



CT Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2024

Time: 5:15pm-7:15pm, Zoom

Facilitators:

Joshua Vaughn, Parent Cabinet member, Region 5

Malissa Griffith, Parent Outreach Project Manager, OEC

Chenae (out of bereavement at the time of the meeting)

Members Present at Start: Regan (Region 1), Symone, Raquel (Region 2), Marinda, Jessica, Tiffanie (Region 3), Cris, Tricia, Caitlin (region 4), Maria, Josh, Amber (Region 5), Ivoni (region 6)

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.*

Meeting Purpose (Why is this meeting needed?):

- To develop relationships among new Parent Cabinet members and existing members and OEC staff
- To equip new members with the tools and information needed as cabinet

members

- To understand the shared mission and desired outcomes of the Parent Cabinet

Intended Outcomes (*What do we want to achieve by the end of this? What will success look like?*):

- All members have met and continue to develop relationships between each other, OEC staff and the current Parent Cabinet members
- All new members understand about Head Start, Head Start on Housing and Logic Model outcomes connected to activities

Agenda Item/Topic	Facilitator	Notes	Key Takeaways and Implications for Parent Cabinet Members
OEC Updates	Acting Deputy Commissioner Deb Flis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Early Start CT program, which is the consolidated new funding stream that will replace the current school readiness, child daycare, and state Head Start, will be moving forward with a request for applications (RFA) process to invite currently funded programs to seek continued funding for their child care centers, license exempt settings, and family child care homes.● Additionally, the OEC is in discussions about the local governance partners that will engage communities and support providers in delivering high-quality early care and education.● Provided an update on the Elevate Quality Improvement System, which is the OEC's system for supporting providers in moving from licensed to accredited status. She mentioned that the OEC is currently offering a \$1,480 incentive for any provider that gets a quality improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Updates on the RFA● Continued feedback on LGPs

		plan in place between now and November 20th.	
Head Start	Karen Pascale, CT Head Start Collab Office Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented an overview of the Head Start on Housing program. This program, launched in January 2022, allocates housing vouchers for families whose children are enrolled in early Head Start and Head Start programs. Since its inception, the program has housed 295 children from 136 families across Connecticut. Karen also discussed the partnerships involved in the program and the next steps, including assisting the families currently in the process and developing a plan for the additional vouchers that will be available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting PC members with Head Start Policy Council members PC members sharing out about Head Start services & eligibility
Logic Model	Dave Bechtel, Cross Sector Consulting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave led a discussion on the Parent Cabinet's logic model, which was developed by a committee of parent cabinet members about a year ago. The group reviewed the visual representation of the logic model and provided feedback, with some suggestions to simplify the more visual version. The discussion also touched on the importance of prioritizing key outcomes to measure, given limited resources, and how the logic model can be a useful tool for the various Parent Cabinet committees in their work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A data subcommittee will be launched supported by our CT OEC Data Scientist to help identify how to measure and track work towards outcomes.
Other updates	<p>Lorna Thomas-Farquharson , CT OEC Behavioral Health Initiative manager</p> <p>Malissa Griffith, CT OEC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A webinar on insecure housing and homelessness, scheduled for October 31st, featuring a keynote speaker from the Connecticut Coalition on Homelessness. - The upcoming Building Bridges Parent Leadership learning Community in-person event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zooms assigned to each region for 1 new member Follow up to solidify the details around the upcoming regional and quarterly meetings.

		<p>for parent leaders from parent ambassadors, Parents Connecting Parents, 2Gen, Head Start Policy Council parents and Parent Cabinet members on October 24th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The need for parent cabinet members to volunteer to host Zoom accounts for the regional meetings between parent cabinet members and parent ambassadors. 	
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Action Steps

- Parent cabinet members to volunteer to host Zoom accounts for the regional meetings between parent cabinet members and parent ambassadors.
- Melissa to follow up with Simone and the rest of the parent cabinet members to solidify the details around the upcoming regional and quarterly meetings.
- Melissa to resend the information for the parent cabinet members regarding the event at the Legislative Office Building on October 29th.
- Parent cabinet members to reach out to with any questions.