**Early Childhood Cabinet**

**Early Learning Standard Work Group**

Notes - June 22, 2011

1:00 to 4:00

SDE-MCR 3, 25 Industrial Park Rd., Middletown

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| Harriet Feldlaufer co-chair | x | Michelle Levy | x |
| Dina Anslemi – co-chair | x | David Morgan | x |
| Andrea Brinnel – staff | x | Karen Rainville | x |
| Sherry Linton – staff | x | Kathryn O’Connor |  |
| EA Aschenbrenner |  | Jane Rothschild | x |
| Marcia Elliot |  | Carmelita Valencia-Daye | x |
| Kristi Leutjen |  | Janna Wagner | x |

Harriet welcomed the members to the first meeting. Committee members and staff introduced himself or herself. Sherry provided an overview of the Cabinet’s 4 priority areas /work groups. The Cabinet has been designated as the State Advisory Council on Early Care and Education as detailed in the Head Start Act of 2007. Andrea clarified that the Cabinet is referred to as both the Cabinet and the SAC.

Harriet emphasized the importance of the work in the larger context of the state and national early childhood initiatives; this includes the state’s adoption of the Common Core State Standards in ELA and Mathematics and the variety of programs that are required to use the CT state early learning standards. She reiterated that although the goal had been set by the previous ad hoc group, this work is able to be modified the work plan.

Dates for future meetings in the immediate future were given: July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24 and Sept. 8. These meeting will be held from 1-4 at the SDE Middletown offices.

Andrea reviewed the meeting process that had been set forth by Karen Ray (Cabinet consultant). The meetings are considered official business of the Cabinet and as such notes will be kept and meetings are open to the public. Although all meetings are open to the public, it was recommended by Karen Ray to have meetings early in the process that actively seek to get input from and information to stakeholders. Additionally, there will be opportunities for electronic info sharing on the Cabinet’s new website which is due to launch on July 1.

Harriet reviewed the “charge to committee” and the decision making process for the group.

The group discussed “what are learning standards?” Michelle clarified for the group what GLE’s are. Jane posed the question “who are these standards for (providers or programs)?”. Dina clarified the difference between standards and guidelines. David posed a question about what the group should call the product and there was much discussion regarding standards v. guidelines, frameworks, etc. The group deliberated on the uses for standards for assessment; program assessment and child assessment purposes were discussed. There was discussion about how standards can impact policy; Karen suggested possible future consideration of learning standards as part of DPH licensing. The group came to consensus that the intent of this work is to use assessment to guide instruction and professional development and not to determine the quality of programs or children’s readiness to enter kindergarten. Discussion about assessment sampling was compared to “ only needing one spoonful of soup to know what the whole pot tastes like”—meaning that consideration should be given to sampling for this purpose.

Harriet suggested that the group begin the work by reviewing early learning standards nationally and internationally, as appropriate. It was suggested that a grid be developed using the “writing ELG elements” from *The Early Learning Guidelines Resource: recommendations and issues for consideration when writing or revising early learning guidelines*(2010) by Scott-Little and Kagan, et al. Andrea and Michelle will develop the review grid and send it to the committee members electronically along with other states guidelines to review.

Dina and Harriet discussed the timeline for the work and the group agreed that by mid-September the review of other states/international guidelines be completed.

Michelle, Carmelita and Janna will continue the crosswalk work and share it with the group.

Andrea will send the review grid and standards to the remainder of the committee members for review. Jana offered to have the college interns available to her assist with the reviews.

Karen and Sherry will review strategies for involving/communicating with other the stakeholders delineated in the current plan and bring considerations to the group.

The addition of a DSS representative to the work group was discussed and it was determined that this would be appropriate; Harriet will contact Amparo Garcia at DSS.

The meeting concluded with each member reflecting on the discussion and future work for the group.

Adjourned: 3:50 pm