

Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council

Meeting Notes October 24th 2011

We began with a welcome, and agenda review.

An update was given on the Early Childhood Inventory Report & the Early Childhood Resources Directory. After review of the documents and discussion the council asked to get community level information on the inventory report data that also showed total numbers of children Birth to 5 in the community. They also asked to see the Early Childhood Resources Directory in an interactive way (not just on paper) at the next meeting.

Committee Updates

Health & Mental Health

- ECMH consultation & links to services
 - Added language to 5 priorities to include specifics on ECMH
 - Training issues for specialization in ECMH
 - Developing professional skills for both verbal & nonverbal interactions in settings that resonate with young (and very young) children.
 - “Appropriate mental health services for children.”

EPSDT language removed and well-child added.

Workforce Development Committee:

- #s & wages – looking to increase professionalism and wages
- Turnover rates
- SEED Public Priorities
- “Teach” & “Wage” projects from 4 states
- SD Teacher turnover rate a bit higher state-wide than 20% so Child Care is 2x the teacher turnover rate (both rates are significantly high)
- “ROOTS” incentive program in AK but not in place at this time (funding issue).
- Eligibility determination, policy decisions as well as wages.
- Stress on employees to “save the center” (ECE program) takes away from the time and quality of interactions with children.
- How the rate affects quality.
- Small business development: How to keep it going? Making sure ECE administrators have the business knowledge and abilities as well as the child development and educational knowledge and abilities.
 - Average costs for CC – \$9000 per year
 - Tuition at U of A – \$5000

EC&L Committee

- RTTT & ELC
 - Get Shirley's PowerPoint
 - Use of Grant Format to carry forward our discussion
 - EC&L as lead, with work as appropriate by Family Support and Health & Mental Health & P.D.
 - TQRIS as a pivotal model for later funding and implementation.
 - More for our system success and the grants are secondary.
 - Don't limit our perspective.
 - Best practice "rooted" and unique to AK needs.
 - Not just fed \$ but all opportunities (funding or otherwise).

Program Spotlights

Best Beginnings Babies on Track:

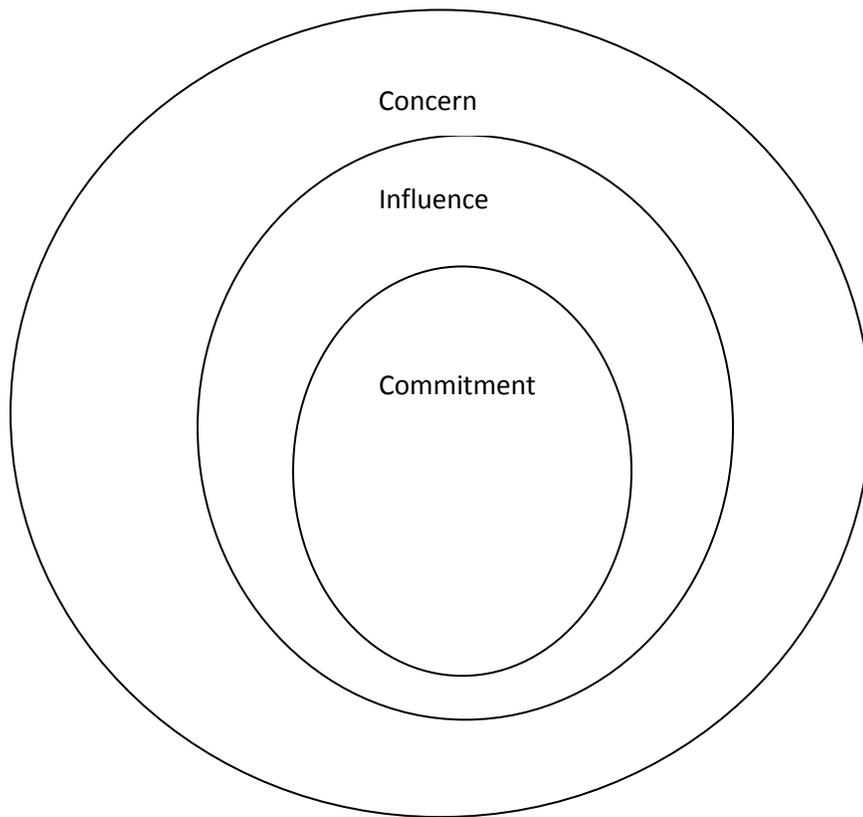
- Board Books for Babies & a video
- 2nd week of Feb. "Premier of the Video"

Early Intervention & Infant Learning Program presentation on TACSEI (Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention) presentation and discussion on the 2 year technical assistance grant and the ongoing connections across ECE programs and initiatives.

What Our State Coordinating Council Can Be – a Facilitated Discussion

Children live in stable and supported homes.

- Communicate info, approaches that are successful-are delivered to and by families and service providers and funders (based on best practice)
- Coordinate through our processes and policies that programs, etc. are incorporated beyond communicating
- Prevention ←→intervention
- Collaborating together to leave "hats at door" to make progress – What I bring, share, give.
- Public safety, Assistance. Basic needs – across systems/departments
- Public education/Family & Parent Educating.
- Recommending policy → change systems
- Broaden workforce development/capacity



Children are physically and mentally healthy.

- Recommend policy based on best practices
- Make a distinction between physically and mentally healthy
- Define mental health role in physical well being
- Recommendation on the number of and distribution of mental/physical health professionals and the quality of professionals
- Access to programs
- Decide if this group is to work collaborating with other entities (ex. Domestic violence, substance abuse, etc)
- Role of trauma in (continued physical/mental) development
- Look at assets/strengths (resilience)
- Recognition of the importance of all three priority areas in the health development
 - Learning of children
 - Families

(AECCC role)

Children are ready for and succeed in school.

- Statewide accessibility wherever a child lives
- Quality-promoting
- Equitability
- Understand what we're aiming for—what does ready mean?
- Help public legislators understand why investment is important
- Alaska Dev. Profile
- Let funders know clear info on what is a wise investment and what might not be
- Advocacy role(s)
- Early childhood data collection and uses at local level and w/ leadership – not used to keep children from services
- Promote/ensure local community engagement in decisions about getting kids ready
- Coordination across various sectors of EC&L community
- Schools ready for children—need for work w/ children in all domains, including social/emotional dev., approaches to learning, etc.
- Recommend a QRIS
- Recommend place for elders and young children in schools – built in spaces
- Community-based, diverse delivery system for early care and learning
- Help make connections across all 3 areas

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Priorities and Action Steps

1. Expand early childhood services to 5,000 new children and families through in home and out of home services.

- Describe what already exists.
- Determine the number of children on the waiting lists of existing programs.
- Survey existing programs' capacity to expand.
- Create a communication plan.

2. Identify methods to increase the pay in early childhood settings, particularly for those with higher degrees.

- Gather and promote existing models
 - Identify roadblocks or inhibitions to using existing resources on pay (such as fuel costs, some permitting costs, etc.).
 - Consider both programs and individuals.

3. Implement the QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) plan including an implementation time-line of activities and funding

- Establish the AECCC as an advisory entity for the QRIS
- Create an implementation timeline.

4. Increase awareness of the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines (ELGs) by coordinating efforts (public and private) to include the “universal” early care and learning workforce (parents; extended family, community).

- Promote the creation of a public awareness campaign.
- Promote alignment between the ELGs and the K-2 standards.
- Make the ELG's more user-friendly for parents

5. Embed “Strengthening Families” protective factors through systems across the board to include grant proposals, policies, materials development, and sustainability of long-term funding efforts.

- Establish a process for embedding the protective factors in statewide systems.
- Promote the protective factors in the larger community.

6. Support and promote a local partnerships grant process to invest in early childhood and family support.

- Raise awareness of local partnerships and their role within communities.
- Expand the partnership network.
- Advocate for a funding mechanism with training, technical assistance, and appropriate oversight.
- Identify the State's role and responsibilities.

7. Seek to ensure every child will have full access to well-child exams that follow the Alaska Periodicity Schedule which is based on the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- Raise awareness of the importance and availability of well-child exams.
- Reduce the barriers to accessibility of well-child exams.
- Expand availability of early health and developmental screenings at local health fairs and in other community settings.

The next AECCC meeting will be in Juneau on January 25th & 26th 2012.

Council members are invited to attend Legislative committee meetings and make informational visits to individual legislative offices on the morning of January the 25th (if you are traveling on state or federal funds, advocacy for specific bills and dollar amounts is not allowed and could jeopardize the standing of the council). The Education committee meetings are scheduled for an 8:00 am start.

The AECCC meeting will begin at 1:00pm on January 25th in the State Board room on the ground floor of the Goldbelt Building, 801 West 10th Street (not to be confused with the Goldbelt Hotel). The meeting will end at 4:30 pm and pick up again, in the same location, at 8:30 on the morning of the 26th and adjourn at 4:00 pm that afternoon. Additional details and a final agenda will be sent to you in the new-year, prior to your travel to Juneau.

If you have questions on travel or issues concerning the AECCC meeting please contact Paul Sugar before January 4th at (907) 465-4862 or paul.sugar@alaska.gov or Veronica Emmerich at (907) 465-8723 or veronica.emmerich@Alaska.gov after January 3rd.