



Early Learning Data and Policy Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2019 - 2PM to 3:30PM

Delaware Stars Training Room
501 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE 19716

The mission of the DECC is to promote the development of a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system, birth to eight, which provides the highest quality services and environment for Delaware's children and their families.

2:00 PM.....Welcome & Call to Order & Introductions

Madeleine Bayard

- **Attendance:** Dawn Alexander-Preschool Expansion Coordinator for Colonial School District; Janice Barlow-Director of KIDS COUNT; Madeleine Bayard-Vice President Policy and Practice Rodel Foundation; Heidi Beck-Director Delaware Hard Start Association; John Fisher-Klein-Office of Early Learning; Diane Frentzel; Caitlin Gleason-Office of Early Learning; Michelle Shaivitz-DEAEYC Executive Director; Kristy Sheffler-Director Delaware Stars; Kelly Sherretz-Policy Scientist; Lina Zankowsky-University of Delaware; Gabriela Kejner-DHSS; Christina Koutsourades-Office of Early Learning
- Welcome and introductions of all in attendance

2:10 PM.....OEL Updates

Caitlin Gleason

- OEL Staff Update: 1. Christina Koutsourades (Education Specialist – Transitions) 2. Debbie Taylor (Education Specialist – Head Start Family Collaboration)
- Grants Update: OEL received the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five
 - 5 core activities of PDG application: 1. Conducting or updating a periodic needs assessment 2. Developing or updating a strategic plan 3. Maximizing parental choice and knowledge about the state's mixed delivery system 4. Sharing best practices 5. Improving overall quality of early childhood care and education activities
 - 4.2 million dollars (states who applied for more than 1.5 million dollars, had, on average, 70% of application funded)
 - This is a "planning grant" to create a needs assessment and strategic plan (Activity 1 + 2)
 - Interagency agency effort (coordinated effort between DHHS, Kids Department, and DOE)
 - 4 Priorities: 1. Coordinated services across the B-5 mixed delivery system 2. B-5 data integration 3. Tools to foster parent knowledge-building and choice 4. Professional learning across sectors using shared whole child development language
 - Five core guiding principles
 - Next steps: resubmit budget and budget narrative to federal government, work will

start until maybe mid-February the earliest

2:20 PM..... ELS Trend Data

Caitlin Gleason

- Delaware Early Learner Survey (DE-ELS) is an observational tool through which kindergarten teachers observe and record students' knowledge and skills (in Code it is written that every child must be observed in first 30 school days)
- Data from 2018 scores are now available to us
- Delaware Statewide Developmental Domains, percentage of students who are “accomplished” in the domain:
 - 58% Social-Emotional
 - 61% Physical
 - 45% Math
 - 53% Language
 - 70% Literacy
 - 54% Cognitive
- Comments:
 - Difference in literacy and language defined between writing / listening / reading
 - Lack of societal understanding of math in early learning
 - Social-emotional being important for K-12, not just early learning
 - DE-ELS looks similar to 3rd grade scores
 - Stars revision is focusing on social-emotional domain (even though others may not be)
 - Fear of teachers seeing 45% in Math thinking they should do more math worksheets versus teachers understanding that early cognitive development in math
 - Huge discrepancy in curriculum tools in what's developmentally appropriate for pre-K and K
 - Alignment in early education and early elementary years
- New Castle / Kent no statistically significant growth in 2016, 2017 and 2018
- Sussex lower overall in all domains
- Sussex and Kent probably have higher fidelity through teacher training
- Lower overall in 2016, a little bit higher in 2017, about the same this year
- Policy-wise has been about the same the past three years, with Stars revision looking at new policies
- Generally: data looks the same, interest in policy suggestions going forward – long way to go for statewide policy
- About 96.4% child completion
- Christina School District is using the tool three times a year (apart of DACA Kindergarten Task Force and interest in observational assessment rather than using other observational assessment) / others school districts are looking at using tool for social-emotional domains / some special education classes uses tool formatively throughout year
- We have seen success in literacy, but what are the initiatives that have led to the strength?
- Alignment: Part of PDG talks about a common language of child-level outcomes, which is happening through the Early Learning Foundations (ELFs) revision – interest in using national models to align to K-12.
 - Example: CASTL TA opportunity, K12 wants to draft guidance on socio-emotional learning aligned to birth-12. Opportunity for alignment for K-12 to create from scratch while OEL will revise ELFs.

2:50 PM..... K-Registration PK Questions

Caitlin Gleason

- DELS teams have been an integral part to kindergarten registration / including webpage DDOE OEL for kindergarten registration across school districts and charters
- Confusion on alignment across school districts and charters for kindergarten readiness (including processes and language)
- A small win: collecting information from families on where children are coming from before kindergarten – will be on eSchool user field
 - 3 Questions families are asked: 1. Did child attend a child care or preschool before entering kindergarten? 2. If yes, what county did your child attend preschool? 3. What was the name of the program?
 - Only asking what early experience child is having the year prior to kindergarten
 - January 24th will be seen by Pupil Accounting Officers / secretaries will be asked to back-fill from the fall hard-copy forms
 - This is an attempt to streamline this information.
 - Drop-down menu is only for programs in DE Stars ---- and one bucket for programs not in DE Stars in one bucket as “licenses not in Stars bucket”
 - This is a state initiative – question on fidelity
- Gold is now birth-third grade interface. Now we have same interface. Problem of bridging Teaching Strategies system and eSchool system.
- Comments:
 - DOE receives a file on licensing programming / Stars programming which is filling the kindergarten registration field
 - Roll-out: pupil accounting coordinators (eSchool liaisons for every school district) will watch PDMS training and receive input instruction
 - Screen comes up for each child – like step 2 for after creating child account

Kindergarten registration update:

- Kick off on October 18th with First Lady Carney + Secretary of Education Susan Bunting – families appreciated information (e.g. kindergarten registration folders, over 350 families who attended)
- Trying to use data to inform what’s happening before kindergarten (e.g. math)
- Looking into follow-up survey on kindergarten registration process
- Mind-set shifts (varying perspectives from all angles) – interest in meeting common ground
- Comments:
 - Question of push of kindergarten registration day being with PDMS training on K registration user field

3:00 PM..... Member Updates on Data and Policy Topics

Madeleine Bayard

- Dawn Alexander: document on information from each school district (15 of 19 serve preschool children) – 13 of 15 participate in DE Stars – 4 districts use Title 1 for funding – 3 Vo-Tech districts – services can look similar or different district by district – Dawn will share document with committee. Developmental screening with ASQ – 8 are online but of those 8 not all 8 are fully online
 - PDG needs assessment will coordinate information across districts (Dawn started map)
- Discussion on Child Find – challenge with ASQ of no field of where child attends for early learning – interest in adding that field for school district to partner with child care – sharing screening results with teachers with parent permission - field would make a big difference
- One classroom experience at Capital: at least 2-3 students every year in kindergarten developmental

delay diagnosed (e.g. speech language / ot / pt); issue of children who aren't getting services but aren't eligible (district services) – same situation with birth-3 in the watch and see category until age 3 then eligible for services

- Portal for families to access (those families who don't have access to ASQ) – so they can be referred out to CDW or Child Fund – will be based on DE-ELs domains
- How do we do a quality rating piece? E.g. social emotional learning. RFP out currently –spread word.
- Members are interested in taking work to be active committee members – request for action steps + recommendations are more helpful than hearing problems
- Request to send questions in advance of presentations (for committee members to respond to)

3:30 PM.....Close

Madeleine Bayard

Next meeting date and location:

TBD

Data and Policy Committee Key Responsibilities

- Monitor federal and state and legislative, regulatory and policy activities relating to DECC's mission
- Identify and recommend strategies, based on the overall Delaware Early Childhood Council Strategic Plan, to maximize legislation, regulations and policies to facilitate the fulfillment of DECC's mission
- Inform and engage Council members and the stakeholder community concerning relevant legislative, regulatory and policy activities
- Ensure that Council members possess the requisite knowledge and skills to advocate on relevant issues
- Promote coordination across agencies and programs contributing early childhood data to federal and state reports and plans
- Identify standard data reports necessary to advance Delaware's early learning system
- Provide feedback on current data exchanges, data processes, data quality, and data utilization