

**Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC)
Meeting Notes July 28, 2016**

Objectives

- Identify short- and long-term priorities for the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC) (*during meeting AECCC decided to focus meeting on objectives listed below*)
- Identify specific action items related to the governance structure and membership of the AECCC
- Articulate specific roles and responsibilities for the leadership of the AECCC and its members

Outcomes:

- Council leadership will have clear direction to increase engagement of the council on the governor's early childhood agenda, procedural decisions, revising bylaws including but not limited to clarifying roles and responsibility and membership (how people are appointed, approved, selected).

Welcome, Introductions, and AECCC Business

- Introductions of all AECCC members and NGA staff
- Framing the meeting – Why are we here? Why this work matters?
- *Participant Question* – How can we coordinate all ECE work?
 - Do as much work as possible that does not require funding because of the budget situation, be realistic about the budget situation (Alaska has no revenues on the horizon), focus on policies not programs
 - Bring a unified voice to Governor (what should be preserved in the budget? Where can there be cuts?)
 - Regular communication with Governor from constituents about the importance of ECE
 - Important for Governor to frame early childhood as a social and economic issue

Description of the NGA Comprehensive Strategy Project and Overview of Meeting

Objectives

- Comprehensive Strategy Project cross-state meeting was great because of the conversations with other states, opportunity to hear lesson learned from Cohort 1 states and share other information related to the project.
- Through conversation with other states Alaska state participants realized state needs to work on the governance/structure of the AECCC

Governance and Organizational Models Across States

- NGA staff provided information on the governance and organization of the early childhood coordinating council in three states (Delaware, New York, and Mississippi) and summary of the committee options for AECCC
- Overview of the current governance and structure of AECCC
 - Co-chaired by Commissioner from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education (responsible for meetings)
 - Co-facilitated by Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education
 - Members appointed for two or three year terms and mix of people from public and private sector

- Are there members missing from the AECCC membership list in the bylaws?
 - Yes
 - § Representative from public health (based on bylaws could be a member but currently AECCC does not have a representative)
 - § Representative from tribal department

Participant Question – What are the priorities of the AECCC?

- Budget (being proactive vs. reactive) through advocacy
- Protecting general fund dollars for ECE
- Communicating the return on investment of ECE (messaging important for funding)
- Focusing on what is best for Alaska kids (advocacy)

Grants and AECCC

Early Childhood Comprehensive System Grant

- Background
 - 1 of 10 states that received the grant
 - Goal to develop a comprehensive ECE system
 - Alaska will target 5 communities (use lesson from these communities to develop a comprehensive ECE system)
- AECCC will be advisory council for the grant
- *Follow up* –Do we want representatives from the target communities to report to the AECCC or one member of the AECCC (this member would be responsible for updating to AECCC)

MIECHV

- Background
 - Use Nurse-Family Partnership Model for home visiting
 - Steering committee for home visiting in 2010 (look at home visiting data for Anchorage)
- Currently AECCC is not the advisory body for this grant
- *Follow up* -- MIECHV would like to use AECCC as advisory body (this requires representative from public and private sector to be on AECCC)

CCDF

- Reauthorization requires consultation and coordination with AECCC around a variety of issues such as training, professional development, disaster planning, as well as child care market price survey

Child Care Resource and Referral

- Require working with statewide national group (such as AECCC)
- Child Care Aware of America (member)
- Currently working with a different statewide council not AECCC

New requirements for ESSA

- For Title I need to use the HS Advisory Council or State Advisory Council
 - For ESSA membership of AECCC should include principals or Federal program managers or others connected to Title I)
- ESSA also includes preschool development grants (to expand pre-K) – important to have AECCC involved

- *Follow up* – make sure members of Council include right members to focus on ESSA (Title I and preschool development)

QRIS (Learn and Grow)

- Background
 - CCDF (require QRIS system)
 - Alaska launched new QRIS (Learn and Grow system)
 - Already met goal of having 10% (36 programs) in Learn and Grow
 - Need support to get blended funding to put programs in all levels of Learn and Grow
- *Follow up*- AECCC voice needed for messaging around quality early childhood education also unified voice could help to get full Learn and Grow system in Alaska

Roles and Responsibilities of the AECCC

Staffing for AECCC meetings

- Currently no staff for meetings (need someone to take minutes, logistics of setting up/running meeting)
 - Options
 - § Uses grant dollar from MIECHV to staff their Council (example Arizona)
 - § Use steering committee (example NJ)
 - § Contract this role out to someone
 - § Have Best Beginning take on coordinating role (would need funding)
 - § Use money from private funders (matching grants, public/private blended funds) example Montana
 - § Hire a Consultant
 - Should the state pick a consultant from a partner organization? (concerns about conflict of interest)
 - But most council members in Alaska from the government (in state likely would know or have partnered with consultant)
 - § NGA grant (could provide temporary funding for staffing the AECCC)

Decision Making/Action Items

- Current Structure for Decision Making/Action Items
 - Since co-chairs been members AECCC Council has not had to vote on any items
 - Currently, commissioners approve agenda
 - State developed a strategic report (few years ago) but no movement with report
- *Issues to Consider*
 - Will the AECCC act as an advocacy group or decision making body?
 - Is the subcommittee structure a better method to move the ECE work forward?

Communications

- Background
 - State Board use to focus on early education
 - State Board (opportunity to discuss ESSA and ECE, connect education pipeline etc.)
- *Issues to Consider*
 - Should the AECCC have a member report to the State Board?

- How can the AECCC communicate with State Board about their work and use Board to connect to other work in the state?

Core Committees for AECCC

Participant Question - What can drive us to be able to meet the needs of kids in our state?

- Innovation/Financing (need a subcommittee)
- Innovation and investment creates sustainability for ECE
- Think about how membership of AECCC can support state in getting the needed funds for ECE

Healthy Start and Strong Families

- Improving well outcomes (e.g. health, strong families, prenatal)
- Bi-annual ECE Report includes information related to well outcomes
- Social and emotional learning
- Attachment
- Home visiting (MIECHV)
- Amendments to AECCC Membership
- Should we also include access to high quality programs in this area?

High Quality Early Care and Education

- QRIS (Learn and Grow)
- Access
- Affordability
- CCDBG
- SEED
- Transitions
- Workforce Development
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Bridging Early Childhood K-3 (this could be moved to data and systems alignment)

Data and Systems Alignment

- Common/Shared Measures
- Baseline data
- Indicators for improvement
- Systems mapping (which programs serve kids in each community)
- Help me Grow (May not belong in this section)
- Consolidate mapping/data in a meaningful way/prioritizing measures (common measures)
- Bridging early childhood K-3 (this may be moved to high quality ece)
- Kindergarten Development Profile

Innovation and Long Term Investment

- New actors involved in early care and education
- Funding
- Medicaid reform
- Locally designed funding
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Technology

- Innovations in technology
- Native Corporations

Public Engagement

- Reports
- Education
- Outreach
- Legislative Outreach
- Make local-state-federal policy connections

Community Partnerships

- Native Corporations
- Develop local partnerships
- Support of local partners/ collaborative efforts (Education Commission of the States project)

AECCC Structure/Organization

Options

- Steering/Subcommittee structure to move work forward
- Leadership
 - Co-chairs
 - § Public (co-chairs)
 - § Public and Private (co-chairs)
 - Value in hearing voice of constituents/public
 - Commissioners as the chairs
 - § Sub-chair or Commissioner designee can report to Commissioner if they are not present
 - § Commissioners could head the work but chairs/others make decision, lead work, and move the work forward
 - *Issues to Consider*
 - If want teeth and need investments need to have Commissioners
 - Is there a conflict of interest for Commissioners?
- Should the AECCC be put into statute?
 - *Issues to Consider*
 - § If put in statute or members appointed AECCC lose its autonomy
 - § May be able to make more of a difference if AECC sits outside of state politics
 - § Without structuring then hard to move the AECCC work forward
 - Maybe goal should be to have AECCC appointed members in the future
 - *Issues to consider*
 - § How is the AECCC most useful to the administration? (question makes sense in a favorable administrative climate but not in an unfavorable climate)
 - § What are the membership requirements for the grants the AECCC is serving as an advisory body for?
 - *Follow up* – What is the process for being put in statute?

Amendments to AECCC Membership

Issues to Consider

- What are the membership requirements under the Head Start Act of 2007?
- Should member be 12 public and 11 state government? (current structure?)
 - This structure is limiting because may be a conflict of interest for state government members to vote on some legislation
- Should the AECCC delete some of the members included in bylaws?
 - Department of Labor
 - § Not as engaged because of the structure of the Council
 - § Could get a representative of dept. of labor who works with data, statistics and on federal opportunities to connect work of Council
 - § New opportunities under federal laws such as WIOA for Dept. of Labor to provide supports to develop ECE workforce
 - Department of Public Safety
 - § Not as engaged because of the structure of the AECCC
 - § Could fill with a person outside of government (e.g. police officer)
- Should the AECCC designate broader membership positions like in NY?
- Should the AECCC add more members from the public?
 - Examples
 - § AAYC
 - § State libraries, museum
 - § State Library Association
 - § Alaska Children's Trust
 - § Alaska Mental Health Board
 - § Law Enforcement/Court System (judges), Court Improvement Project (focus on child welfare)
 - § Early Intervention Committee (Kristy Reinhardt), Gov. Council on Disability
 - § Parents
 - § Tribal Representation/Representation from Tribal Consortium
 - § Business Representative
 - § Representative from Native Corporation
 - § Representative from Tribal Child Care
 - § Representatives from different geographical areas (rural/urban), ethnicities, languages
- How does the Council keep from duplicating memberships?
- Should the Council meetings be open to the public?
 - § Would need logistical support/staffing to open meeting to the public
- Should the AECCC have at large members?
 - § Pros: Greater flexibility in membership, members more committed to the work
 - § Cons: By naming groups membership more representative of community, increase the chance for buy in

Next Steps: Actions and Tasks for AECCC

- Revise Bylaws

- AECCC members and leadership
 - § Discuss options for the leadership with Commissioners
- Determine Subcommittees structure
- Finalize Strategic Plan/Report for Council
 - Last one done in 2012
- Timeline
 - Follow up on this discussion (August)
 - Meet with Commissioners to Discuss AECCC Structure/Leadership (August/Early September)
 - Follow up meeting for grant staff (Aug. 15)
 - Determine AECCC Structure (September)
 - Sub-committee Membership Meeting (October)
 - AECCC Meeting (November 3) – finalize membership/organization and structure of AECCC