

COUNCIL MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

Parents

Amber Seipert
Bonnie Moses
Tricia Sturgis

State Legislature

Tim Corder
Phylis King

Infant Toddler Program

Mary Jones

Business

Sherry Iverson

Health District

Gary Rillema

State Department of Education

Shannon Dunstan

Regional Early Childhood Representative

& Early Intervention Provider
Cathie Johnson

Early Intervention Private Providers

Paula Mason

Medicaid

Robin Pewtress

State Childcare Administrator

Genie Sue Weppner

Foster Care

Diane Helton

Maternal Child Health

Dieuwke Spencer

Personnel Preparation, Higher Education

David Allen, BYU-Idaho

State Tribal Representative

Carol Blessing

State Department of Insurance

Joan Krosch

Idaho Community Council

Sara San Juan

Idaho Developmental Disabilities Council

Vacant

Idaho Head Start Association

Stan Burton

Head Start State Collaboration

Carolyn Kiefer

Physician Representative

Dr. Steven Felix

Early Childhood Professional Organization

Meiissa Bandy



Annual Report April 2010 - April 2011

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (SECCS)

Report by: Lorraine Evans Clayton, M.Ed.

STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS (SECCS) GRANT FROM THE MATERNAL
AND CHILD HEALTH BUREAU (TITLE V, SOCIAL SECURITY ACT), HEALTH RESOURCES
AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.



April 28, 2011

The Early Childhood Coordinating Council (EC3) is a consolidation of the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) as established in Idaho Code in 1991 and the Early Care and Learning Cross Systems Task Force as enhanced through Executive Order in 2006. Merging of the two groups provided an opportunity to streamline the functions and responsibilities and eliminate duplication creating government efficiencies. The Council has been operating as a single group since September 2007.

Holding true to their **Mission Statement**, the EC3 provides **Leadership, Education, and Coordination** through a willingness to hear and address issues pertaining to systems, services, local coordination, and quality factors that impact families accessibility to services. Leadership comes through a forum of listening, recommendations and problem solving. Education occurs during and between meetings through information sharing with regional areas and outreach to other groups. Coordination takes place through planning, communication, and implementation as no single agency or entity has the expertise, resources, or capacity to address all issues of young children and their families.

The Council meets four times per year and committees work through conference calls on a monthly basis. Working committees include: executive, standing, and ad hoc as needed.

One of the primary roles of the Council is to advise and assist the Department of Health and Welfare regarding issues around implementation of the Infant Toddler Program, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C. In this role, the Council provides ongoing support and recommendations to the program.

Other primary roles of the Council are to provide oversight for the state Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant, AmeriCorps*VISTA project and Head Start. The ECCS grant is to strengthen and/or develop systems around five focus areas. The focus areas are: health, social and emotional development, early care and education, parent education, and family supports. These are known to be the basic elements to help families prepare their children for school and for life-long learning. AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers assist in implementing the state plan for early childhood. Head Start issues are processed through an Ad Hoc Committee that meets twice a year and monthly by phone.

Council membership is diverse based on federal regulations for Part C, Idaho Code, Head Start Reauthorization Act 2007, and the larger scope of early childhood and the state systems grant. No other Council or organization in Idaho fulfills the duties of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

This report will provide an overview of some of the accomplishments of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council and Regional Committees over the past 12 months. The Council work is complex and at times difficult to measure. Collaborative efforts, combining resources and sharing information as noted in this document provide evidence for the commitment and meaningful volunteerism of this group. For additional information you may contact the staff office for the Council at 334-5699.

VISION

All Idaho's children grow up healthy, safe and nurtured by their families, with quality learning opportunities, and are able to reach their fullest potential supported by inclusive community services.

MISSION

Provide leadership and education, and coordinate resources for Idaho's young children and their families.

TEN SHARED GOALS

1. Families of young children have a regular health care provider that oversees their health care and refers them to other services and resources as needed (medical home).
2. All children receive appropriate health-related services for optimal health and development.
3. Families of young children have access to social and emotional screening, and when needed, assessment and age-appropriate follow-up care.
4. Young children have access to high quality child care, when needed.
5. Young children access early learning opportunities to support school readiness and their optimal development.
6. Families and caregivers of young children have access to information, resources and support to help them raise healthy, strong children.
7. Parents and caregivers meet the basic needs of children.
8. Families, communities, businesses and the state work together to establish strategies and procedures that support families of young children.
9. Assure linkages and coordination among providers and programs that serve families of young children.
10. Establish and use outcomes and indicators to assess and monitor changes in the health and well-being of families of young children.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As volunteers and stakeholders the Early Childhood Coordinating Council is a required component to receive funding for IDEA, Part C Infant Toddler Program, and for other federal grants. Specific to the Infant Toddler Program, the Council completed the following:

- 1) Provided review and comments on the IDEA Part C federal application for the Infant Toddler Program;
- 2) Reviewed Infant Toddler State Performance Plan and assisted in establishing targets for the next three-year cycle of child and family outcomes;
- 3) Provided comments regarding the Family Cost Participation Fee;
- 4) Provided input on Infant Toddler Program brochures design and content;
- 5) Utilized AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers/members to transition Developmental Milestones (Child Find) from regional health district contracts to a centralized electronic function;
- 6) Reviewed state and federal rules and legislative activities impacting families and young children and provided comments;
- 7) Identified resources to assist partners and stakeholders to develop grants, provide public awareness and social marketing;
- 8) Provided education and leadership, and a collaborative model for the operation of local Regional Early Childhood Committees;
- 9) Served as a sponsor in the development and implementation of the infant and toddler mental health association and endorsement system;
- 10) Served as a sponsor in the development, release, and implementation of the Early Learning Guidelines;
- 11) Provided support to the U of I, SDE, and Department of Health & Welfare initiative training development team to Learn the Signs of Autism and ACT Early; and
- 12) Continued Early Childhood Information Clearinghouse website content development and update of information.
<http://www.earlychildhood.dhw.idaho.gov>



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As volunteers and stakeholders the Early Childhood Coordinating Council (EC3) advises & assists the State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant, Americorps*VISTA projects and Head Start Collaboration. AmeriCorp*VISTA requires an advisory group prior to approving the grant/contract.

- 1) Determined the need for scholarships to support Blended Certificate studies for Early Childhood/ Early Childhood Special Education. Established an endowed scholarship fund in the name of Karen Mason (deceased Council member). AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers spearheaded fundraising activities to establish the scholarship. The Council formed a partnership with the Idaho Community Foundation. A goal was set to raise \$5,000 per year. In 2010 that goal was met.
- 2) Reviewed the state Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems plan quarterly for progress.
- 3) Provided recommendations for the Head Start Collaboration five-year plan.
- 4) Conducted a survey about the availability of parent education across the state. AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers developed and completed the phone survey of stakeholders in each of the 44 counties.
- 5) Developed and distributed 5,000 bookmarks about Shaken Baby Syndrome. AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers identified the artwork and assisted with the production of the markers. Worked collaboratively with the Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to distribute the educational information to birthing hospitals.
- 6) Worked collaboratively with the State Treasurer and Attorney General Offices on the 529 IDEal Campaign for college savings. AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers developed a marketing plan including social marketing tools to reach parents of young children.
- 7) Supported the efforts of the Division of Health and the Idaho Immunization Coalition to increase the number of young children that are fully immunized. The EC3 used social marketing through Facebook, and collaborated with the Idaho Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics and others on the Back To School Campaign.
- 8) Reviewed and co-sponsored development of companion materials for the Early Learning Guidelines. Other partners include the State Department of Education and Infant Toddler Program.



STAKEHOLDER AND OTHER REPORTS

Quarterly meetings of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council include reports from stakeholders, Part C, and Council staff. Reports include data that indicate specific challenges and often requests. The reports and presentations serve to inform, align, and eliminate duplication of efforts and services. A few examples of reports presented to the Council are listed below.

- Idaho Parents Unlimited
- Idaho Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Plan
- Regional Committee Reports
- Strategic planning for immunizations
- Medicaid Children's Redesign
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Criminal Justice Commission -- Early Childhood Sub-Committee
- Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children
- University of Idaho Early Childhood Research Plan
- Infant Toddler Program
- Maternal Child Health Program
- Head Start
- Statewide Oral Health Coalition
- Idaho Child Care Program

STATE IMPROVEMENT/RESULTS

The Early Childhood Coordinating Council monitors results pertaining to Idaho's Early Care and Learning Plan. The plan covers five components that support families, communities and the state with helping families prepare children for school and life. The five components of the plan were stated in the Executive Summary. Plan implementation is carried out by state and community partners and VISTA members. The Council forum provides an opportunity to discuss and share information across programs and systems and to help ensure coordination while reducing chances of duplication of services. In the state Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems plan, targets were set to improve child and family well-being.

Idaho immunization rates for young children increased from among the lowest rate to national average (over 10% increase). The Council worked with the newly established Idaho Immunization Coalition and the Division of Health to provide public awareness about the importance of immunizations. Tools used include social marketing on Facebook, providing input on the state plan and collaborating on the Back To School Campaign.



STATE IMPROVEMENT/RESULTS CONTINUED

Idaho met the Healthy People 2010 goal for breastfeeding at 6 and 12 months and exclusive at 3 and 6 months. The federal requirements for both MCH and the State Early Childhood Comprehensive Grant require the identification of several Healthy People goals when making a grant application. Using data from the Centers for Disease Control, it is possible to see trend data and annual numbers.

Idaho implemented a statewide Quality Rating and Improvement Scale (QRIS) using Environment Rating Scales. Developed by Thelma Harms, the Environment Rating Scale provides a research-based, reliable and valid measure when looking for quality in child care settings. Idaho's voluntary enrollment in the Quality Improvement Rating System assists some providers in reaching quality measures in relationships, physical environment, and other areas where improvement is needed. The Early Childhood Coordinating Council commented on the development of the QRIS and tracks progress as an indicator of child well-being. As reported by the IdahoSTARS program, 145 center-based child care programs enrolled in the Quality Rating and Improvement System from 2010 to 2011.

The number of Idaho newborns screened for hearing loss without follow-up needed has increased with more sophisticated screening equipment at most birthing hospitals and centers. The screener sends four different pitches to the ear drum and checks for auditory brain response. Given the accuracy of this new equipment, fewer children are placed on the recall list for re-screening. This indicator is a measure of child well-being and was selected in collaboration with the Idaho Sound Beginnings Program and the Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

Implementation of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement ensures highly qualified individuals will work at one of four levels to provide promotion, prevention, intervention and therapeutic services. The Early Childhood Coordinating Council worked on a team to bring this endorsement to Idaho and to promote the development of a nonprofit organization to oversee training and endorsement.

Development and implementation of the Infant Toddler database has been monitored by the Early Childhood Coordinating Council as it serves as the mechanism to provide current and accurate data to advise and assist the Department of matters of implementation.



STATE IMPROVEMENT/RESULTS CONTINUED

Development and implementation of electronic screening for the Infant Toddler Program created an opportunity to combine child developmental screening and use of technology that is familiar and user-friendly for parents of young children. Also, the transition from regional contracts and paper screening to current available technology will eventually save personnel, print, and mailing costs. VISTA members initially provided the coordination and support and for this project.

Child outcome data shows that 50% of children graduating from the Infant Toddler Program function at age level. In accordance with federal child outcome data collection requirements, children are tested with standardized instruments to determine eligibility for early intervention. If eligible, an individualized activity-based plan is developed to assist family members to provide opportunities for their child to grow and develop in natural learning environments. Children are again tested with the same tool when exiting the program. Examination of the entry and exit information shows the past and current level of functioning for each child. The Early Childhood Coordinating Council requests and monitors this data annually and assists the program in setting the performance measures for three year intervals.

REGIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITTEES

Seven Regional Early Childhood Committees function as the outreach for the Early Childhood Coordinating Council (EC3). A statewide charter provides the guidance for the local-to-state relationship, along with recommendations for membership to ensure diverse and inclusive planning for all young children and their families. During 2010 local committees joined the EC3 in public awareness activities and strengthening the communication and connections between communities and state systems.

Region I (Benewah, Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai & Shoshone Counties)
Region 1 produced an Infant/Toddler Program Calendar and used community connections to promote emerging and early literacy activities.



Region II (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties) This Regional Early Childhood Committee focuses on health and safety by joining community partners in providing resources for families of young children.



Region III (Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette & Washington Counties)
Region III Early Childhood Committee collaborated with a local hospital to support parent education during and after hospitalization for birthing. The education is intended to reduce Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Region IV (Ada, Boise, Elmore, Valley Counties)
Region IV had a very successful Family Fun Day with over 300 people attending. This event helps families with children transitioning out of the Infant Toddler Program find community support and connections. Representatives from local school districts' preschool programs and other agencies collaborate and assure that families of young children receive a bag of school readiness materials.



Region V (Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls Counties)
Region V Early Childhood Committee collaborated with CSI and South Central Association for the Education of Young Children to hold a regional conference for early childhood teachers and professionals.

Region VI (Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, Power Counties)
Region VI committee worked with the community to promote activities during the week of the young child in conjunction with the Idaho AEYC affiliate. See also Region VII.

Region VII (Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton Counties)
Region VII Early Childhood Committee is known for its strong relationship with local school districts. Focusing on transition of young children and education/training for early childhood professionals, this group also collaborates with the Region VI committee to offer high quality regional workshops.