



CT Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet Meeting Minutes

September 24th, 2024

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

Facilitators:

Deputy Commissioner Trueworthy, OEC,
Malissa Griffith, Parent Outreach Project Manager, OEC
Chenae Russell, Statewide Parent Cabinet Coordinator, OEC

Members Present at Start: Kaitlyn, Regan (Region 1), Symone, Raquel (Region 2), Marinda (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 to start as cabinet

members in their region

- 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 start to understand their responsibilities and duties, vision, and intended outcomes of the Parent Cabinet
- All members give feedback on Bylaws to finalize

Agenda Item/Topic	Facilitator	Notes	Key Takeaways and Implications for Parent Cabinet Members
Welcome & Commissioner updates for Parent Cabinet	Deputy Commissioner Trueworthy, OEC + Commissioner Bye, OEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Deputy Commissioner welcomed the new cohort B1 members and current cohort A2 members! Special announcement of newest B1 member from region 3 Jessica!▪ Commissioner Bye welcomed the group and shared why the Parent cabinet was formed and how important it is to the agency. She shared a few updates:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ There will be an additional 900 state funded early care and education slots added & Care 4 Kids, the state subsidy:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Family Fees will be capped to 7% effective January 1, 2025, a savings of \$200 a	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● How to get the word out to parents on open spaces? PC help on strategizing.● OEC can get PC members a list of those existing state funded programs who responded to survey on spaces needed to see if any in their region● A follow up after the October 29th event for PC members to share their feedback and reactions. What do we need to focus on?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Families who get an increase in pay will remain on Care 4 Kids until their household income reaches 85% of the state median income from the prior 65% effective October 1st, 2024, which will help reduce benefit cliffs families often face. ▪ PC members invited to attend press event of the announcement at Enfield Stowe Early Learning Center with the Governor and OEC team on 9/26 ○ October 29th Early Childhood Governance Bodies Event with panel – PC invite only 	
Retreat Highlights	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members and staff shared their highlights from the event which were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The leadership of our cohort A2 members facilitating and engaging with the new members ○ Caliber of new parents – very impressed with expertise ○ Learning the role and more of 	

		<p>what it's about and feel comfortable taking it on & support of everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Genuinely feeling like joining this as valued members of the team and that we mattered ○ Approach of staggering innovative- helps to usher in new parents to the work and expectations as a trusted messenger. Excited for the future of the cabinet! 	
Logic Model	<p>Dave Bechtel, Cross Sector Consulting</p> <p>Kaitlyn H., Region 1 Parent cabinet member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dave shared how a logic model is visual guide to what the Parent Cabinet does, hope to accomplish and how activities will lead to those accomplishments. ▪ Kaitlyn shared about how the logic model work was co-created and finished through a workgroup and some of feedback from that group ▪ Dave shared a simplified visual logic model for the members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New members thought it was helpful explanation ○ Simplified made more sense and less overwhelming to see ▪ The members participated in an activity on slido where they shared their vision if the Parent cabinet is successful 2 ½ years from now what would that look like? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governance or data subcommittee to help track with support from Research/ Eval team ▪ This is a living document to guide the Parent cabinet on the work and help to track.

Elevator Speech practice	Michaela and Khadijah, Odonnell Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The members went into breakout groups where new members practiced their elevator speeches so far to help briefly share what their role is on the Parent cabinet with current members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing process with continued practice with mentors and region members. More practice opportunities to come.
Bylaws Overview & Finalization	Chenae Russell, OEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was a overview on the key pieces of the bylaws which is essentially the rules of the Parent Cabinet which won't change too often whereas the handbook is how the Parent cabinet does the work. ▪ All members present approved the bylaws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refer back to this often ▪ Follow up with absent members for approval to finalize
Regional Breakouts	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members present were put into region breakouts and those without a region members joined either region 5 or 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More direction on new members on how much work or meetings for the to join? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarified to refer to the mentorship breakdown of hours and regular meeting breakdown – the minimum is essential but if new parent has capacity to do more that is up to them and OEC is able to compensate right

			<p>now but as funding changes will keep member updated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Events – day of times and how close they are in October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cohort A2 members shared that most activities are in the evening on weekend so not frequent. ○ We understand all members can not attend both events but for those who are able to attend either or both.
Closing	Chenae R., OEC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next steps sent via email.