



WEST VIRGINIA Early Childhood Planning TASK FORCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2013 • 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
CHARLESTON AREA ALLIANCE • 1116 SMITH STREET

West Virginia Early Childhood Planning Task Force Meeting Summary – Friday, June 21, 2013

Task Force Members Present:

Robert Kiss, Task Force Chairperson, Bowles Rice Attorneys at Law
Michelle Foster, Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action
Lloyd Jackson, Jackson Gas
Arthur Rubin, DO, WV School of Osteopathic Medicine
Justin Seibert, Direct Online Marketing
Rachel Tompkins

Task Force Resource Team Members Present:

Gretchen Frankenberry, Early Childhood Advisory Council
Barbara Gebhard, ZERO TO THREE
Jenny Lancaster, Task Force Project Associate, Terzetto Creative, LLC
Julie Pratt, Task Force Project Director
Kim Tieman, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

Guests Present:

Ted Boettner, WV Center on Budget and Policy
Alison Clements, WV Center on Budget and Policy
Tracy Dalton, Head Start State Collaboration / ECAC Member
William Pat Getty, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
Renate Pore, West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
Pam VanHorn, Planned Parenthood
Robin Weiner, Logan Mingo Area Mental Health

Welcome, Introductions, Approval of May 17 Minutes

Task Force Chair Robert Kiss welcomed task force members and guests to the meeting.
Motion to approve and adopt the minutes – Robert Kiss / Arthur Rubin second / all approved.

Presentation: What about the babies? Infant and toddler policies and initiatives

Barbara Gebhard, ZERO TO THREE and Gretchen Frankenberry, Early Childhood Advisory Council, presented information and led a discussion with Task Force members on the following:

1. The impact of early experiences on children; the components, functions, and deliverables of a Comprehensive Early Childhood System; and strategies and examples from other states. The slides are available at <http://www.wvecptf.org/docs/Zero%20to%20Three%20Presentation.pdf>.
2. Highlights of the Early Learning Initiative proposed by President Obama, which would support Pre-K, home visiting, partnerships between Early Head Start and child care programs, and increases in other existing programs. Detailed information is available at <http://www.ed.gov/early-learning>.
3. The upcoming Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge competitive grant, the application for which is expected to be released later this summer. The grant will focus on improving early learning and development programs for young children by supporting States' efforts to: (1) increase the number and percentage of low-income and disadvantaged children in each age group of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are enrolled in high-quality early learning programs; (2) design and implement an integrated system of high-quality early learning programs and services; and (3) ensure that any use of assessments conforms with the recommendations of the National Research Council's reports on early childhood. Additional information is available at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-earlylearningchallenge/index.html>.

West Virginia was unsuccessful in its application during the first round in 2011. Our application was ranked 22nd out of 37, and only the top 14 states received grants. Weaknesses in our proposal cited by the reviewers included the lack of progress on a Quality Rating and Improvement System, data system, and initiatives for the birth to 3 population.

Under the new competition, \$300 million will be available to states (up to 8) that weren't funded during the first round. The application will be largely the same, and West Virginia has made progress in some areas since the last round. If funded, we would be eligible for \$37.5 million over 4 years. It is up to the Governor to determine what entity prepares the application.

Other comments during the presentation included:

- We need to create some kind of roadmap for the early childhood system and its programs, which are spread across multiple state agencies.
- QRIS was established in state code in 2009, but has not been funded. Preliminary work has been done with existing resources, but significant implementation is on hold until funding is received.
- Child Welfare Services – need to infuse a developmental approach in child welfare services.
- Early Childhood Data System – A data gap analysis is currently underway and will be completed by August 31.
- Financing will be an important charge for the Task Force; include Social Impact Bonds in the research on financing.

Presentation: Family economic security and early childhood development

Michelle Foster, Executive Director of the Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action, presented on various programs and services offered by KISRA. KISRA offers programs in the following areas – education, employment, economic empowerment, and behavioral health. Visit www.kisra.org for more information.

Discussion of Task Force planning process

Julie Pratt presented and the Task Force members discussed these documents:

- Plan Development Process and Work Plan
<http://www.wvecptf.org/docs/WVECPTF%20Work%20Plan.pdf>
- Study Group Protocol (Task Force members are welcome to serve on a Study Group)
<http://www.wvecptf.org/docs/Study%20Groups%20protocol%206-19-13.pdf>
- Task Force budget: <http://www.wvecptf.org/docs/WVECPTF%20Budget.pdf> (Motion to approve by Rachel Tompkins, seconded by Michelle Foster, and approved unanimously)

Presentation: Our Children, Our Future campaign

Stephen Smith from the WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition presented on the “Our Children, Our Future” campaign, which involves 160 partners statewide. Stephen is supportive of the Task Force work and offered to help in any way with the process, including distributing Task Force information via their contact list. WVHKFC has been around for 15 years and previously has focused on WVCHIP enrollment/expansion, then oral health. Currently WVHKFC is working on a child poverty campaign. The group held 48 community meetings around the state and the issues of early childhood and poverty came up often. On Sept. 24-25, 2013, WVHKFC is hosting a policy symposium with the Senate Select Committee on Child Poverty.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Charleston Area Alliance, 1116 Smith Street

Meeting summary prepared by Jenny Lancaster