

Montana Early Childhood Advisory Council

Purpose, Authority, and Responsibilities

Purpose: The strategic goal of the Montana Early Childhood Advisory Council 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. It has previously been known as the Best Beginnings Advisory Council. The Montana Early Childhood Advisory Council is coordinated through the Early Childhood Family Support Division (ECFSD) of DPHHS with a council chair nominated from council membership.

Authority: Each member of the Montana Early Childhood Advisory Council is appointed by the Governor/Director of DPHHS for a two year term. Membership is determined by the needs of the early childhood system and the grants and programs it advises which include the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG/CCDF), Healthy Montana Families (HMF) (Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program), Head Start Collaboration Office (HSCO) and "Act Early" ASD (autism spectrum disorder) State Team.

Responsibilities - board members have the following responsibilities:

- Attend scheduled Council meetings and events. If you are unable to attend, please contact either the Chairs or staff person in advance.
- Become an active member of at least one standing committee or task group.
- Review/comment on materials in advance of meetings or as requested for Council and/or standing committee meetings; share your perspective as an agency representative, provider, advocate, or organization representative on issues discussed at Council and committee meetings with Chairs.
- Maintain a commitment to represent the agency, organization, or constituency group information to and from the Council and by providing appropriate input from these groups at Council meetings.
- Conduct oneself as a "special state employee," avoiding even the appearance of conflict of interest (i.e., using your committee appointment for personal gain or the benefit of any agency or person with which you may be affiliated).
- Communicate what you learn back to your agencies, communities, and stakeholders.