



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood

Parent Cabinet

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Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet

Meeting Agenda

November 21, 2023

5:15pm - 7:15pm

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.*

Co-Facilitators: Caitlin M., Kait H.

a. Welcome

b. Parent Cabinet Check-in

i. NAEYC

1. 2 Parent Cabinet members shared their experiences and some of what they learned at the conference. A Parent Consultant (Parent Cabinet Design member) shared her experience and the benefit of in person connections and being with Parent Cabinet members.

ii. Check In on new purpose for these check ins

1. The team discussed the idea of focusing future meetings on planning for upcoming events rather than reviewing past ones.

This would allow all members to be proactive and potentially collaborate or share resources more effectively.

- a spreadsheet was proposed to centralize all the information, allowing anyone to reach out if they see something interesting added.
- There was emphasis on the importance of one-on-one conversations during quieter times. They could form strategies for the future, such as connecting with one parent ambassador to discuss their future plans and goals.

c. Third Sector - Transition & Governance

1. Third Sector took the floor to discuss next steps and implementation strategies, and to express their appreciation for the team's support throughout the year.
2. Discussed the collection and use of data in the new form process, emphasizing its importance in guiding strategy and decision-making.
3. Discussed changes to the term limits and onboarding structure for the parent Cabinet.
 - The decision was made to extend terms from 2 to 2.5 years with an opportunity for mentorship. A staggered approach to onboarding and offboarding was introduced to allow for overlap and preserve institutional memory. These changes will be implemented in the next cohort, with recruiting in January and half of the cohort starting in July, the other half in December.
4. discussing and implementing communication recommendations for the parent cabinet members.

d. Dave Betchel , Cross Sector Consulting, LLP

- i. The concept of a logic model was discussed which is a tool used to map out the inputs, processes, and outcomes of a project or program. It helps to identify the resources available, the activities undertaken, and the immediate and long-term results achieved. The group discussed various indicators of progress towards these goals, such as increased engagement, visibility, and trust from other parents, as well as personal skill development and learning opportunities for members.

e. Next Steps/Closing

- Develop a strategy for utilizing quiet months for planning and collaboration.
- OEC will work with PC members on spreadsheet for real-time information sharing.
- Form a Data subcommittee
- OEC will follow up with each of the parent Cabinet members regarding the term extensions.
- Consultant on Evaluation will compile feedback and suggestions from the meeting for the logic model. Develop a one-pager on logic models and schedule a meeting with interested members in December.
- OEC will send out a meeting invite for a discussion on kindergarten transition on December 5th.
- OEC will send out a follow-up email with upcoming events and the draft guidance document for the kindergarten age change.