Welcome and Introductions

I. Child Care Regulation Reform

Discussion:
Three issues that were identified at last month’s Board presentation, which were also addressed by small internal workgroups were brought to the Policy and Program Committee (Committee) of the Board. These issues included: oral health, use (fall) zones, and professional development regarding diverse learners.

Committee Recommendations:
Several options were presented to the Committee and after a discussion, their recommendations are as follows:

1. Oral Health: Require in all programs where children have a meal; including breakfast; include language regarding a time limit. This would apply to school age programs when they go full time during vacation and in the summer. Technical assistance: make technical assistance and resources available to all programs.
2. Use (fall) zones for FCC: Require at a future date (2012?) so that providers have enough notice to retrofit existing play equipment (should they choose to continue using it). Require that all new climbing structures installed after the effective date of the regulations have fall zones. Technical assistance: provide regarding large muscle activities that do not require playground equipment; identify potential resources to help FCC providers comply. Also important for urban areas where local play grounds may not have fall zones.

3. Professional development on diverse learners: Increase percentage of professional development that must address diverse learners from 25% to 33% to recognize the importance of this issue.
   a. Professional development workgroup of the Advisory drafts a statement that all professional development must include children who are diverse learners.
   b. Workgroup also to research the availability of training that meets this requirement.

The committee’s recommendations will be presented to the EEC Advisory Team meeting on Friday, April 3rd in preparation for next addressing these issues at the Board meeting on 4/14, where the Board is expected to vote.

II. Planning for Economic Stimulus Funding

Discussion:
Amy Kershaw provided an overview on the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) and advised the Committee that the next meeting on April 6th would focus two hours on this topic.

It was discussed that the document that tracked public input on the ARRA:
- should flag whether an option is a capital option or operational expense;
- may be helpful if sorted by ideas that support accreditation (discussion was had regarding the potential for accreditation grants that went directly to providers; the provider could submit a proposal on how they would become accredited in two years)
- could pull up the ideas that keep people in jobs (working families, keep jobs, continuity)
- Would be useful to have in excel for sorting purposes
- Funds for “fall zones” (pertaining to Regulation conversation) could be added as a Capital Option

III. Planning for FY2010 EEC Grant Awards

Discussion: (note: Carol Craig O’Brien abstained from participation in this conversation)
The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft vision document regarding the concept for Coordinated Local Family and Community Engagement Infrastructure, which would include the following current EEC funding: CPC Local Planning and Coordination, MFN, PCHP and JFSP programs. The discussion centered on how to create a consistent infrastructure across the state that preserves the core functions and strengths of the existing system but is reframed in terms of child, family and community outcomes, with enough flexibility so that locally communities are meeting the needs of their population (linguistically, geographically etc.).

To move towards the vision the Committee discussed a proposal for FY2010 to allow communities, with multiple grants supporting similar goals to submit one joint proposal, with the potential for this pilot submission to be implemented through a competitive bid process in FY2011.

Key discussion points included:
- whether this pilot would add some value toward reaching the future vision
- whether the pilot would be voluntary or mandatory; and for whom
- a future competitive bid may be needed:
- credit should be given to the formally established programs to preserve the current infrastructure
- will require a shift in resources
- may focus funds to a greater extent on at-risk populations and get away from a historical funding formula as a basis for funding amounts
- should recognize that if there is not a cost based on a per child basis we need to be clear on what we want accomplished

Additional considerations:
- half year grants create a lot of administrative burden and should be considered if rolling over grants for just half of FY2010
- there will not be enough funding to fully serve all children – even if all funding were targeted to Commissioner’s Districts
- ESE has a coordinated grant application

Committee Recommendations:
- Present this idea to the Advisory Team to get their feedback on streamlining grant applications on a voluntary basis during the FY2010 planning year while planning for a larger re-procurement in coming years (FY2011); reopen the discussion based on their feedback on 4/6/09 at the Committee meeting.

IV. Early Childhood Educators Scholarship Program Guidelines
Discussion:
Phil Baimas indicated that the FY2010 Early Childhood Educators Scholarship Program Guidelines would remain the same as FY2009 but an Internal/External (Higher Ed) team will convene to make recommendation for criteria to be used next Spring to better support adult learners in the field.

Other Pressing Policy and Program Agenda Items
N/A

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.