

Montana Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting

November 17-18, 2022

Location: Delta Colonial Hotel

November 17, 2022

Attendance

Council Members Present:

Meghan Ballenger, Lucy Beltz, Taylor Boylan, Jennifer Burckhard, Patty Butler, Lesa Evers, Kari Harris, Caitlin Jensen, Kim Latrielle, Meghan Peel, Ashley Pena-Larsen, Kathy Rich, Rachel Wanderscheid

Staff and Guests Present:

Sandy Cade, Jill Christenson, Darla Dexter, Sam Garetson, Samantha Hoggatt, Jacqueline Isaly, Joshua Kendrick, Leslie Lee, Jody Lehman, Amy McDonald, Tracy Moseman, Shari Northcott, Liz Wood

Called to order:

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Council Chair, Kim Latrielle. Kim introduced herself and Patty Butler, Early Childhood Services Bureau Chief. Each council member, staff and guest present had a moment to introduce themselves.

Presentations:

Division Updates

Tracy Moseman, Administrator for the Early Childhood and Family Support Division presented on division updates, recent changes, and upcoming changes.

Preschool Development Grant, Birth to 5 (PDG B-5)

Kathy Rich, Head Start State Collaboration Office, presented on the [Preschool Development Grant, Birth to Age 5](#). This presentation covered a grant application and proposal that would affect the division as a whole, as well as Early Childhood for Montana. This council would be used to help inform and advise the grant work, as well as assist with collaboration with other state agencies, as well as the private sector.

Head Start

Kathy Rich and Ashley Pena-Larsen gave an update on [Head Start](#).

Family and Community Health Bureau

Jacqueline Isaly, Family and Community Health Bureau Chief, gave an update on the Family and Community Health Bureau and each of the programs.

Healthy Montana Families

Leslie Lee, Program Supervisor for Healthy Montana Families, updated the council on [home visiting](#).

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Presentations Continued:

Sandy Cade, [Early Intervention and Prevention Unit](#) Supervisor, discussed the new section and updated the council on Part C and introduced Joshua Kendrick, the Children's Trust Fund grant manager. Joshua provided the council with an update.

Committee Updates:

During this meeting, due to the attendance, committees were combined and split into 2 groups. Each group was given questions regarding home visiting and also Part C services. Additionally, the committees were encouraged to review the mission and goal of the work groups.

Expansion and Business Development/Retention and Quality

During this workgroup the following ideas were discussed.

- Marketing work - What do we want the outside world to know about our challenges and successes? Promote storytelling efforts amongst providers, families, and others to reach lawmakers and businesses.
- Engage the business community with family friendly work policies that can help working families.
- Normalize with leadership the widespread access to mental health supports across programs.
- Explore how work groups can utilize member identified expertise to drive innovation.

Workforce Development/Family Support

During this workgroup, the following ideas were discussed.

- Develop and sustain benefits using the intersection between home visiting and family support.
- Create ideas and assistance with how to prepare parents to be invested in Head Start with their children.
- Look at ways to pay for child care workers child care needs who are ineligible for subsidy.
- Create a tool for parent engagement that includes the natural supports in a child's life.
- Create and use a parent navigator tool that helps families find services they may be eligible for.
- Working families struggle to get kids to Child Find. What can a provider do as a partner in the process? How do we get between direct care and the provider? Is there an FSS, speech therapist, or other expert that could come in for a variety of reasons to address health and development at child care facilities?
- To increase workforce in early childhood careers, start talking to students in middle and high school about the options.

Presentations Continued:

ARPA Funding and Spending Update

Darla Dexter, Special Projects Supervisor, provided an [update on ARPA funding](#), specifically the funding surrounding child care. Stabilization and Innovation grants were discussed. Darla showed the council how to access statewide ARPA funding information using arpa.mt.gov.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourned

Meeting adjourned for the day at 4:00 pm and will reconvene tomorrow (Friday, November 18, 2023) at 8:30 am.

November 18, 2022

Attendance

Council Members Present:

Meghan Ballenger, Taylor Boylan, Lucy Beltz, Patty Butler, Caitlin Jensen, Kim Latrielle, Meghan Peel, Ashley Pena-Larsen, Kathy Rich, Rachel Wanderscheid

Staff and Guests Present:

Darla Dexter, Sam Garetson, Jacqueline Isaly, Jody Lehman, Amy McDonald, Tracy Moseman, Kirsten Smith

Call to Order: Kim reconvened the council at 8:34 am.

Kim welcomed everyone back and reviewed the agenda for the day.

Presentations

CCDF and Licensing Project Updates

Kirsten Smith presented on the CCDF Licensing Project update. Additionally, Jody Lehman reviewed the CCDF Performance Audit and the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Patty Butler assisted with all presentations and was available to answer questions.

Closing and Take-Aways

Brief discussion was held around what current council members would like this advisory council to look like in the future. All members present had the opportunity to voice what they would like and how they see their part fitting into this work.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Future Planning

The council's charter is now expired. Further details regarding this council and the composition will be forthcoming as it is released from the Governor's Office.

Adjourned

Kim Latrielle adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.