



CT Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet March 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Time & Location: 6pm-8pm, Zoom

Facilitators: Parent Cabinet members Mallory Paige region 5, Kelly Sorrow Region 4

Members Present: Jenny, Regan (Region 1), Shannon, Raquel (Region 2), Christina, Tiffanie, Jessica (Region 3), Kelly S, Cris, Tricia (Region 4) Mallory, Amber(Region 5), Stephanie and Jennifer (Region 6)

Agenda Item/Topic	Facilitator	Notes	Key Takeaways and Implications for Parent Cabinet Members
Commissioner Office updates- Legislative updates	Commissioner Bye, OEC Maggie Adair, OEC Michelle Cook, Special Advisor, OEC	- Commissioner Beth providing legislative updates on early childhood initiatives. She discussed Governor Lamont's proposal to develop an endowment for early childhood education, aiming to make preschool free for families making under \$100,000 annually and capping costs at \$20 per day for those earning between \$100,000-\$150,000. - Commissioner Beth highlighted concerns about the current federal administration's suggestion to eliminate the Department of Education, emphasizing the potential impact on birth-to-three funding and technical assistance. She noted that OEC is being cautious with spending to prioritize essential services for children and families. She emphasized the importance of parent involvement in community planning. - Maggie and Michelle provided detailed updates on	Chenae to work with Maggie to share status of bills and providing detailed follow-up information about the status and location of various legislative bills, including the governor's bill (6867), House bill 5003, Senate Bill 1369, Senate Bill 6, and Senate Bill 1

		various legislative bills, including House Bill 5003 and Senate Bill 6. They explained the different approaches to funding early childhood initiatives and the potential implications of licensing municipal youth camps.	
CT Children's Alliance Overview & Child Abuse prevention activities for April	Dawn Cook, CT Children's Alliance	• Dawn Cook presented on the Connecticut Children's Alliance's mission, their work with Child Advocacy Centers, and efforts in preventing child abuse through various programs and initiatives. She discussed their role in preventing child abuse, providing training, and coordinating multidisciplinary teams for child abuse cases.	• Members to take a look and share any questions • Look at the upcoming activities and see any they are interested in as well as sharing the toolkit and calendar out to others.
Community Outreach discussion	Symone M. and Caitlin M., Parent Cabinet Alum	▪ Caitlin and Symone shared their experiences and strategies from community outreach in the past. They shared ideas on going to local WIC, child care site, preschools, libraries etc. Another event was a expectant parents event to reach families at the beginning of their early childhood experiences as well as back to school events and others that parents would be at. ▪ They also asked how members are doing with their elevator speech who shared it has become more comfortable but have different ones for different purposes and audiences. ▪ They also shared about how to only put limited amount of supplies for table events and asking the parents questions first like Have you heard of the OEC? Or the OEC Parent Cabinet? Having it be 2-way and not just one way communication with the families. Possibly have a sign up sheet if they want to learn more. Also can use the palm card and have families scan to get to the website then give them a book and tell them they can reach out to you ▪ Reminder that Parent cabinet is uplifting themes and	▪ Strategize different ways to connect to parents and those different environments like a library or a local parent group online. ▪ Figuring out key people to make connections to get access to those families or parents

		ideas to the state and not solving problems directly. Parent cabinet can help find the right contact to resolve issues.	
Regional Breakouts		- Members participated in regional breakout sessions to three key areas: planning upcoming community events, developing strategic mapping approaches for their regions, and sharing experiences with the Sparkler app. Members shared concerns about balancing workload and prioritizing events while maintaining effective community engagement with the limited time. - Members explored various approaches to community engagement, including suggestions for prioritizing events and sharing responsibilities within regions. The group also discussed creating regional calendars to better coordinate events and resource allocation, while emphasizing that community outreach can take many forms beyond traditional tabling events.	- Continued layout of Community Outreach and discussions of what that looks like from small meetings at library or parent groups and only a few events at key peak seasons. - Community Outreach Training to come in April
Advisory Committees and Fatherhood Conference		- Members were requested to review and provide comprehensive feedback to Amber regarding the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CTLs) website's accessibility, user experience, and communication within early childhood programs - Members were asked to share detailed personal or professional experiences with Trisha regarding the transition process from Birth-to-Three services to special education programs, including challenges and successes encountered - Cris shared his experience attending the New England Fathering Conference, including insights on addressing	- Members to provide this feedback to Amber and Tricia - Cris to share more on his experience and some ideas from the conference on how we can better engage fathers.

		institutional barriers and bias affecting father involvement in state agencies and programs, covering topics such as child support, family court, child welfare, corrections facilities, and employment	
Closing		Next steps	One on one meeting with Parent Cabinet Coordinator