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## Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet

### Meeting Agenda

March 26, 2024

5:15pm - 7:15pm

Virtual on Zoom

#### Co-Facilitators:

- Casey R.
- Krysta C.

#### 1. **Legislative Updates** - Maggie Adair

- a) Maggie provided a comprehensive update on the legislative process, noting that the midpoint of the session had been reached with most committees having concluded their public hearings. She highlighted key bills they were tracking, including ones establishing a state-funded early care education program and expanding the incubator model. Maggie also discussed several bills that were voted by the Education Committee and referred to the Appropriations Committee due to their fiscal cost, including a leadership bill that would establish a commission for the Early Childhood Trust Fund and a wage support program for childcare providers. The timeline for the Appropriations Committee to offer the budget was also discussed, expected to be in the first or second week of April.

#### 2. **Parent to Parent Outreach project** - Malissa Griffith

- a) Melissa Griffith introduced herself as the new program manager for the parent outreach initiative within the Oec. She outlined the initiative's goals of improving early childhood access and affordability across Connecticut, working with parent ambassadors, and building partnerships within local communities.

#### 3. **Recruitment & Selection Updates** –

- a) The team also discussed the recruitment and selection of the next parent cabinet, with 148 applications received by the end of the weekend. significant increase in male applicants and parents with children under 5, indicating diverse voices and opportunities for engagement.

#### 4. **Logic Model/ Outcomes update** - Dave Bechtel, Cross Sector Consulting

- a) presented the next steps for the logic model project, including the development of an annual or biannual parent Cabinet member survey. The survey would be designed with input from the logic model committee and other interested parties to ensure it effectively measures short-term outcomes.

#### 5. **Parent Cabinet Updates / Follow-ups** -

- a. Children with Special Needs
  - Caitlin announced that the ICC would be hosting a family focus meeting on April



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1st for parents with feedback about their experiences with birth to 3. Chenae highlighted recent visits to Head Start programs by Karen Pascal and Rene Kleinman, aimed at strengthening collaborations and addressing issues related to children with special needs.

- b. New England Fathering Conference
  - Joshua shared his positive experience at the New England Fathering Conference, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and equity in fatherhood
- c. Nurse Family Partnership Conference- Ruth-Ann
  - Ruth-Ann shared her recent appointment as a parent ambassador for the National Service Office, where she discussed the importance of parent voice in home visiting programs.
- d. Any items from parents?
  - Marinda shared her recent visits to Putnam and Grading, highlighting the value of connecting with parent ambassadors and experiencing changes in childcare needs.
- e. Mentorship question for members
  - Proposed the idea of a mentorship program for new parent cabinet members, with the aim to have four check-ins between September and November. The idea was to pair new members with experienced ones to provide support and help them navigate the role. The team discussed the potential benefits of this program, but also acknowledged the need for commitment and flexibility in participation.

### 6. Breakout –

- a) Krysta then facilitated breakout sessions to discuss the next few months' plans, focusing on how to engage new members and alumni. The groups discussed :
  - strategies for making connections(list of connections), logistical barriers, and establishing a warm handoff to new organizations in areas not connected to. Parent Cabinet members attend meetings with them.
  - Living document of contact list for new members
  - Post Alumni= inviting to in person events. Twice a year check ins with alumni and current Parent cabinet members and possibly with parent ambassadors to get updates on what is going on in the state and progress on initiatives.
  - Also possible connections to be made through email to loop in new members to introduce to others.
  - Post-Alumni possible continuing on subcommittees and speaking in a mentor role.
  - Continuing leadership in other areas from experience on Parent cabinet.
  - Looking at ways to merge relationships with parent ambassadors and nurturing those and more collaboration with new members coming in with Children's Collective.
  - Mentorship for warm handoffs to help with tips and pointers for new members.



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**7. CCDF follow up-**

- a. Discussion: Public comment is coming up in April - what are some ways in which we can help prepare you all to share out but also so have key pieces of CCDF plan for parents so they understand what is in it as it relates to them since the actual is over 100 pages long?
  - a. The team also brainstormed ways to effectively communicate their plan to families, with suggestions ranging from flyers to social media posts.

**8. Public Comment – no public attended**

**9. Closing**