



**EEC Board Committee
Planning and Evaluation**

June 17, 2014
1:00pm-3:00pm

Department of Early Education and Care
51 Sleeper St. 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02210

AGENDA

Members of the Committee Present

Eleonora Villegas-Reimers, Committee Chairperson
Joni Block, Board Member

EEC Staff Present

Jennifer Louis, Data Services Manager
Gail Perry,
Katie DeVita

Guests/Board Members

Winnie Hagan, Department of Higher Education

Members of the Public

None

The meeting was called to order at 12:55 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

Committee members were welcomed to the meeting.

Routine Business:

Minutes

Members had an opportunity to review the minutes. No changes were necessary for the June 10 minutes.

Disclosures

Committee Chair Eleonora Villegas-Reimers disclosed that she works for Wheelock College, which is a recipient of EEC grant funds.

Board Member Joni Block disclosed that she works for Brockton Public Schools, which is a recipient of EEC, grant funds.

New Business and Commissioner/Committee Updates

Discussion

Birth to 8 Licensure

Committee Chair Eleonora Villegas-Reimers summarized the previous conversations regarding the birth to 8 licensure. From the previous conversations the Committee decided to renew this conversation and invite Wininie Hagan from the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to attend and update the Committee on where DHE is with this initiative and to confirm continued support.

Ms. Hagan updated the Committee that she has been working on a document that is almost ready to go to Commissioner Freeland. DHE would be looking to codify what is already taking place. DHE can also be a support to EEC in this endeavor.

Currently programs are accredited by NCATE and also NAEYC. Programs leading to licensure have to be approved by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE), however those programs that don't lead to licensing do not have to be approved by any department. DHE does approve programs but they are not looking at the early childhood content of the program.

Ms. Hagan noted that from this initiative an early education to higher education advisory group was created. The Early Educators Fellowship Initiative was also created and focused on the work the advisory group had done. There is no resistance to this idea out in the field. The road that creates the pathway from CDA to a terminal degree has been built already, but it needs to be codified. Ms. Hagan also sees this as part of the Birth to 3 Initiative currently taking place at the Executive Office level.

The Committee discussed the operational options that could happen. A process similar to DHE/ESE could be used. This process entails DHE approving the program for operation and ESE approving the content of the program for licensure. Another option discussed was for EEC and DHE to have an agreement on guidelines. Programs going through review with DHE would have to meet both DHE operational guidelines as well as EEC guidelines that are shared. In this option, DHE would approve the programs operationally and for content and EEC would provide the licenses to the graduates.

The Committee discussed the importance of keeping ESE and DPH in the mix. All three agencies need to work collaboratively so the system for birth to grade 3 is seamless and the risk of a bifurcated system is reduced. Work will need to be done to ensure there is a clear understanding of how the Birth to 8 licensure fits in the ESE's licensure system.

The Committee also discussed the issue of compensation and the Birth to 8 licensure. Committee Chair Eleonora Villegas-Reimers noted that the Board must tackle the issue of compensation.

The Committee agreed that the next steps for this initiative is to work with Board Chair JD Chair and EEC Commissioner Tom Weber to put this topic on the agenda for the Board Summer Retreat. Ms. Hagan agreed as otherwise there is a risk of losing momentum. She reiterated that this isn't additional work for the field as the pathway is already established. The work is at the agency level to codify what already exists. Ms. Hagan will provide the Committee a map of what needs to happen next. This will be helpful for the summer Board retreat as well as moving forward.

2014-2015 Meeting Schedule

Pending changes to the Committee structure for the 2014-2015 year, the Committee tentatively scheduled meetings on the Thursday before the Board meeting from 12pm to 3pm.

Commissioner's Evaluation

(Materials- FY 12 Commissioner's Evaluation Form)

The Committee reviewed the Board survey. Board Member Joni Block will provide EOE Staff Member Jennifer Louis an introduction for the survey. The only additional changes to this survey is to try to add question numbers to the questions under each Strategic Direction.

The Committee then reviewed options for questions for the EEC staff survey. Board Member Joni Block will provide EOE Staff Member Jennifer Louis with an introduction. Ms. Louis will take the Committee's comments and suggestions regarding the questions for the survey and develop the final version of the survey.

The next meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee is September TBD.

Possible Agenda items:

- Commissioner's Evaluation

The Committee adjourned at 3:00 pm.