

Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE)  
Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council  
Thursday, February 4, 2016  
Minutes – Official

The February 4, 2016 meeting of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Advisory Council was called to order at 1:12 P.M.

Members present were: Capt. Stacy Barrett, Ms. Melanie Bronfin, Dr. Jeanne Burns, Ms. Carole Elliot, Mr. James Evans, Mr. Ms. Lois Jordan, Ms. Linda Lambert, Ms. Jodi Loar, Ms. Paula Polito, Mr. Anthony Recasner, Ms. Cindy Rushing, Mr. John Warner Smith, Dr. Roberta Vicari, Mr. Kahree Wahid, Ms. Carynn Wiggins, Mr. Alan Young, and Ms. Amy Zapata. Ms. Toni Ledet served as a proxy for Ms. Brenda Sharp Senator Conrad Appel, Representative Regina Barrow, Ms. Maria Blanco, Ms. Contessia Brooks, Ms. Bonnie Buckelew, Ms. Gina Young Cahee, Representative Steve Carter, Carey Foy, Mr. Steve Gogreve, Mr. Albert Mancuso, Ms. Kim Matherne, and Dr. David Perry were absent.

Representing the Louisiana Department of Education was Jenna Conway.

Public comment was received from Nancy Alexander, Sherry Guarisco and Penny Haire.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Ms. Cindy Rushing.

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Ms. Loar made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2016 Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council. The Council's response was as follows:

- 1 On motion of Ms. Loar, and seconded by Mr. Recasner, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council approved the minutes of the January 8, 2016 meeting of the Council.

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Jenna Conway provided a presentation on the amendment to the Child Care and Development Fund State Plan (2013).

- 2 On motion of Ms. Bronfin, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council endorsed the amendment to the Child Care and Development Fund State Plan (2013).

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Jenna Conway provided a presentation of Louisiana's Child Care and Development State Plan.

3 On motion of Mr. Young, and seconded by Dr. Vicari, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council endorsed Section 1 (*Define CCDF Leadership and Coordination with Relevant Systems*) of Louisiana’s Child Care and Development State Plan with the following recommendations:

- The ACF-696, ACF-800 and ACF-801 federal reports should be shared to the extent possible with the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council after they have been filed, provided there are no confidentiality conflicts.
- The following language should be added to section 1.3: “Louisiana's IDEA Part C program is called EarlySteps. The Part C coordinator serves on the ECAC and has been involved since the implementation of Act 3 and is assisting with the design of the Act 3 program in meeting the needs of young children with disabilities in early care and education settings. EarlySteps regional staff conducts outreach activities in child care settings to facilitate identification of eligible children. These regional staff also participates with Community Network teams to support Act 3 initiatives. Based on family preference and child needs, EarlySteps providers are available to support eligible children in child care settings.”
- The following language should be included in section 1.4: “The CCDF lead agency has administrative responsibility for several of the state's early childhood programs, however, the lead agency for the IDEA; Part C program is the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (EarlySteps). At the state level, the CCDF lead agency coordinates its activities with EarlySteps through its participation in the ECAC, representation on an advisory workgroup formed to develop supports for young children with disabilities in early care and education settings, and through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which supports referral and transition to the IDEA, Part B, section 619 programs. At the regional level, EarlySteps staff participates as Community Network Partners in development and implementation of Act 3 requirements as well as outreach to identify children with disabilities in child care settings.”
- The system of regional Child Care Resource and Referral centers should be maintained.

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4 On motion of Ms. Wiggins, and seconded by Dr. Vicari, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council endorsed Section 2 (*Promote Family Engagement through Outreach and Consumer Education*) of Louisiana’s Child Care and Development State Plan with the following recommendations:

- The LDE will bring information on the progress made in developing a plan for developmental screenings and addressing pre-k expulsion to the November 2016 meeting, including details on the timeline for plan implementation.
- The following language should be added to section 2.2.5.i: “The IDEA, Part C program, EarlySteps, participates with the CCDF lead agency in identifying and developing Act 3 system components which support the needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities participating in child care programs. The EarlySteps state staff is a member of the Early Childhood Advisory Council and regional staff participates as partners in the community

networks. Outreach activities are also conducted in all child care settings to ensure referral of children who may meet EarlySteps eligibility. Data on the results of these activities is available to the CCDF lead agency.”

- The following language should be added to section 2.2.8: “At present, improving coordination for developmental screening across state agencies is a priority of both the LDE and DHH, specifically efforts to improve information on and referrals for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services. Developmental and health screening information is requested from physicians for every child referred to EarlySteps who is undergoing eligibility determination. In addition, families are asked annually to schedule their EPSDT well child visit for other health and developmental screening services according to the periodicity schedule as part of the development of the child's annual eligibility determination and program plan development. All children referred to EarlySteps for developmental delay receive developmental screening unless recently conducted by the referral source.”

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5 On motion of Ms. Bronfin, and seconded by Mr. Recasner, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council endorsed Section 3 (*Provide Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families*) of Louisiana’s Child Care and Development State Plan with the following recommendations:

- The following language should be added to section 3.1.1.b: “or a child with a disability as determined by an IEP.”
- The following language should be included in Bulletin 139, *Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs*, to describe the process for setting statewide family eligibility levels: “If the number of children served drops below 12,500 and funding is available, the 30-hour training and/or employment requirement referenced in this Section may be reduced by the department until 12,500 children are being served.”
- Recommendation to bring additional data describing the Child Care Assistance Program eligibility rejection rates in Louisiana, including information on what the cause of the rejection was, to the next Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council meeting.

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6 On motion of Ms. Polito, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council endorsed Section 4 (*Ensure Equal Access to High Quality Child Care for Low-Income Families*) of Louisiana’s Child Care and Development State Plan with the following recommendation:

- The following language should be added to section 4.6.2.b: “through coordination with EarlySteps, early intervention providers are available to support child care caregivers in meeting the needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities to meet Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) outcomes and to support inclusion of children in child care through access, participation and support.”

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7 On motion of Mr. Evans, and seconded by Dr. Vicari, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council endorsed Section 5 (*Establish Standards and Monitoring Processes to Ensure the Health and Safety of Child Care Settings*) of Louisiana's Child Care and Development State Plan with the following recommendation:

- The health and safety inspections for all provider types should be made available to the public.

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8 On motion of Dr. Burns, and seconded by Dr. Vicari, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council endorsed Section 6 (*Recruit and Retain a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce*) of Louisiana's Child Care and Development State Plan with the following recommendations:

- The following language should be added to section 6.1.2: "Trainers *who meet the Trainer Qualifications for a Level I, II, or III Trainer under the Louisiana Pathways System* may also obtain Pathways approval by demonstrating their professional affiliation with..."
- Training modules developed by the Louisiana Department of Education should be created with input from providers.
- The following language should be added to 6.1.6: "In addition, EarlySteps providers are available to support child care caregivers in meeting the IFSP outcomes for children with disabilities in these settings. Through support provided in the actual setting, caregivers have the benefit of transferring these skills to meeting needs of other children in their setting with special needs."
- Section 6.1.6 should also include a commitment to develop specific training for providers who work with children with disabilities by including organizations that are qualified to service a child with disabilities in the creation of such trainings, and by developing a coaching model similar to that of the Mental Health Consultation program.
- The Board of Regents and private providers should work with the Louisiana Department of Education to ensure the language in Section 6 accurately reflects the work that is being completed.

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9 On motion of Mr. Young, and seconded by Ms. Wiggins, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council endorsed Section 7 (*Support Continuous Quality Improvements*) of Louisiana's Child Care and Development State Plan with the following recommendations:

- The Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council should continue to explore and define a process to develop training for family engagement and to include a measure of family engagement within the rating system.

- The following language should be added to 7.3.1: “coordinating with early intervention specialists...To meet its federal requirement that all children with disabilities are identified in Louisiana, EarlySteps regional staff conduct outreach activities to early care and education settings. Child care centers are encouraged to refer children to their local system point of entry office for eligibility determination. If eligible, and based on family priority, children may receive early intervention support in the child care setting. The focus of the intervention is to support the caregiver in meeting the needs of the child through addressing the IFSP outcomes. It is a priority for EarlySteps to increase the number of eligible children who receive their services in inclusive child care settings. In addition, EarlySteps has an MOU with the LDE to refer eligible children for IDEA, Part B services at age 3 and to meet their needs at this time of transition. EarlySteps provides data annually to the LDE in support of this activity as part of their Annual Performance Report.”
- Quality Improvement and Director’s Training should focus on encouraging voluntary NAEYC accreditation from child care centers.

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Jenna Conway provided an update on the Early Childhood Care and Education Coordinated Enrollment, Coordinated Funding, and Early Childhood Accountability Work Group.

- 10 On motion of Mr. Recasner, and seconded by Ms. Polito, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council endorsed the creation of the Early Childhood Care and Education Coordinated Enrollment, Coordinated Funding, and Early Childhood Accountability Work Group, chaired by Mr. Smith.

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Jenna Conway provided a presentation on the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Quarterly Report- Quarter 4.

- 11 On motion of Dr. Vicari, and seconded by Ms. Loar, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council received the presentation of the Early Childhood Care and Education Quarterly Report.

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Jenna Conway provided a presentation on the Early Childhood Care and Education Annual Report- 2015.

- 12 On motion of Mr. Recasner, and seconded by Mr. Young, the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council received the presentation of the Early Childhood Care and Education Annual Report.

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13 On motion of Mr. Young, and seconded by Ms. Wiggins, and with no further business to come before the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council, the February 4, 2016 meeting of the Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council was adjourned at 4:51 P.M.