

ECIC Executive Board Meeting (Conference Call)
MINUTES
June 30, 2009

Executive Committee Members

Betsy Boggs
Susan Broman, Chairperson
Elizabeth Bunn
Dan DeGrow
Deborah Dingell
David Hollister
Marvin McKinney
Marianne Udow-Phillips
Hubert Price
Larry Schweinhart
Sally Vaughn
Lisa Brewer-Walraven

Staff

Joan Blough
Keegan Cole
Michael Foley
Bryn Fortune
Matt Gillard
Carrie Hatcher
Andrew Heller
Mary Lannoye
Eric Mayes
Alissa Parks
Kathi Pioszak
Karen Roback
Jenny Salesa
Judy Samelson, CEO
Nazneen Syed

Public

None

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Broman called the meeting to order at approximately 1:04 p.m.

II. Invitation for Public Comment

None.

III. Approval of Minutes

None.

IV. Chairperson's Report

None.

V. New Business

Database Contract Discussion (for Child Care Quality Improvement Project)

Karen Roback discussed ECIC's recommendation for the Statewide Database Contract for the Quality Child Care Contracts. Ms. Roback explained that there were 3 proposals for this contract. The ECIC staff and DHS staff reviewed all 3 proposals. They enlisted the help of an outside contract who has experience building statewide databases as the direction that is desired to be headed. Providence reviewed these proposals as well. After everyone's feedback was reviewed, a list of follow up questions was drafted and more information was obtained and another review session was held with Lisa from DHS. After all the reviewing, the decision was that the recommendation was to award the contract to Work Life Systems. They may begin work as soon as ECIC can get a contract into their hands for them to begin building the database. The Child Care Referral Database is a priority and the goal is to have it up and running between October 1 and October 31, 2009. This was an expedited RFP process, and the budgets came well within our expected budgets. Ms. Roback then requested formal approval of the recommendation.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee approves the recommendation of awarding Work Life Systems the Child Care Referral Database Contract unanimously.

Motion by Dan DeGrow, supported by Lisa Brewer-Walraven. Motion carried unanimously.

Regional Child Care Resource Planning Grants Discussion

Ms. Roback discussed the reasons we set this project in motion. One of the reasons was to improve child care quality and reduce the overhead and administrative costs of current contracts. Other reasons included increase funds for direct services, increase outreach to relative and aide child care providers, and increase access to quality child care for families. Ms. Roback described the need for indentifying one coordinating body in each region. This then would help coordinate current child care quality improvement efforts, maximize effectiveness of expertise and resources, reduce or eliminate duplication of efforts, collaborate outreach initiatives to relative and aide child care providers, and align child care quality initiatives statewide. Ms. Roback further described improving child care across all settings to improve outcomes for children. To

accomplish this, various things would need to be done, such as utilizing effective/proven outreach methods for relative and aide providers, sharing child development and best practices with child care providers, and supporting child care providers to improve child care quality through consultation, coaching, and mentoring.

Ms. Roback then described what led to the development of the RFP, which was research that led ECIC to believe there needed to be more local community planning in determining support and services as well as an increase in accountability. There was a wide response to the RFP with applications detailing more local/regional/community input in the planning and the determination of supports and services, increased accountability to the community through continuous improvement, maximize funding, resources, and efforts to improve child care quality. The regions were determined by various factors such as the numbers of children living in poverty or receiving child care subsidy, Michigan geography, population of children, numbers of child care providers – licensed and registered, and relative and aide, and current collaborations in the area. The review process of the proposals involved review teams. Each review team included the GSC directors, parents, licensed child care providers, home-based CCP, Higher Education, Early On, Head Start, GSRP, Foundations and Community Early Childhood System. The assessment review and scoring was conducted by reviewing child care quality data specific to the region such as the numbers of children receiving subsidy, the numbers of child care facilities with subsidy, the numbers of licensed child care facilities, and statewide data on subsidized children disaggregated by race. Assets and needs for each region were then identified as well as a lack of assets to support relative and aide child care providers. There was one review session in each region facilitated by ECIC staff. During the review sessions, the team discussed the applications for their region and agreed on a shared team score against a set of rubrics. ECIC staff facilitating each session reviewed proposals and scores to verify consistency.

Ms. Roback then explained the planning phase which was to develop a Regional Child Care Quality Plan during the Interim Contract period of July to September 2009. The planning teams would be put together over the months of July, August, and September. The teams will come together in each region and identify those things that need to happen in their region to support child care providers and families. Ms. Roback explained that although at this time what the teams will look like is unknown, the teams should include GSC representation, parents, child care providers, and local early childhood partners. Also, there will be a coordinating body that will be responsible for maximizing the effectiveness of the center, the utilization of resources, and provide support and services. Ms. Roback explained that the coordinating body will also support implementation of a project rather than support an organization.

A question and answer session ensued between committee members and Ms. Roback.

Review Team's Recommendations for the Regional Centers

Ms. Roback then explained the entity selected for each region and the rationale for each selection. For Wayne County the recommended entity was United Way of

Southeast Michigan. Ms. Roback explained that the reviewers felt that the organization best suited was the United Way of Southeast Michigan for various reasons, please see attached. Oakland and Macomb County would also be serviced by the United Way of Southeast Michigan. Ms. Roback stated the recommendation for the Eastern Region which was the Saginaw County – MSU Extension Office. The rationale for this selection, she explained, was that it has a history of resources, diversity of programs, current collaborations, understanding of poverty and disparities and impact of child care quality improvement. Ms. Roback stated that Pathways, Inc was recommended for the Eastern Region. The rationale was that Pathways had proven experience doing regional work, a history of collaboration, utilizing and existing resources, and continuous improvement. Ms. Roback stated the recommendation for the Southwest Region which was Southwest Michigan 4C. The rationale for selecting this entity was the successive current collaborations and partnerships, good contacts and networks, accredited in-state and nationally, and Southwest Michigan 4C have current services for families and have outreach to non-traditional providers. Ms. Roback stated the entity recommended for the Central Region was Midland County ESA. This was because Midland County ESA absorbed the Midland County 4C Office and there currently is a partnership between the Child Advocacy Center, Midland ESA, and the Ingham County 4C Office. Further, Midland County 4C has a commitment to all providers across all settings, experience in managing large grants, clear evidence to support criteria in their narrative, a comprehensive strategic plan, and a history of collaboration. Ms. Roback stated the recommended entity for the Southeast Region was Child Care Network. The rationale for this selection was that there was clear evidence supporting the criteria, current partnerships, presence of a comprehensive strategic plan, and a history of collaboration. Ms. Roback stated that the recommended entity for the Northeast Region was the 4C Office of the Northeast. The rationale for this recommendation was that the 4C Office of the Northeast acknowledges the business community involvement in child care quality, there was strong evidence of innovation, and the entity provided a comprehensive application evidencing strong experience of working with the community. Ms. Roback explained that the entity recommended for the Northwest region was Northwest Michigan 4C Council. The rationale for this recommendation was that this entity has a strong referral component, a variety of resources, a comprehensive strategic plan, a comprehensive work plan, and a detailed budget. Ms. Roback stated the entity recommended for the Upper Peninsula Region was the 4C of the Upper Peninsula. The rationale for this recommendation was that there was strong evidence of collaboration, sound fiscal procedures, history of trainings and partnerships, and an understanding of the uniqueness of the UP.

A question and answer session ensued between committee members and Ms. Roback.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the recommendations for the Regional Associations are adopted as recommended by ECIC.

Motion by Sally Vaughn, supported by Dan DeGrow. Motion carried unanimously. Hubert Price and Larry Schweinhart abstained from voting.

Discussion on the Review Process for the Michigan Resource Center (State Entity)

Ms. Roback explained to the executive committee the need to go one step further and invite each of the applicants for the Michigan Resource Center to an interview for final determination and recommendation to the executive committee of whom that entity should be. There was no recommendation for this entity today. Ms. Roback explained that there will be a recruitment of a team of panelists and that a recommendation will be given to the Executive Committee next week. This is the coordinating body that will coordinate the curriculum team and a variety of other things.

Ms. Samelson took the floor to stress the fact that ECIC is very excited about the direction this project is going in but that we cannot understate that this is a change and everyone may get calls from people who do not like change. Ms. Samelson stated that for some this is going to cost money and there will be those concerns that we need to address. The process of integrity is that we need to follow the input for successful implementation of this project.

VI. Old Business

Budget Discussion

Ms. Samelson discussed the recent budget cut proposals. The Great Start Collaboratives got a cut of only \$750,000 and all that credit goes to the GSC's and parents of the coalitions to make sure their cases were heard. The Senate version of the DHS budget wiped ECIC out and that was because it was about the Senate trying to juggle and figure out where money can be saved. Ms. Samelson explained that the Senate does not understand the dynamics of quality spending. The \$14 million dollars of ECIC money, most of which goes to quality spending, is not going to be lost. Ms. Samelson further explained that Lisa Brewer-Walraven was working hard to educate folks. Ms. Samelson also explained that we do not know if the GSC dollars will hold where they are now because the Pre-K budget was wiped out. Today is the last meeting around school-aid budget. Ms. Samelson explained that we will not know until September as to what money we will have to work with. ECIC told the Strategic Planning committee yesterday that we have had staff running every budget scenario so that we can use due diligence to start planning for the upcoming year. Ms. Samelson explained that we even put it into the TA meeting, as in what are the priorities and what do we have to do to keep this place. Ms. Samelson explained that although we do not have a figure yet, we hope that by the September meeting we will, but we are still unsure of that as well. We will keep trying to run scenarios and keep pushing advocacy so that work continues. Ms. Samelson explained to the committee that although Lisa is supportive, everybody seems to have child day care services as a target and it is hard for her, to tell us, ECIC, what DHS can or is committed to doing. Ms. Samelson stressed that this is a very fluid process right now and that if worse comes to

worse, we can maintain our services for a while due to the Kellogg Grant and we can also step up grant writing. Ms. Samelson stated that we will have money in October – the question remains as to how much and how we are going to prioritize what remains.

VII. Items of Note

VIII. Adjournment

Chairman Broman adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nazneen Syed