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## Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet

### Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2024

5:15pm - 6:40pm

Virtual on Zoom

**Mission:** *To build strong connections, listen intentionally, and partner with Connecticut families of young children, communities, and OEC to incorporate the expertise of all parents throughout the early childhood system to ensure family-driven equitable policies and programs.*

### **May meeting follow ups/Upcoming events:**

- a. Finalized incoming Parent Cabinet members – signing and returning Ethic/W-9 forms
- b. Onboarding/Offboarding of members with mentorship
- c. July meeting – invite incoming members as a meet and greet

### **Commissioner Bye updates:**

- a. Beth & Elena working with 5 foundations in NJ that are thinking about making that state have an Office of Early Childhood instead of separate offices
- b. Wanted to learn more about the Blue Ribbon Panel Process – most impressed with the parent engagement part of it
- c. Recommended to them starting a department, don't wait having a Parent Cabinet – bring it in right away to be as responsive as possible to families

### **Selection process update/ New Members**

#### **a. New Members**

- i. Region 1: Jenny Canepa & Regan Allan
- ii. Region 2: Shannon Knox & Raquel Sanchez-Ramirez
- iii. Region 3: Tiffany Allain, Fransheska Perez & Christina Pace
- iv. Region 4: Kelly Sorrow, Patricia Hamlin
- v. Region 4 At Large Seat: Christopher Jiminez-Porrata
- vi. Region 5: Mallory Blanding, Kelly Collier & Amber Alessandro



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vii. Region 6: Jennifer St. John & Stephanie Thompson

**b. Selection process update:**

- i. Survey sent to the selection committee for feedback on how we can improve
- ii. We did get 4 parent ambassadors
- iii. Maria – suggests the PC members leaving should be the ones reaching out to those who weren't chosen. To make it a more personal touch coming from each region
- iv. Reaching out to help connect to other opportunities to those who were not chosen for other ways to be engaged in the community and leadership

**Alumni Continued Partnership**

- a. Parent Cabinet members stepping down will now transition into Alumni

**Parents Connecting Parents (Community Outreach project work – Malissa)**

- b. Parent Ambassadors in a part time job in 6 communities of Hartford, New Britain, Waterbury, New Haven, New London and Bridgeport to help connect with parents and help them with any needs with services like preschool and other wraparound services. Focused on the 70 highest poverty census tracts across the states and then focused on the six communities. The work is kicking off now with branding, developing the brand for this and getting trainings set up.

**Community outreach conversation**

- i. Community outreach meetings – defining more what this looks like instead of general. 1 hour every month currently
  - a. Regional Parent Ambassador/Parent Cabinet meetings in between full quarterly meetings with the parent ambassadors
  - b. Parent Groups or Community Groups connected to Parents (not connected to a School Readiness or Local Early Childhood Collab. )
  - c. One on One's as they come up as some parents do not have time for groups. Possibly hosting a parent café etc. Connecting with schools to share out about PC as a resource?
- ii. Possibly a chat box or way for parents to reach PC members other than email?
- iii. Volunteers to help figure out community outreach – Caitlin M,
- iv. September retreat – in person

**Next up:**



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- a. Update current PC members bios
- b. Add PC Alumni with their contact info optional
- c. Share mentorship hours and breakdown with current PC cohort 1a
- d. Email connect Current PC with new cohort before meet & greet – mentorship information
- e. Trainings for Fall

### **Timeline**

- a. Cohort 1a transition to Alumni by end of July 2024
- b. New cohort 2a and 2b – meet & greet July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 with help from current PC
- c. August 1 hour meeting for questions & prep ahead of September – share handbook etc. to new PC cohort
- f. September – retreat/onboarding in person . Receive technology items. New members emails/bios up September after retreat
- d. Mentorship period Septembers – November 2024

### **Closing :**

- a. **PA/PC meeting**
- b. **Submit activities for June**