



CT Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet Meeting Minutes November 19, 2024 Zoom

Co-Facilitators:

Joshua Vaughn, Parent Cabinet member region 5

Ivoni Montes, Parent Cabinet member region 6

Parent Cabinet members present:

- Regan (Region 1), Symone and Raquel (Region 2), Marinda, Tiffanie and Jessica (Region 3), Cris, Tricia and Caitlin (Region 4), Maria, Josh and Amber (Region 5) and Ivoni and Jennifer (Region 6).
- Vacant: Kaitlyn (Region 1)

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 continue to strengthen relationships amongst members, ensure new members have tools and information needed to succeed and get parent cabinet input on OEC items.*

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

- *All members reflect and share goals for the future*
- *Members give feedback on the LGP family voice update*
- *Members learn about the new upcoming creation and launch of the OEC Family and Caregiver survey & join a subcommittee*
- *Members learn about Parent cabinet budget and give feedback on ideas*
- *Members give input on the approach of community outreach*

Agenda Item/Topic	Facilitator	Notes	Key Takeaways and Implications for Parent Cabinet Members
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<p>Commissioner Office Updates & Asks</p>	<p>Maggie Adair, OEC, Communications and Legislative Program Manager</p> <p>Acting Commissioner Elena Trueworthy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maggie Adair presented an overview of the upcoming legislative session, emphasizing its importance for OEC's budget and policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The legislative session runs from January 8th to June 4th. ○ Governor's budget proposal expected in February. ○ Appropriations Committee's budget version in late April. ○ Appropriations Committee holds public hearings on the budget. ○ Budget negotiations occur throughout April and early May. ○ Education Committee is a key committee for early childhood issues. ○ Several key legislators have left office, creating uncertainty about committee leadership. ○ Fiscal guardrails may impact funding for early childhood programs. • Maggie highlighted the need for parent involvement in testifying and providing feedback during public hearings • Elena, the Acting Commissioner, discussed the Early Start Connecticut funding stream and local governance. She emphasized the importance of incorporating Family Voice in the new Local Governing Partners. • She sought input on training needs for coordinators to effectively engage families. • Shared the RFA for Early Start CT spots for current funded centers close to going out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deeper dive into legislation in the new year and a possible Legislative subcommittee that members can serve on. ○ Future testimony support • Participants shared their experiences and suggestions for training and information that would help local groups engage families effectively. • Key suggestions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training on ○ Inclusion of education consultants and those with Early Childhood background in local governance groups. ○ Clear communication of goals and purpose to families. ○ Utilizing a family engagement and leadership frameworks and tools ○ Seeing the value of the parent and their role ○ Training on cultural awareness and diversity.
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to continue to ask in those spaces what training and support is helpful for the coordinators of the LECC and School Readiness when it comes to engaging families?
Parent Cabinet News		<p>External Steering Committee Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miranda provided an overview of the External Steering Committee, which advises on policies and changes related to early care and education services. Key points included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee includes internal OEC staff and external partners. Miranda's last meeting on the committee was recently held. The meeting focused on updates related to the Blue Ribbon Plan on Child Care, licensing regulations, workforce updates, and child care apprenticeships. <p>Parent Cabinet Newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chenae shared the first edition of the Parent Cabinet newsletter. Participants discussed the target audience for the newsletter, including the Governor's office, Office of Policy and Management, close partners, and community groups. The newsletter will be published quarterly. Participants discussed the need for translation into Spanish and other languages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interest form will be circulated to recruit a new parent representative for the External Steering Committee. The group agreed to finalize the Parent Cabinet newsletter with minor revisions based on feedback. The newsletter will be translated into Spanish and potentially other languages.

Breakouts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members discussed as a region about community outreach and materials, creating calendar for events happening in towns in their region and clarification on December expectations with mentoring etc. 	Follow up on this in the next meeting and clarified that it is okay for members to go into December for mentoring or activities if they want but need to let OEC know.
UConn – Parent & Caregiver Survey	Veronica Hannah Walker and Sam Lawrence from UConn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veronica Hannah Walker and Sam Lawrence from UConn presented on the Parent Caregiver Survey. They outlined the survey's purpose, timeline, and the need for parent engagement throughout the research process. They proposed creating a parent caregiver survey parent subcommittee with up to 11 meetings, compensated at \$30 per meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interested parents to email Cheneae & UConn to join the Parent Caregiver Survey parent subcommittee. 4 spots open.
Reflection/ Looking Forward activity		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting included reflections from outgoing and new Parent Cabinet members. They discussed personal growth, skills developed, and future goals. Outgoing members shared their experiences and accomplishments, while new members expressed their aspirations and areas for development in their roles. 	
Community Outreach Discussion		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheneae provided updates on community outreach strategies, emphasizing the need for more intentional and targeted approaches. She mentioned upcoming resources for Parent Cabinet members, including new branding supplies and business cards. Miranda shared her experience in mapping out region three and creating an Excel document to track connections and areas needing outreach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New branding supplies and resources being ordered for Parent Cabinet members. Miranda suggested creating regional maps and Excel documents to track connections and areas needing outreach.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cheneae will work with Coral, Data scientist at OEC to identify specific targeted areas from OEC within regions for community outreach.
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