

ANNUAL REPORT



Early Childhood Coordinating Council

2012-2013

Prepared for Governor C.L. Butch Otter

August 8, 2013



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IDAHO COUNCIL HISTORY

Idaho combined and consolidated the Interagency Coordinating Council (Idaho Code Title 16, Chapter 1, 1991) and the Early Care and Learning Cross Systems Task Force {Executive Order (EO) No. 2004-01} in 2006 under EO 2006-13. Another merge of advisory groups pulled in the Head Start Collaboration in 2008 to establish greater coordination, communication and efficiency of early childhood resources and initiatives in the state. An EO, signed by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter in 2011 named the Early Childhood Coordinating Council (EC3) as the state Early Childhood Council, also meeting P.L. 110-134, the Improving Head Start Readiness Act of 2007. This Council is charged with statewide strategic planning for Early Childhood and serves to oversee implementation of the Idaho Early Childhood Comprehensive Plan as established in the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 26 members appointed by Governor Otter on the state council; 115 members of seven regional early childhood committees; 42 members of working subcommittees

COUNCIL COMPOSITION

1. State agency responsible for child care
2. Local education agency (met through committee structure)
3. Institutes of higher education
4. Local providers of early childhood education and development services
5. Head Start agency (Head Start Association and met through committee structure)
6. Head Start Collaboration
7. IDEA Part C, Infant Toddler Program
8. IDEA Part B, 619 Program
9. Idaho Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
10. Community Council (Migrant Seasonal Head Start)
11. Child Welfare -- Foster Care
12. State legislature
13. Medicaid
14. Maternal Child Health (MCH)
15. Parents' of children with disabilities (20% of council membership)
16. Regional Early Childhood Committee
17. Public Health District



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18. Developmental Disabilities Council
19. Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind
20. State Department of Insurance
21. Mental Health
22. Others at the discretion of the Governor

CHAIR(S) OF COUNCIL: The Council is co-chaired by a parent and a professional

SUBCOMMITTEES: 6

The Council reorganized in the fall of 2012 to a committee structure focused on early childhood programs and programmatic issues. This structure is conducive for in-depth work that cannot be accomplished during quarterly meetings. It also provides an opportunity to engage additional volunteers to complete strategies. The Governance Committee is comprised of the Council Co-Chairs and Chair of the five working committees. Each committee meets 1 X per month for 1 hour or less through phone or video conference. The following is a list of working committees:

- Governance
- Home visiting and parent education
- Early education and child care
- Data and resources
- IDEA Part C Infant Toddler Program
- Head Start

COUNCIL FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The Council operates by braiding funds from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant. Part C funding covers meetings, travel and materials for the Council and \$3,000 to each of seven Regional Early Childhood Committees. ECCS provides the staff to coordinate council activities and meetings. This has been an effective and efficient partnership that meets the needs of federal Part C regulations and a statewide council for early childhood.

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SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Needs Assessments

- I. Working with the Idaho Children's Trust Fund, Idaho Chapter of AAP and Child Welfare, in March 2013 a S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis provided specific information about Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma prevention activities around the state. Please see Attachment A for the S.W.O.T. Analysis Report and participants.
- II. A S.W.O.T. analysis conducted in March 2013 and broadly reviewed by early childhood stakeholders revealed the need to develop prevention and mitigation around toxic stress or also known as adverse childhood experiences (ACE). Please see Attachment B for a S.W.O.T. Analysis Report.
- III. In collaboration with the Idaho Oral Health Program, Idaho Chapter of AAP, Infant Toddler Program and Migrant Seasonal Head Start, and looking at Medicaid data for the number of infants routinely receiving an oral health exam, a decision was made to develop an oral health initiative for babies.
- IV. An assessment of the availability of books for check-out in early childhood programs led to the Infant Toddler Program participation in ***Routes to Reading Program***. Conducted by the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the State Department of Education, the assessment showed most early childhood education programs did not offer books for check-out.

Needs Assessments Turned to Action

I. Shaken Baby Syndrome (Abusive Head Trauma) Prevention

Situations of Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) also known as Abusive Head Trauma, started rising in Idaho during the recession and despite efforts of many hospitals and programs, the numbers are still not declining. In 2011, the Council joined the Idaho Children's Trust Fund, Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and a member of the state legislature to promote a Joint Resolution about Shaken Baby Syndrome prevention. With further study in 2013, although prevention programs (parent education) are available across the state, there appears to be little to no fidelity to the models.

The following strategies have been accomplished with the Idaho Children's Trust Fund, Idaho Chapter of AAP and Child Welfare:



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- Assessment of existing prevention programs implemented by hospitals;
- Development and print of Shaken Baby Syndrome Facts in Idaho; and
- Call to Action Summit with the formation of working groups across the state

Impact: Potential statewide impact.

II. Mitigation of Toxic Stress

In response to the federal release of a new three-year State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant cycle, a small team of early childhood program managers within the Department of Health and Welfare met to do an initial S.W.O.T analysis on prevention and mitigation of toxic stress. This initial analysis was sent to the Council and early childhood stakeholders for input. Following the analysis, and backed by the research and national attention to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), a three-year-work-plan and timeline will be implemented beginning in September 2013. The work plan, please see Attachment C, provides the map for the Council and partners to work together on the following three goals:

- Education and training about toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences;
- Coordinated data collection and analysis; and
- Collaboration, cooperation, communication and coordination among early childhood stakeholders.

Impact: Potential statewide impact.

III. Oral Health for Babies (BABieS FIRST: Tooth, Brush, & Visit)

Finding a gap in oral health outreach for babies prompted an initiative to provide oral health education to parents of babies and toddlers enrolled in the Infant Toddler Program, Migrant Seasonal Head Start and through pediatric offices in the Treasure Valley. This initiative was collaboratively planned with the Department of Health & Welfare's Divisions of Health and FACS, and the Idaho Chapter of AAP through the Building Bridges grant. Aligned with the Idaho Oral Health Plan, over the next year, 6,000 families of infants will receive a toothbrush and instructions on how to prevent tooth decay. An additional 1,000 infants will be targeted through statewide developmental screening notices. The initiative is backed by research that shows good oral health care during the first year of life leads to fewer oral health care



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issues over the lifespan. Success will be measured by comparing baseline information and an annual report showing how many children between birth and two years of age visit their dentist for a check-up.

Impact: 6,000 infants with potential statewide impact.

IV. Early Literacy and Health Initiative

In collaboration with the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), children enrolled in the Infant Toddler Program and their families have an opportunity to participate in *Routes to Reading -- Books To Go*. Over 1,100 book bags stuffed with story books and ideas to extend learning experiences, travel with therapists' and service coordinators' to the homes of these young children. The books, carefully selected for optimum learning, encourage letter knowledge, math (counting) and vocabulary. Research from the Center for Early Literacy Learning, found adult-child reading interventions promoted the development of both expressive and receptive language. This type of intervention also serves to strengthen adult-child relationships that build social and emotional skills. A contribution for the project of over 2,700 books was provided by the ECCS grant.

Impact: Potential statewide impact for promoting pre-literacy outcomes on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and embedding literacy into everyday activities. Annual IDEA Part C cumulative enrollment for Dec 1, 2012 was 3,503.

Early literacy linked to health will continue to flourish under the AAP Building Bridges grant. One goal of this grant written by Dr. Noreen Womack is to expand Reach Out and Read program opportunities with physicians. Reach Out and Read is an evidence-based program founded and delivered by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Physicians', during a routine well-child check, hand a new book to the young child at the beginning of the check-up. The health care provider counsels the family about the importance of reading to their child 20 minutes each day. Council support comes by way of translation and distribution of the bookmark.

Impact: Potential regional impact of 10,000 young children in the Treasure Valley.



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OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Regional Early Childhood Committees

Regional committees provide statewide outreach and local implementation for the EC3. During the past year, regional committees have implemented early literacy and oral health activities and public awareness for IDEA Part C.

Use of Technology

In 2012, the Council turned green. Portable drives, on-loan laptop computers and web postings replaced hard copy presentations and other materials to save costs and other resources. In 2013, video-conferencing equipment was tested by the Council for feasibility of committee meetings and to use as one of four quarterly Council meeting forums. For committee work, a webinar format was used on two separate occasions allowing for document display and coordinated comments on issues.

Impact: Savings of \$2,800.00 annually

Idaho Core Competencies for Early Care and Education

Idaho Core Competencies will go to print in the fall of 2013. Following a two-year cycle of research, drafting and public comment, the Council will release a set of standards for professional knowledge, performance, temperament and character, and the foundational framework for professional development and academic preparation programs. These competencies are aligned with the National Council for Teacher Education (NCATE) and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Five competency levels will cover non-academic through specialized graduate degrees.

Impact: Over 3,000 adults in the field of early childhood.

Communications and Social Media

The Council developed a Facebook page in 2009. During the past year 2012-2013, Facebook “likes” increased by 82%. The highest number of hits on Facebook occurs when announcing Council business. A newsletter called the Early Childhood Communicator is published and distributed electronically on a quarterly basis to share news about Council meetings and important early childhood issues. An early care and learning blog is also available for fund raising.



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Impact: An average of 300 hits per week for Facebook posts. Quarterly newsletter distribution reaches over 1,000.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

For the past year, the Council has been exploring sustainability without requesting funds from the legislature.

- Request all grant funded programs requiring a State Advisory Council to participate in funding the Council; i.e. IDEA Part C, and Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and invite federally funded partners needing advice or assistance to also contribute.
- Explore and determine if there is duplication of efforts with statewide committees.
- Use of technology and gathering of in-kind resources for operation of the Council and use Part C money to pay for staffing.

Council Website: www.earlychildhood.dhw.idaho.gov

