



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Early Learning Council

Meeting Notes

Monday August 14th from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC)

2001 Plymouth Ave North, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Room 107

Present: Nancy Jost, Dianne Haulcy, JoAnn Birkholz, Kimberly Antonsen, Maureen Seiwert, Nikole Logan, Ayolanda Evans, Art Rolnick, Ann McCully, Senator Melissa Wiklund, Amber Lampron, Anna Hoff, Hue Nguyen, Megan Gunnar and Sharon Henry-Blythe

Staff: Kelly Monson & Jasmine Carey

Via Telephone: Daniel Yang, Marilyn Deling and Susan Hoeft

Absent: Anna Ross, Nathan Chomilo, Kathy Cooney, Dave Pinto, Pam Rees, Lynn Haglin, Jeanne Dickhausen, Sen. Chamberlain, Representative Dave Pinto and Kelly Wolfe

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Review of June's Meeting Notes**
- 3. Children's Cabinet Update –**

Melvin Carter is on a leave of absence through December. Kelly Monson is now the Acting Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet

- 4. Presentations**

Race to the Top Final Report Update –Amanda Varley, MDE



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- In 2011, Minnesota was one of nine states awarded a federal Race to the Top -Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC). This \$45 million award for 2012-2016 is designed to improve early learning and development opportunities for Minnesota's children.
- Plan focused on statewide improvement of quality, access to quality and ability to make evidence-based policy decisions. Two main projects that the grant covered were Parent Aware and Early Learning Scholarships. These projects are still able to continue due to additional funding.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)--Assistant Commissioner Hue Nguyen

The ESSA plan is due by September 18th to the federal government. We have met with focus groups and asked specific questions about specific indicators, school improvement ideas, and around effective family engagement that schools are doing.

Questions:

Are parents asked if they know how important 0-3 years are for children?

Did not ask that question

What is the definition of equity in the ESSA plan?

What every students needs to be successful

Is ESSA for all schools or Title 1 schools?

All schools

Given the new administration, what impact will that have concerning funding for professional development and school support?

We will lose 32million in title 2 funding

Are they going to have enough leeway or money to implement these ideas?

For both ESSA and WBWF the commissioner has the authority to set aside 2% of state funds

Comments from the presenter



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- It's all voluntary until it gets to the district level. The state plan is technical-less is more, the more info you give them the more they ask for.
- We are trying to inform the community about the new change MNSCU can't require students to take remedial classes if they get a certain score on the MCA's
- The ESSA plan's purpose is to address the achievement gap and equity. Federal civil rights law, title 1 dollars will now go to high school

Comments/Concerns

- World best workforce required to meet certain goals, but they can be different and they are often not consistent
- With limited dollars, should we use that money to address those who don't have access? Confused by the equity definition not targeting those that need it the most
- College testing: There is a move to change MCA test requirements to the ACT and SAT
- Are we putting money into resources we don't need- because of getting tests in different languages (Somali, Hmong and Spanish)
- Suggestion-universal assessment once they enter school in kindergarten
- 1.4 million dollars needed for early intervention, statewide—observation not a test, just evaluation
- See assets in what families are doing and going from there, not telling families what to do , use families as leverage ,providing tools and support—NAZ approach
- Starting early –lost too much time and addressing the equity issue in the document, concrete strategy
- We want to make sure that our priorities are reflected in the documents. Clear and upfront, priority and plan.
- Needs a department of child development to address the achievement gap early on, not waiting until they reach kindergarten. Also, would like a mixed delivery approach
- Staffing and representation is a problem in early learning just like k-12. When I was on the school board and they would data desegregated, ESL would start at the bottom but it would



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always have an upward trajectory. Native American and African American students would have an upward trajectory and fall each year. If we don't address this issue early, we will get the same results.

- MDE can't do this on their own, want to know how MDH and DHS are collaborating to address these outcomes
- Early childhood development is economic development –big mistake to take it from k-12, we need to empathize
- Is there language in the plan that says MN puts a priority on Early Learning? Do other states have it?

Next Steps:

The council decided to create a work group and submit recommendations as a council. They felt there was not much talk about early education in the plan. They will use Bobbie's comments as a starting point and want to strengthen the early learning language.

Workgroup members: Chair Nancy Jost, Senator Melissa Wicklund, Dianne Haulcy, Megan Waltz /Jeanne Ayers and Ann McCully

- Please give your public comment by august 31st
- Plan due by September 18th to the federal government

6. General Updates

- Ideas about additional topics- workforce NGA grants and systems reform work (DHS)

Decisions: The council decided to keep meeting monthly

7. Public Comment -none

8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Monday September 11th 12-3pm (Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center)

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