fall 2014. The first cohort of students completed the series in December 2013. More information is available from Collette Box at [collettebox@gmail.com](mailto:collettebox@gmail.com) or [ryann.gibson@umwestern.edu](mailto:ryann.gibson@umwestern.edu).

### Other PD News of Note:

- The Committee is interested in any EC cross-sector PD being planned in the state and the ECP posts Conferences, Courses and Special Events under the Find Training tab on their home page.
- The statewide EC Conference held in Helena in October included two 4 hour pre-conference sessions that are examples of the types of cross-sector PD that would be beneficial to partner groups:
- *Building Resiliency in Children* facilitated by the National Native Trauma Center at UM and *Being Culturally Responsive in Early Childhood Settings* facilitated by three MT trainers nationally trained through the BUILD Initiative (2 from Salish Kootenai College and 1 from ECP).



Best Beginnings  
State Advisory Council  
February 5, 2014 – February 6, 2014  
Committee Chair: Christy Hill-Larson (406) 444-7067, [ChristyHL@montana.edu](mailto:ChristyHL@montana.edu)

## **COMMITTEE REPORT: Social/Emotional/Mental Health**

- The committee has not met as a group since the last BBAC meeting, but work has been ongoing.
- A work group was formed to develop a coaching framework for coaches to support implementing the Pyramid Model to fidelity in STARS programs. The framework developed consists of guiding principles, a white paper, skills and competencies, systems roles, recommended system of delivery. The framework was submitted to the Early Childhood Services Bureau.
- *The Visions of Hope* video on early childhood mental health was edited; 250 copies of the DVD were made. It was introduced to the Children's Mental Health Bureau System of Care Community Advisory Committee. A plan for distribution of the DVD and the development of an information sheet is in the works.
- The annual Montana Early Childhood conference featured many sessions on trauma informed care, including a full-day presentation by the National Native Children's Trauma Center on Building Resiliency in Children. Workshop sessions included infant and toddler mental health, trauma informed early care and education for directors and administrators, trauma informed practice—why it matters to children and strategies to move it forward, and strategies to support self-regulation.



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Committee Chairs: Caitlin Jensen (406) 444-0589, [cjensen@mt.gov](mailto:cjensen@mt.gov);  
Sara Groves (406) 444-5357, [sgroves@mt.gov](mailto:sgroves@mt.gov)

## **COMMITTEE REPORT: Strategic Communication Outreach and Public Awareness (SCOPA)**

The SCOPA committee met via conference call on November 25 to review objectives and assign tasks.

We continued to work with Classic Ink to continue to address the evolving communication needs of the Best Beginnings Advisory Committee. SCOPA co-chairs and Patty Butler traveled to Bozeman to meet with Classic Ink representatives on November 7. We discussed the expectations of the contract and how to connect additional messages with the ECCS flower diagram. Additionally, we discussed with Classic Ink how they might help the BBAC tailor the various priority areas to a “Montana” model. We believed this this would look different from what the local coalitions are developing in terms of marketing, but we believe there is some overlap insofar as how messaging is developed and communicated.

After the in-person meeting with Classic Ink, SCOPA co-chairs met with Patty Butler to review the Classic Ink contract to ensure all deliverables had been met. Two items were still needed to complete the deliverables of the contract. They included: 1) A Best Beginnings brand book: which will include the Best Beginnings logo, font and general guidelines (colors, specifications- including tagline usage, etc) for local and state partners to use. The objective is to create a simple resource that is clear, useable and creates consistency across the state; and 2) A Communication Plan Document: Classic Ink has done a lot of this work already with the survey, survey findings, and the creative document. SCOPA still needs a basic resource outlining the process we will continue to follow, as an advisory council, when it comes to consistent communication.

In response, Classic Ink developed and presented several new logos to represent the BBAC. These will be discussed and recommendations will be made to the BBAC/ECSB.

SCOPA also worked to contact each of the local councils to obtain their pertinent information for placement on the BBAC web site. SCOPA committee members then worked with DPHHS ECSB to place this information on the BBAC web site. The completed project is now available for use here:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare/bestbeginnings/bbac/index.shtml>.