**Early Childhood Cabinet**

**Early Learning Standard Work Group**

Notes – August 10, 2011

1:00 to 4:00

SDE-MCR 2, 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 |  |
| Sherry Linton – staff | x | Kathryn O’Connor |  |
| EA Aschenbrenner |  | Jane Rothschild |  |
| Marcia Elliot | x | Carmelita Valencia-Daye | x |
| Kristi Leutjen |  | Janna Wagner |  |
| Amparo Garcia | x | Connor Bell - intern |  |

Guest: Colleen Brower

The Meeting was convened at 1:10 by Dina Anselmi.

Notes from the July 27 meeting were reviewed and several corrections made.

The next meeting on the group will be on Aug.24. As many of the group members are not available for the meeting that had been scheduled for Sept. 8th, the meeting will be rescheduled. "Doodles" for Sept., Oct., and Nov. will be sent to the group and meetings will be scheduled based on the results.

Michelle Levy reported on her efforts to cross reference the guiding principles that had been developed by the group at the July meeting with the guiding principles that are in the Preschool Curriculum Framework (PCF). There was consensus that these more fleshed out principles are a good starting point in developing a clear narrative for the current work. Edits were suggested; **Michelle will make the suggested edits and they will be distributed electronically for review** (see electronic document).

The group discussed the variability of the national and international standards that have been reviewed by the members. Carmelita asked if the group had come to a decision regarding the creation of a single document birth to 5 or separate documents for infants and toddlers and preschoolers. Harriet suggested that this will need additional consideration. Michelle pointed out that the initial charge of this group is to develop what are the skills, dispositions and knowledge that are needed from birth to age 5.

Carmelita gave an overview of her work to cross walk CT's Infant Toddler Guidelines with the Head Start Learning Standards and the CT Preschool Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks (PCF/PAF). The group determined that it will be very important to look very closely at the Head Start Frameworks as they are Federal Standards to be implemented across the nation by all Head Starts programs. Harriet asked if anyone was aware of any crosswalks that are in process or have been completed of the Head Start Standards and the Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics; no one was aware of any that have been done.

Harriet asked the group to consider again the intended audience of our work and pointed out that providers and families should be considered to be a priority and policy makers, although key, may not need or want to access the document in full. The group discussed the possibility of developing a brief for policy makers that could be a resource for policy makers in lieu of the full document.

Dina suggested that we return to the discussion of domains and then decide on a format. The group clarified that the domains are not only to delineate areas of learning, but also to provide information to families about children’s development. Colleen and Amparo asked if the group had an opinion on whether or not edits on the Infant Toddler Guidelines should proceed, as this work is clearly tied to the work of this group. Amparo also cautioned against creating any document that is too academic, as it will then become inaccessible to many families and providers. Andrea pointed out that "oral language" be given primary importance and careful considerations made to how it is presented as it is such a fundamentally important area of development that should be given attention by parents and providers. Several group members felt strongly that only one document be created and that having more than one document could cause confusion. Michelle clarified that there may be one document containing standards (what children should know and be able to do) and that there may be accompanying documents as needed for different applications (higher-ed, policy makers, etc.). The group then revisited the definition of standards and Dina pointed out that the Early Learning Guidelines (Infant toddler) are not standards per se. She brought this up as it relates to the question--should there be learning standards for infants and toddlers? Amparo stated that it is not considered best practice as infants and toddlers’ development is so individual.

Dina suggested dividing into **smaller groups and looking at the areas delineated in the Kagan/Scott-Little article**. She suggested that each small group take an area and provide the larger group with the pros and cons in order to come to consensus in a more expeditious manner. The group then determined which areas from the article should be examined. **Michelle noted the groups; they will be emailed to all participants** (see electronic document for group assignments).

Michelle gave a brief overview of the Head Start, PCF/PAF crosswalk. Members of the group will receive copies of the cross walk electronically (see electronic document).

**The sub groups will report on pros and cons at the next meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Next meetings: Aug. 24

*All meetings will be from 1-4 at the SDE Middletown Offices*