



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 September 11th from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC)

2001 Plymouth Ave North, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Room 105

Council members present: JoAnn Birkholz, Maureen Seiwert, Ann McCully, Pamela Reese, Hue Nguyen, Kimberly Antonsen, Megan Gunnar, Ayolanda Evans, Art Rolnick, Ann McCully, Senator Melissa Wiklund, Amber Lampron, Anna Hoff, Kathleen Cooney, Nathan Chomilo, Jeanne Dickhausen

Via Telephone: Daniel Yang, Susan Hoeft, Nancy Jost, and Representative Dave Pinto

Absent: Sharon Henry-Blythe, Nikole Logan, Lynn Haglin, Amber Lampron, Nikole Logan, Senator Roger Chamberlain, Kelly Wolfe, Marilyn Deling, Dianne Haulcy

Staff: Kelly Monson & Jasmine Carey

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Update from Assistant Commissioner Hue Nguyen on Minnesota's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan-

- *MDE received the letter with recommendations from the council.*
- *The Minnesota Department of Education will submit the letter to the Federal Department of Education.*

3. Review of August's Meeting Notes

- *JoAnn and Art approved the August meeting minutes.*

4. Early Childhood Longitudinal Data Systems(ECLDS) Overview by Anita Larson, ECLDS Project Manager



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- *The ECLDS system was a project of the Race to the Top Grant. It has been integrated with the MN P20W information system.*
- *ECLDS anticipates new data from programs such as; scholarships, Kindergarten Entry Profile (KEP) and child welfare.*

Questions from ELC Members:

- 1. We do not have any info on how they are coming into kindergarten?**
 - *We have the Kindergarten Entry Profile, however this is just a very small sample of the Kindergarten population. MDE would like to expand the KEP but needs additional funding.*
- 2. Is there prenatal data in ECLDS?**
 - *We have birth data, but that is all.*
- 3. Is there a plan going forward to follow children to see the return investment to society?**
 - *Maintenance funding is needed in order to do this.*
- 4. How much would be needed for maintenance funding?**
 - *MDE estimates \$300,000-\$500,000 a biennium.*
- 5. Is there any funding to go beyond descriptive statistics?**
 - *The Governance agreement does not allow the data to be used for research purposes.*
- 6. Kindergarten Entry Profile (KEP)—where does the Kindergarten Entry Profile work “sit” and can we look at those children going forward?**
 - *The Department of Education coordinates the work of the KEP. It is a very small sample that is reported to the state. The data is not quite ready to be released yet.*
- 7. What would it take to expand the KEP?**
 - *MDE would need additional funding in order to expand and support districts in administering the KEP. MDE does not want to mandate it, without being able to provide funding to districts.*
- 8. What is the estimated cost for expanding the KEP?**



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- —1.3-1.5 million – MDE did highlight this in the ESSA plan.

9. **Are there informational sessions/legislator training sessions that would encourage the use of ECLDS?**

- *We are in a better position to do that now. We have been so busy building it that a lot of training and support sessions have not been made available. This will be an area we will begin to look at. Minnesota is one of the few states that has a functioning ECLDS system through the Race to the Top work.*

Comments from the Anita Larson, ECLDS Project Manager

- *With the grant, we are able to help groups use the data, you don't need a statistician to analyze the data.*
- *We have a glossary in the system for background information.*
- *This website is mobile first, so you can also view the website on your phone as you would on a laptop/desktop computer.*
- *We have a data dictionary that shows where the data originates from.*
- *We are currently exploring the use of integrating Family Home Visiting data.*
- *The 2018 session is not a budget year. Unsure if there would be support for expanding the system in 2018.*

Examples of different ways the data has been utilized:

- World's Best Workforce benchmarks
- Districts utilizing it to meet their ESSA objectives
- Results of pre-k 3rd grade initiatives (MDE)
- Teacher credentials

5. **Early Childhood Systems Reform Work Overview by Tracy Roloff, Project Manager**

This work is a cross agency effort and will be using the "Human Centered Design Approach," in terms of the process that will be utilized. This work is currently funded through June 2018.

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Questions/comments from ELC Members:

1. Where is the ELC reflected in the organization and process chart?

- *Currently there are 3 members from the council who are also participating on the steering committee. The Assistant Commissioners from the council also make up members of the state agency oversight committee.*

2. What systems are we talking about?

- *We are working to identify that now. We are in the very early stages of the process. We are asking the questions: What is desired, what is feasible, what is available, how can we be thoughtful with our alignment, and how can we collaborate more.*

3. Is their child care representation on the committee?

- *There are members that are former providers and can represent childcare in some capacity.*

4. Is there school based program representation on the committees?

- *There is a representative from the Early Childhood Family Education area, which can often be a first point of entry for families accessing their school district.*

5. Are we building any way to sustain this effort if the children's cabinet disappears?

- *We are making sure the people who are on the ground are there and we have Assistant Commissioners and division directors at these meetings who can assist in identifying barriers that could be addressed now.*

6. Is there a plan to increase the Early Learning Council role in the steering committee?

- *The EC Reform work can provide regular updates to the council, we do have council representation and we can discuss this further internally to see where the ELC fits in this process.*

7. Are people going to be added, once the group's work is expanded to go beyond 0-3 and look at 0-8?

- *This group is going to meet until June, but it may change due to what is discovered that has to be addressed?*

8. How we can work together to make sure there is coordination between both groups?



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- *ELC has more of a broader work charge, this is a sub-piece of that work.*
9. **Is there a healthcare aspect to prenatal-3, will you be looking at that or looking at 0-3 in a broad way (IE. Prenatal care disparities)?**
- *That is not really the focus of the work or has not yet been discussed.*
10. **There was a bill to study those disparities, but is there a group that knows the gaps?**
- *This has not been discussed at this time.*

Small group questions

The Council broke into small groups and answered a series of questions regarding the reform work. The purpose of this exercise was to provide input for the agencies to consider. The notes below are taken from those discussions.

Group 1.

What did you just hear?

- *Focus on 0-3*
- *Inspiring-on one hand*
- *Confused about our charge*
- *Love integration of 3 depts.*
- *Good to incorporate voices of real people*

What elements of past work (reports, data, etc.), do you feel is needed as part of this process

- *Focus on 5 workgroup report?*
- *EC previous work*
- *State councils*
- *Model states- what other states are doing? How are their agencies organized?*
- *Taskforce MN dept. of health Equity*

What do you see as a priority?

- *Clarification of this group/council*
- *Ensuring that this process would drive changes at legislature & collaborative process*

What opportunities do you see for alignment/coordination?

- *Need to know more*
- *Need more clarification about the two bodies before I can see alignment/coordination*

What other information do you need?

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- *Why is there another group needed*
- *Unsure of how it will connect with policy works?*
- *Risk of timing and sustainability for the work*
- *Might disenfranchise representatives*
- *What was the rationale for forming the EC systems reform work*

Group 2

What did you just hear?

- *Steering group gives recommendations.*
- *Leaders are needed who may be able to find money to keep this thing going.*
- *Those that are a part of this work can speak from a “lived reality”.*

What elements of past work (reports, data, etc.), do you feel is needed as part of this process

- *Work from cultural groups doing work in ECH.*
- *These groups are severely underfunded-is there a process to provide them funding.*
- *Find loose ends- figure out what can we do to close them.*

What do you see as a priority?

- *A sustainability plan.*
- *Finding changes that could be implemented that don't need funding.*
- *Authentic engagement of community voices in an ongoing way.*
- *Look at missing practices.*

What opportunities do you see for alignment/coordination?

- *Really need to nail down our role as an ELC.*
- *We must insist it be sustained.*
- *work with the ever-changing groups of parents.*

What other information do you need?

- *What problems are currently being solved?*
- *Is this work being done in another state? What are their results?*
- *Update on Legislative Auditor's report.*
- *Would like regular updates from this group.*



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Group 3

What did you just hear?

- *The current work/future plans*
- *Hard time wrapping their head around it*

What elements of past work (reports, data, etc.), do you feel is needed as part of this process

- *Risk and Reach report*
- *BUILD Continuous Quality Improvement in Early Childhood report*

What do you see as a priority?

- *Program evaluation*

What opportunities do you see for alignment/coordination?

- *We want to stay informed- continuous updates*
- *Coordination- Early learning Council focuses on program evaluation criteria and the systems reform work does not*

Public Comment -No public comment.

8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Monday October 9th 12-3pm

(Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center)