

Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date: August 26th, 2019

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: 3601 C St Suite 902
Anchorage, AK 99508

Attending: Commissioner Adam Crum, Rebekah Morisse, Marcey Bish, Christie Reinhardt, Kathy Berry, Deputy Commissioner Melin, Jenny Weisshaput, Kitty Farnham, Kristen Spencer, Stephanie Berglund, Trevor Storrs, Christina Hulquist, Debi Baldwin, Betsy Brenneman, Lori Grassgreen, Cathy Munoz, Iris Matthews, Bridget Weiss, Diane Casto, Elizabeth Siddon, Kirsten Shelton, Patience Frederiksen, Gail Trujillo, Maureen Harwood, Matt Hirschfeld, Christy Knight, Meghan Johnson, Elena Markova, Don Enoch, Supanika Ackerman, Abbe Hensley, Betsy Smith, Kaerin Stephens, Alyson Curry, Beverly Schoonover, Cassandra Maurer, Cassie Keplinger, Chelsea Burke, Deborah Riddle, Scott West, Brian Holst, Ashley Christopherson, Wendi Kannenberg, Jillian Gellings; Autumn Ve

Welcome: Commissioner Crum opened meeting at 9:12am, welcomed everyone. Motion was made to Approve minutes from the May 1st AECCC meeting by Trevor Storrs, Debi Baldwin seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Committee updates:

Becky Morisse – Over the next hour or so we will go through the work groups, talk about what we have accomplished so far and what is still needed. We met with the commissioners and have gone through the priorities and as you know they are more than two and a half years old. Therefore, Commissioner Crum and Commissioner Johnson are going to take time outside the meeting to update those priorities.

Committee Update: Healthy start and strong families: Becky Morisse

Becky met with Matt and Gayle over the summer to review –

- 2 priorities are
 - embedding strengthening families
 - normalize well child checks
- One of the accomplishments of this was the creation of Help Me Grow.
- The consensus is that the 2 priorities are still relevant for our state and should stay but as a committee workgroup they do not have a lot of control being non state employees.

Comments

Matt: this workgroup had pretty strong goals when first started and met several times and had great ideas but unfortunately fell apart because we didn't have the power to make changes and move things along.

Gail- at one point we did decide to partner with Help Me Grow made sense to join forces and have that as a collaboration.

Committee Update: High Quality care and learning: Christina Hulquist

Met recently as a workgroup to update the status of our priorities and sent out the information.

Had 3 priorities assigned to us:

1. Expand early child hood services to 5000 children and families – (shared priority with Innovation and Long Term Investment)
 - Update: developed a visual identifying programs and services- for children 0-8
 - Identifying# of children served in those programs
 - JTF needs assessment
 - Early Childhood Baseline report
 - move towards a collective impact approach- need to collect and align data and share statewide
2. Implement the QRIS plan including implementing a timeline of activities and funding.
 - QRIS July 1, 2016, SFY17. To date learn and Grow has successfully enrolled and is supporting 150 licensed child care programs.
 - Learn and grow has finalized the quality activities for all 5 quality levels in anticipation of making additional levels of quality available to all early childhood care and education program types.
3. Increase awareness of the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines (ELGs) by coordinating efforts (public and private) to include the universal early care and learning workforce.
 - Department of Education has contracted to southeast Alaska Association to update the early 2007 guidelines.
 - Our goal is to support the updated recommendations due to DEED at the end of November 2019

We feel our priorities are still relevant, we made update on some of the language to put more in line with the last committee focusing on what our committee and council can really be responsible for as far as doing the work or recommending how to implement.

Comments-

Trevor: What is the impact we can have on that 5,000 children? Maybe this is a larger question. What is the influence of this group? How do we influence, what does that look like? How do we ultimately make recommendations to move forward? We need clear expectations.

Debi- That was the question brought forward from Innovation and Long Term Investment- Again that we wanted to take a stand, we have an obligation to take a stand according to our bylaws and the things we have committed to in the Head Start and several other grants. That was the huge question coming out of the last AECCC was how to make recommendations.

Trevor – It will be very helpful when clear expectations are achieved but also figure out how to be in sync together to be able to move this work forward and hopefully the administration has the ability to let us

know whether or not it's a priority. Then as a group we can choose to meet separate that's fine, but within the AECCC what is that role.

Becky read aloud the AECCC Purpose:

The purpose of the AECCC is to promote positive development, improved health outcomes, and school readiness for children prenatal through age eight by creating a culturally responsive, comprehensive, and accessible service delivery system that links service providers, empowers families, and engages communities. The AECCC shall support the creation of a unified, sustainable system of early care, health, education, and family support for young children and their families.

The AECCC will facilitate the integration and alignment of services, planning efforts, resources, policy development, and funding as well as establish connections between health, mental health, education and family support systems and public and private partners.

Becky: Integrating aligning services and making recommendations is certainly a part of that so we developed and made changes to the bylaws to help address the questions that came up last time in terms of communication within and then outside of this council and it was decided not to put that into the bylaws but develop a procedure for that, that seemed more appropriate than updating the bylaws. This council was never intended to be an advocacy council and we need to remember that when we talk about coordinating. I believe that this group you all are the subject matter experts and I think providing that input is valuable for the commissioners too when developing priorities and I think having a chance for you (commissioners) to listen to us and develop priorities is really all a part of establishing on how we move forward and what that is going to look like.

One of the roles this council serves as the advisory body to open forum coordinate the different federal programs by both departments. We had some discussion on how to best, I think we all agree we can do better. One of the things we spoke about doing getting presentations from people in advance, sending them out prior so this meeting can be more of a discussion and that comes from feedback that members would like to have feedback.

Christina- to respond to Trevor, if we change the goal but we can change the access, what role does the committee and council have and we can move forward by our committee.

Trevor- we have work committee's but we are supposed to be advising. The conflict we are working towards goals but it may not be in line with some of the administrative. Work group is different from advisory committee.

Supanika- right now these are updates on our current priorities

Lori- If we can get through the updates. Then look at the goals then explore as a group.

Committee Update: Data and systems alignment: Supanika Ackerman

Supanika- we have met 4 times since last meeting. We currently serve as the advisory for EC scans that A2P2 is doing. We also heard about from administration a project called Data Hub consolidating all this data and we wanted to hear more about them. Sounds like they are going to applying for the statewide longitudinal system grant that is due in September. And we are learning about how our data initiative might fit into the larger picture.

Iris- we have been moving along with the EC scan had a great meeting in June. We are working on funding analysis. If you haven't gotten an email from me please expect one soon.

Last Committee action update:

1. Baseline data on rate of development screening- (used of Ages and stages) among children.
2. Research early childhood settings, rates of pay within those settings, and use that info to identify priorities for pay increase
3. Compile information on funding sources for early childhood services
4. Review data from Prams and CUBS on well child exams
5. Identify baseline data for all priorities and data sets to track : 'State of the Alaska Child' Report (an idea for a consolidated system)

Comments: Kathy Berry we are also working on trying to improve the well child research that is something we can work together to return data in one format. Iris and Supanika agreed that is a good idea and appreciates it.

Committee Update: Innovation and Long Term Investment: Debi Baldwin

Last Committee Action update: Met on 7/25/2019

1. Protect funding from prenatal/ title v/much for early childhood, infant mental health, behavioral health; oppose MCD block grants, repeal of ACA
2. Increase braided funding opportunities and to expand access to early childhood services

Debi: Strategic goals were set several years ago are old and had a lot to do with what the commissioner's priorities. We believe our priorities with are out of date. Maybe part of work is to support the work initiatives that comes out of other committees needing funding. We definitely think our job is about public, private and tribal investment. It's not just about State of Alaska investment. We have tried to give examples of innovative funding. We as a council need to advise again our administration about the benefits of early childhood but ways we might be able to afford the investment. We need to figure out a way to actively engage during the meetings and agree with Becky's idea of sending out presentations prior so important discussions can be had.

Brian- When I read the mission statement one verb we had was promote. The questions is how do we promote? I think we have to advocate to produce this system? What's the appropriate way to do this?

Becky- in reflecting in the past few years about creating funding opportunities I feel we have done better in the past few years. We still have a lot of work to do but working across our departments and within our departments we have made some strides in that over the years. .

Debbie- we are really excited about the data collection that is going on around funding. There is no one collective source we can go through and hoping we will see a presentation here in the near future within the council with what funding we do have available and what type of services it brings?

Trevor- working on fiscal mapping outlying state and federal funds on where they for go for children and families in general. It may incorporate some of the tribal and doing a crosswalk with it to look for issues with our Kids Count. Goal is before legislative session to provide a clearer picture for them and ourselves.

Committee Update: Public Engagement & Community Partnerships: Lori Grassgreen & Abbe Hensley

Last Committee Action Update: Met on August 5th

1. Identify and use community-based solution to expand access to early childhood services.

Committee recommendation:

Develop guidelines for communications and focus in on these areas:

Within AECCC

- Determine how does the group wants to share information with the public
- Determine what needs to be communicated from each subcommittee and with the whole group or to public (and processes)
- Other early childhood
- Work with JTF and others to ensure effective communication and integration of the PDG needs assessment and strategic plan

Lori- question to group – What is it that we wanted to propose to the AECCC the results of the strategic needs work and plan and what we want to put out there as messaging. What does the group think?

Beverly- In this legislative session and with my board and other boards we work with, Just the value of communicating the early childhood interventions are so important, what programs are available for families. I really see this council as being the main voice of ‘This is why this is valuable’ ‘this is why we recommend it’ ‘and this is why we advocate for it’

Commissioner Crum – We will need to be able to clarify what we can and cannot do.

Marcey-after our quarterly meetings a simple thing we can do is send a summary of what we are working on, what our priorities are, what we have accomplished and what we have decided to our provider groups.

Trevor- if we are going to put something out we need to let them know how to participate or if there are any opportunities to participate.

Kathy Munoz- I see so much talent and resources and I don’t think the public knows about this group. And maybe work towards a conference on young children or a big event for children and talk about trauma, education and broadening the discussion statewide and would be very beneficial.

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS)- Christie Reinhardt:

Christie: 2 of the grants I am responsible for, this is the advisory board for. It’s very important that we have stakeholder input.

Our sustainability plan centers on input from this group.

Purpose: Are in year 4 or 5 year grant and purpose is build integrated early childhood system to see how system change actually happens.

Methods: Collective impact mode, community driven, partnerships

How: Data gathering and sharing/ quality improvement/ local coalitions/ technical assistance/ education/ events/ incentives.

Goals-

- Integration of systems
- HMG Expanding
- Establish integrated data system
- Sustain efforts
- Test innovative early childhood

Primary Aim – 25% increase in developmental skills in 5years

Secondary aims

- Strengthening leadership in quality improvement
- Greater collective impact
- Integration of early childhood systems
- Develops ways to measure developmental services among (See remaining slide)

Divers-communities to pick 2 drivers to focus on

1. Family partnerships grounded in supportive trusting relationship and mutual respect (See slide)
2. Universal Developmental Promotion
3. Social Determinants of Health
4. Systems Promote Developmental Health and Meet Needs of Children & Families
5. Policy

Our communities

Norton Sound –

Strengths- Physician champions, Strong relationships, screening collaborations, increased data sharing

Challenges- Staff turnover, Need for more specific data, Community has many needs, Need for more coalition structure, Limited use of HMG

Outreach – kinder gym/ movie nights/ child find fair/ provider meeting/ coalition meetings

ASQ! - ECCS Staff enter ASQ paper and pencil screenings and input into the online portal/ Working with LEND Fellow on culturally sensitive screening

Accomplishments: ASQ Screenings increased by 463%, from less than 6 to 60/ month, Data shows 8% increase in developmental skills, biggest gaps are in problem solving and fine motor skills

Kodiak -

Strengths- Established coalition, strong relationships, meaningful activities, action focused, diverse membership, growing knowledge of HMG

Challenges- Challenge with Data getting ASQs entered online and coalition desires more structure

Outreach: Books, Blocks and Balls, Community baby shower; Kodiak annual children's fair; Provider meetings; Agency meetings

ASQ – Exploring entering ASQ paper online

Accomplishments-Branding, Strong interest in developing a mission statement and visioning, Strong commitment to community, Interest in f/u, Strong desire for sustainability

Mat-Su -

Strength: Established community collective, good funding sources, working with providers who screen for ACES, Young children are the foundation, Strong HMG outreach, developing shared measures, Community assessment

Challenges: small core group

Outreach: State fair, Talkeetna library, Baby & Children's fair, Community Baby Shower, Safe Families, Parent Leadership Trainings, HMG & THREAD events, Provider Outreach, Partner Trainings

ASQ! There are now 3 practice in Mat-Su as part of the stipend program; a 23% increase in screenings, 7.7% increase in developmental skills, biggest delays are in communication and fine motor skills

SOA -

Strengths: Strong Team, Program manager, Data Analyst, Public Health Specialist, HMG Leadership, Evaluation, Stipend contractor, ASQ TA (ACP)

Challenges: Program management turnover, shifting federal expectations

Activities: In July 25 & 26 ECCS institute Meeting, All communities came and state team, Strategic planning and coalition, Building session, Agnew: Beck, Social Determinants of health, Health Equity index continuous quality improvement, Data – everyone enjoyed

Outcomes: Results from the second year of data collection - 65 percent increase in ASQ screenings, 73% increase in them being online, 35% increase in data sharing, Overall 11.3 increase in developmental skills

The Future

We are beginning year 4 -

- Learning session in Atlanta in September
- Measuring social determinants of health
- Need to evaluate state partners
- Sustainability planning starts up in earnest

Supports:

- Data
- Strategic planning
- Planning for sustainability
- Best practices connecting with

- Capacity building
- Quality improvement

Currently 426K / year no state match.

Comments- Trevor- it's huge and thank you for all who worked on it. What do you need from us as an advisory and us as people in the community to help those numbers increase?

Christie- a few things, one would be for you to consent for us to evaluate to use as partner tools, it will provide a lot of information around leadership and trust levels and information sharing. Within the next 2 years we will be developing a sustainability plan where we take the information we have gotten and look at what we need to do to, to do better, that is the part is where we are going to need help from this group, provide some input prior to a meeting and getting feedback.

Christie- ASQ training can be done through Help Me Grow – working on putting on community health aid manual. A Parent can do on their own or work with someone from Help Me Grow over the phone to complete. This has the ability to screen more kids.

Maureen – This is also on all the ILP portals. We do push on our FB page.

Trevor's- I wasn't aware this was available, I could do some small communications out and push this. Would this overwhelm the system? Let's talk afterwards about this please.

Joint Task Force Update: Christina Hulquist

We presented on our last meeting the 3 initiatives joining together - Indigenous project launch, preschool development grant and impact project. A shared leadership effort to accomplish 2 common goals for Alaska's Early Childhood System are Statewide Needs assessment and a Unified statewide strategic plan.

Update –

- McDowell group has been selected to develop and write needs assessment. They are excited to start the work with all the information we have provided them.
- JTF leadership has met with and shared progress to date with McDowell
- Outreach to JTF and stakeholders for input into the needs assessment structure is underway

Kirsten Shelton and Wendy Kannenberg from McDowell –We have been working for about a month on selecting data and meeting with JTF and what Strategic Plan Update needs assessment needs to obtain. We now are finalizing the data collection to analyze to identify the definition of key terms used in this study, we have been tasked to focus on rural, vulnerable underserved children. Then we are going to be describing demand and need for early care and education services. Once all information analyzed and aligning with the EC scan information that Stellar group has put together. Next step to develop some beginning recommendations for discussion moving forward. That is a brief synopsis of what we are doing.

Kirsten you can reach out to her for questions and comments.

Comments-Betsy - we asked the members of JTF and if anyone else wants to ask questions please come to AASB to me bbrennamen@asb.org or call me 907-463-1676.

Strategic Plan Update

- An RFP is out now for developing and writing the statewide strategic plan
- Strategic planning kick off meeting will be Oct 2nd in Anchorage

Debi: Clarification about what role this group plays in the task force, will the needs assessment and draft report come back to this group before it's released and if so what time frame are we talking about.

Preschool Development Grant Update: Deborah Riddle

Deputy Commissioner Karen Melin – the department has decided not to apply for the second portion of this grant- primarily for 2 reasons. One is the match requirement is substantial and the department doesn't have that kind of funding and the second is managing this grant, we do not have the manpower and space, the time in our schedules to manage a grant of this magnitude.

Deb Riddle- updated information about a no cost extension, we have been visiting with the US department of education and found that other states are also in the same situation we are. US Department of Education is working on a process for all of us to apply at the same time for this no cost extension and decided to do this more systematically and do it all at once.

Year 2 would consist of / entailed- services, implementing the strategic plan. The funding opportunity is on grants.gov there is minimal information.

Strengthening the System: Jillien Gellings and Autumn Ve – Alaska's Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan, 2020-2024

Foundational Goal: SOA will provide adequate resources and funding to support a comprehensive behavior health service system promoting independent, healthy Alaskans so that they may live meaningful lives in communities of their choosing.

9 goals total - we want to focus on 2 today that impact children-

Goals 1 (Early Childhood) –

[Programs serving young children, promote resiliency, prevent and address trauma, and provide access to early intervention services](#)

Objectives

- 1.1 Promote practice-informed universal screening efforts and early intervention services,
- 1.2 provide ongoing support to ensure accurate identification and treatment of social-emotional needs for children and tier caregivers, congruent with their cultural identification.
- 1.3 Reduce the instances and impact of ACEs through community engagement and by improving social determinants of health

Goal 6 (Protecting vulnerable Alaskans) -

Alaskans are free from abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation.

Objectives –

- Prevent child maltreatment by ensuring resilient families
- Promote early intervention and maltreatment with families at risk
- Ensure individuals who suspect potential abuse understand their role
- Increase timely access to protective services
- Ensure vulnerable Alaskans understand their rights and responsibilities

Next Steps

- Update the Alaska scorecard
- Create an implementation / action plan

Becky and Commissioner Crumb

Announcements/ Upcoming events:

EC Joint Task force meeting (October 2) Anchorage, AK Contact Christina Hulquist
christina.hulquist@alaska.gov

THREAD economic Summit (October 9-10) Anchorage, AK contact Stephanie Berglund
sberglund@threadalaska.org if you would like to be a part of the review process prior to meeting please contact us. Conference Registration open total \$75. Target audience is members from business community, child advocates, and policy makers (local and state)

All Alaska Pediatric Partnership Symposium (October 11-12) Anchorage, AK contact Tamar Ben-Yousef
tamar@a2pd.com

Northern Interior Alaska AEYC Conference (October 11-12) Fairbanks, AK Contact Margaret Bauer
mbauer@chenagafuture.com

Save the Date: AECCC Meeting November 5th 1-4pm

Child Care Development Block Grant
 Child Care Emergency Plan
 Families First

Meeting adjourned 11:54am