



New Mexico Governor's Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)
Virtual Zoom Meeting
December 10, 2020
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Barbara Tedrow, ELAC chair, at 9:03 am.

Welcome and Introduction:

Introduction of the council (Zoom): ECECD Cabinet Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky, Division Director Claire Dudley - Chavez, Gwen Warniment, Crystal Tapia, Barbara Tedrow, Arra Carbajal, Angela Redondo, Ray Jaramillo, Kimberly Johns

Olga Valenzuela – conflict of schedule; excused

Elizabeth Beers - conflict home visiting quarterly meeting; excused

Establish Quorum:

Quorum established by Barbara Tedrow at 9:23 am

- Barbara Tedrow – Agenda at the end of meeting for public comment will end at 10:00 am you will have time at the end to give your comment or ask questions

Approval of Minutes:

- Ray Jaramillo motions to approve minutes; Arra Carbajal seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.
 - Crystal Tapia - I need to ensure my correct email address Crystal@ECSolutionsNM.com
 - Ray Jaramillo - my email needs to be updated as well jaramilloray1@yahoo.com

School Reopening Sub-Committee Update:

Barbara Tedrow

- Andrea Fletcher presented and talked about their tasks throughout the state, reaching out to community organizations. Every area of the state there are 10 or 11 regional education coordinators to bring Public Education Department into the community to find concerns that are out there and talked about virtual learning concerns.
- There have been 4 meetings so far. 30 different people gave input; we had parents', providers, teachers and state employees share stories.
- Some areas highlighted of this, in October LFC presented to legislative finance committee and summarized lessons learned. There were three fact findings that they had: #1 COVID 19 will compound New Mexico's existing learning gaps, we are 49th in the nation, New Mexico students are projected to be behind four months up to a year. #2 Virtual learning is inadequate instruction for in-person learning, student engagement remains an issue, 1 in 3 students are not participating, social and wellbeing is a concern. #3 NM reentry criteria will keep most students in remote instruction through the Fall and continue. Ray stated that Las Cruces will continue this way of remote instruction through March of next year.
 - Ray Jaramillo – Dec. 17th we will discuss this under the governor's order, we can't go to hybrid model until the county is in the green stage then we will open up to hybrid



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model. For a county to go from red to green it takes 25 to 35 weeks. It may decrease with vaccine looking at April.

Barbara Tedrow –

- When analysts presented in October, students could possibly go back to school face to face until Fall 2020. The governor had released the latest reentry criteria with health and safety protocols before Sept. 3rd. Each classroom had to be reset to 50 % capacity.
- Farmington Municipal Schools; it took a lot of planning on how to make decisions on what students can continue in person at 50% and who cannot. This posed a problem for special education classroom settings. Each district was allowed to come up with their own plans, Kelly did attend one of our meetings while LFC focused on financial aspects. Collaborations between PED and licensed providers are at an all-time high, they coming together on how do we help the children. We found out that young learners are having parent interactions a lot more, parent engagement.
- Scott Elder stated APS got together to meet kids needs, APS started utilizing teacher leaders to support other teachers. Many schools' districts did return to hybrid learning or full time in-person learning, adhere to the safe practices that are mandated.
- I stated my concerns, staffing for virtual learning, having a ratio of 1 to 10, the child to teacher ratio needed to provide high quality education. How do we handle cost full time to part time? I would like Angela Garcia who is a provider in Las Cruces to share what she has been doing.
 - Angela Garcia – Owner of Toybox Early Learning Center in Las Cruces. We are adapting to the needs of the community, meeting the challenges which are difficult on parents and teachers. We know little about what is going on, I would love to see communication to open up with teachers so that it does not fall on the teachers only, HEPA is a factor, focus on the mental health of our children, internet access is also hard, staffing is an issue we've had openings for hire for the last 6 months.
 - Ray Jaramillo – I would like to add additional information to Angela's presentation, Las Cruces schools provided 400 hotspots to families as well; than rather park in parking lot to get Wi-Fi.
 - Barbara Tedrow – We became aware of a high school student driving his truck to get Wi-Fi at the Farmington High School; rural areas need to get these needs met. One of our committee members from Hobbs School District, mentioned the fear of retention due to loss of learning, re-learning for students and fear of losing children's interest in learning. Fear of physical abuse at home, parents out of work is a valid concern as well.
 - Secretary Groginsky – I would like to thank Barbara and Ray for their leadership, and putting the subcommittee together. There is a lot happening and you captured it well, maybe put these ideas in for recommendations to support families and students. ECECD



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along with REC 10 will continue to fund that contract, have this funding to make sure that childcare facilities have access to some additional resources.

Moments Together Campaign Update:

Jose Viramontes, Summer Smith, Laurel Wykoff, Lois Vermilya

- Present the success and progress of the Moments Together Campaign. I am joined today with Co-Founder and Creative Director Summer Smith who will do power point presentation, Laurel Wykoff from PBS and Lois Vermilya. I will be doing an update on the Moments Together Campaign led by the State of New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department funded by the PDG Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the State of New Mexico. It was important that the campaign is accessible to our population as a fully bilingual campaign. Moments Together was created with three things in mind; informing parents, supporting parents and inspiring parents. Promotes brain development and social development. We also created seven simple actions; sing with me, share stories with me, talk with me, smile with me, dance with me, play with me and snuggle with me. We are reaching New Mexico families through media. Bright by Text is getting information to families using tailored messaging. The campaign was launched in August 2020.
- Jose Viramontes – We are working with home visiting to promote childcare assistance program.
- Lois Vermilya – This community came from a collaborative effort of the Early Childhood Educational Accountability Partnership, it was first funded by the City of Albuquerque.

Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) Updates:

Cabinet Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky, Assistant Secretary Archuleta, Alejandra Rebolledo Rea, Mayra Acevedo

- I will be joined today by Assistant Secretary Archuleta, Division Director's Alejandra Rebolledo Rea and Mayra Acevedo.
- Updates: Early Childhood Landscape estimated
 - We did cross referencing internally and externally, we need to build a cadre of professionals and also grow the workforce over the coming years.
 - We have a lot of families in NM; we are diverse and the majority are Hispanic and Native American and some are living at or below poverty level.
 - We need to take intentional steps in the upcoming year to strengthen our focus on quality and our rich cultural heritage of our state. 200% living or below poverty level can get help.
 - Elevate Head Start office under Secretary Archuleta, we have established 8 tribal liaisons. Matt Bieber went to Dept of Health as Public Information Officer.



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- Strategic Priorities: Grow investments, advance a credentialed workforce, increase quality and access, achieve equity, enhance collaboration with families and communities.
- We have established a public-private working group to plan expansion of Centennial Home Visiting. Family Infant and Toddler program (FIT) all FIT families can access tele-health. Families FIRST peri-natal case management program grown here in New Mexico, working with nurses to provide nurse-family partnership.
- Childcare services developed COVID safe practices, protocols and supports, emergency regulations to help families with eligibility and alleviate financial constraints.
- New Mexico PreK continues to expand. Joint application was launched for community-based and public sector for PreK services.
- Workforce Development expanded scholarships to early childhood professionals, to make sure that all PreK teachers in whatever setting they are in are paid equally for their experience and credentials.
- Launched Quorum online professional development.
- Funded 30 professionals to participate in CLASS train the trainer.
- Early Childhood Trust Fund will receive \$20 million, \$10 million to NM PreK (private and public), \$3 million pay parity for NM PreK teachers, \$2 million expand NM PreK and Early PreK private sector, \$2 million integrate data systems, \$2 million expand home visiting, \$1 million increase Families FIRST care and support.
- The New Mexico Early Childhood Strategic Plan 2021-2024 soft launch, in January we will be doing a full launch, with planning and engagement around the state-wide strategic plan. Strategic Plan Guiding Principles - Equitable access trauma responsive approaches, prioritize resources, and opportunities for those to get access. Coordination and Collaboration – build trust in all areas and relationships with early childhood programs and tribal partners. Quality – use developmentally appropriate practices for working with all children and families, support educators, cultural knowledge systems, and ensure healthy environments and interactions throughout the system.
 - Goal one is to recognize all families in New Mexico as key decision makers and ensure they have access to the resources they need.
 - Goal two is to create a cohesive governance system that supports a system of high-quality early childhood programs and services.
 - Goal three is to ensure that New Mexico's early childhood work force is supported to meet the needs of all families and young children.
 - Goal four is to provide and secure funding to children and their families, maximizing all available resources.



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- Goal five is to develop a statewide, integrated data system, and that the work we do is very transparent.
- Goal six is to strengthen ongoing government to government relationships with all tribal communities in order to foster mutual trust, adhere to existing laws relating to tribal nations.

Responding to the Needs of Families During the Public Health Emergency:

Assistant Secretary Archuleta (Government to Government Summit)

- Collaboration with PED, HED and ECECD, Cradle to Career Approach, Guidance provided by Tribal leaders. Governor Grisham and Lieutenant Governor Morales were available to listen to Tribal leaders' perspective on Indian Education and to support on how to move forward as department bringing in PreK, Child Care and language immersion. Looking forward to: Cohesive early childhood strategic plan with tribes, services that support language and culture, intergovernmental agreements aligned with tribal priorities, collaboration with Children's Cabinet and local collaboratives.
- Launching a work shop December 15th to develop curricula that is infused with tribal values. The Indian Affairs department, PED and ECECD worked collaboratively on HB2 appropriations, we received one million and \$45,450 was allocated to support early childhood initiatives, 19 tribes have applied.

Alejandra Rebolledo Rea Division Director of Early Care, Education and Nutrition

- Figuring out what we needed to do, we knew we needed to act fast, children in our state depend on schools for their meals.
- Family Nutrition Services – Children have no transportation to go to school to get meals, we were able to serve meals and transported food to communities. This collaboration helped seniors and children get food, we served more than 7 million meals across the state since March 2020.
- We received several waivers from USDA for Summer Food Program Services, Child and Adult Care Food Program and At-Risk programs, we established meals to your services prioritizing Tribal communities, we had collaboration with USDA, PED, IAD, HSD and ALTSD.
- Child Care Services – we established COVID safe practices and protocols, established supports for parents and providers, issued emergency regulation changes. For the most part the industry didn't close, called by other states to get ideas from us as to how we stayed running.
- PreK Services – Guidance to programs; flexibility and parental needs, consultation for remote learning support, communication with families and Jump Start, connect for learning opportunities to support PreK programs and home learning.



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Mayra Acevedo Family Support and Early Intervention (Families First, Home Visiting, FIT)

- I joined ECECD team on July 1st, our programs transitioned services to virtual services.
- Families FIRST – this program provided 1727 care and pediatric coordination visits virtually, administered COVID testing, rapid response support for Early Childhood professionals and families, connected families to resources and Medicaid enrollment support.
- Home Visiting – received waiver to allow for virtual visits, supported virtual visit engagement, distribution of baby formula, technology equipment, food and home visiting brochures and learning activity packages, COVID safety guidance workgroup.
- FIT – Introduced tele-health services overnight, distributed PPE to FIT providers, worked with Medicaid to ensure coverage of phone only tele-health services.

Questions:

- Ray Jaramillo – Thank Secretary Groginsky and Dept for the presentation and effort that you are doing since the beginning. I have 3 questions: How the ECECD department is advocating and ensuring funding so that we have Jump Start programs for 2021, The vaccine will be offered to those at-risk teachers how will the state ensure PreK teachers and early childhood educators will get vaccine? Will needed flexibility continue and if not when will the PreK students need to go back to in person?
 - Secretary Groginsky – the vaccine is definitely in the first phase for long term care and elderly. I will keep you posted on Early Childhood Care givers when they will be considered for the vaccination.
 - Alejandra Rebolledo Rea - flexibility will continue, we will touch base before the school break. We will reach out to each center and ask about enrollment, we need to hear from you about adjustments. The flexibility will continue throughout this pandemic. Work with families and how you are implementing flexibility with your programs meeting needs of community. Jump Start is about funding and we hope to do another year of this program.
- Ray Jaramillo - Thank you for the answers, I will be talking at the national level at NAEYC. The flexibility you are giving programs is huge allowing many of us to stay open and providing families with needs to stay home. We will continue to provide high quality care remotely or in person for families who have to work and what the state needs.
 - Alejandra Rebolledo Rea – I have seen the level of care in your plans and in regards for the families, I am so proud of you all. Thank you PreK programs.

Barbara Tedrow – Reiterate and thank you for your hard work and innovative thinking and flexibility.

Quorum presentation:

Division Director Claire Dudley-Chavez, Jamie O'Malley, Rhonda Montoya

- Claire Dudley Chavez – I would like to take a moment to recognize Jamie O'Malley and Rhonda Montoya for their help and hard work. The work force and Early Childhood Care Professionals is



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paramount to ECECD. We make sure every day that early childcare professionals are supported throughout our state. Free online training for early childhood educator's coursework available in English and Spanish.

- Gillian Gansler – A new resource available through ECECD, Quorum, is an online platform for early childhood educators. This online training functions like a library card, once in the system you have access to these trainings, courses are available 24 /7 and meet early childhood competencies.
- Secretary Groginsky – 13,000 people out there in the field, we hope that at least half will take advantage of these resources. If they are not used then they will not be available next year.
- Kim – I will do a walk through the training designed to go at your own pace and save work that has been done. Teachers who take these trainings will receive a 2-hour completion certificate. www.quorumlearning.com/state-initiatives
- Gillian Gansler – How to get word out, click and access course work anytime, earn professional development hours. Autism course is now available in Spanish.

Any questions from the committee?

- Ray Jaramillo – My staff has encountered technical glitches; how can they get help?
 - Kim – help@quorumlearning.com for support

Barbara Tedrow – Bills cannot be dropped until Jan 4th, we have not seen anything so far in possible legislation.

Public Comment:

- Barbara Tedrow - Public comment (2 minutes), as a Farmington provider I wanted to bring forth call centers and contracts. I have been dealing one on one with families, helping parents find technology to upload documents. ECECD came up with call center, however, there are long waits to get contracts, if we call our person at local office your info is at the call center. There is a 2 to 6 weeks wait, families are given the ok to start and if they qualify then you get paid but what happens when then don't qualify.

Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting – I as ELAC Chair can call a special meeting in January to go over special items. March 11th for next ELAC meeting?

- Barbara Tedrow – Any objections for March 11, 2021 for next meeting?
 - Ray Jaramillo - No



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- Barbara Tedrow - Propose we add to our calendar Preschool Development Grant update and an Equity Council update to put on the agenda.
- Ray Jaramillo – Will ELAC be introduced as an official advisory council for ECECD? I have been selected as a candidate to be on the NAEYC governing board to represent New Mexico on a national level. Voting will begin in February for a month.

Barbara Tedrow – Motion to close, Ray Jaramillo motions to close, Arra Carbajal seconds; meeting adjourned at 11:58 am

Next ELAC meeting: March 11