

**ACT 2545: Early Learning Advisory Board**

**Hanahauoli School – Teacher Training Room**

**Thursday, July 19, 2012**

**1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Al Castle, Christina Cox, Joanne Taira (for Linda Johnsrud), Lora Perry, Lynn Cabato, Bob Peters, Christine Jackson, Dana Balansag (for Pankaj Bhanot), Kaina Bonascorsi, Pamela Perkins (on phone), Angela Thomas (on phone), Danette Tomiyasu (for Loretta Fuddy), Terry Lock

Absent:

Pankaj Bhanot, Loretta Fuddy, Linda Johnsrud, Dee Jay Mailer, Kathryn Matayoshi

**I. Opening/Welcome/Sunshine Law Review**

- Meeting called to order by Bob Peters at 1:45pm
- Welcome new members – Al Castle, Christina Cox, Dana Balansag, and Mike Fahey
- Introduce community members – Deb Zysmann, JC M., Kuulani Keohukanalei
- Still functioning under Sunshine Law – cannot continue meeting if we lose contact with members on the phone
- Thank you to Kanoe for leading the meeting last month
- Thank you to Diane for taking minutes over the last 3 years

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes 6/21/12 meeting approved with no comment or correction

**III. Status of Act 178**

- Officially congratulate Terry Lock for becoming the official Director of the Executive Office of Early Learning
- Thank you to everyone for attending her appointment – will be an exciting first year
- First thing is the establishment of the office – the first three years it will be an office – funding is housed in the DOE and will go toward supporting staff for the office
- Next step is establishing the Early Learning Advisory Board – new members include Mike Fahey – other four members will be confirmed within the next month
- Preschool Implementation Plan is included in this legislation – dates to be aware of:  
-September 1: Budget that will be a part of Governor’s appropriation – includes office and Four-year old Plan – process includes submitting budget to Governor who will then submit to legislature –departments submit budgets in different ways – Bill 2545 will be submitted in two ways – in this case Terry will be submitting a budget

request for 2013-2014 – budget does not include SAC funds which the office already has – concerns about turn-around time – not sure of answer but there are different ways to inform the budget – depends on who will champion the bill  
-Beginning of October: Plan will be done and included in budget  
-August: Be My Voice Support Plan will be looked at

#### **IV. Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) Retreat**

- August 15 and 16
- Have not confirmed a location
- Would like members to attend as much of the retreat as possible
- Will have accommodations for neighbor island members
- Facilitated by Will and Dayle Spencer who have started interviewing members – when interviews are completed an agenda will be drafted and distributed
- Make sure venue is ADA accessible
- Because it is a public meeting – location must be posted and community members are invited to attend
- There will not be an ELAB meeting in August

#### **V. State Early Childhood Action Strategy**

- Some of the planning will be introduced at the retreat
- Joanne Farnsworth is leading the effort – take note it is not a plan but a strategy – designed to be built on the four pillars in the system framework – strong prenatal to k-8 years – little different than previously established by ELC
- Six Goals:
  - Healthy and Well-timed Births
  - Health and Development prenatal through grade three
  - Supported and Supportive Families – brings in the social determinants that affect success for children
  - High Quality Child Care and Early Education – not just preschool but expanding
  - Continuity of Early Childhood Experiences – example: a child has a medical home, etc.
  - Effective Teaching and Learning in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade – not just what a child is taught but what affects their ability to learn
- Been working on Indicator Projector to support strategies planned
- Hope to have first phase of project done by end of December
- Second phase –stage of implementation
- First phase: planning and design
- Second phase: engagement and context mapping - engaged team leaders for each goal – set of 12 leaders total – leaders asked to recruit people to assist with developing a plan for their goal – engaged Scott Spann (Innate Strategies, Inc.) to facilitate mapping process – hope is to identify the interdependencies between the

goals – looking also for a common framework and common language – looking for a common platform from which to do an analysis to determine where we would be most effective – points of entrance – allow us to logically agree on a sequencing of action – what are the most important things that need to happen first – from the six content maps Scott will create one integrated map – map will be presented to the large workgroup and the ELAB members – from that the work plan will be developed in September/October – Jodi Hardin (worked on state plan in Colorado) will assist Joanne in drafting plan with priorities

- To date 100 people are engaged in the effort – key stakeholders, decision-makers are also being interviewed by Scott
- Summary – create shared reality, vision, and clarity about what our current state is and where we want to go in the future – three year process – will have communication strategy: portal on office website where people can weigh in on
- Question – how is effort funded? Answer: federal, state, and private funds are being used.
- Key to effort is building strong relationships – all of the departments have been asked to create a strategic action plan which will help inform future data needs of the office – getting help from Office of Information and Technology to assist with developing a website – for now there is a dropbox that includes documents, resources – open to the public – lots of information there
- Question – What is a concept map? Answer: Looking at what the current reality is and what the future state is over a generation – the hope is the process will identify what needs to be different in order to change the direction we may be headed – people may also be able to see where their collective impact is to make the changes necessary –
- The goals are based on research – the process continues to look at research to inform
- Question – can a PDF file be distributed to members to review before meetings?
- Question – is the planning and designing process to inform the context mapping? Answer: laying the groundwork
- Question – who has been engaged? What has the process been to engage them? Are neighbor island people participating? Answer: Big Island – Angela Thomas, David (PATCH), Sue Entz – Kauai – Anna Peters – Maui – Kaina should be involved
- Overall the process of establishing the groups is being refined – direction to leaders to cross pollinate – trying to make a shift toward thinking more about integrating health, elementary school, safety, etc.
- Will be talking with leaders next week about how thoughtfully they integrated their groups
- Who are the major stakeholders? Key policy makers, legislators – Al Castle urged group to really engage preschool directors in this process –
- Also need to look at engaging all of the settings are represented in the process

## VI. State Funded Preschool Plan

- One thing for sure is involving the preschool directors in this planning process
- Teresa Vast is interim lead on this project
- Things to think about:
  - this is a phased implementation plan for late-born children and 4 yr. olds
  - High quality preschool program – starting in the child’s k year born August-December
  - want to emphasize children have access to quality early learning programs
  - scholarships to children from lower income families – thinking also about middle income families
  - want to provide incentives and resources to support quality and effectiveness of the program – what can assist programs
  - First year – children from lowest income families receive scholarships – more like preschool open doors vs first to work – expand head start capacity – include summer transition program
  - Comment- as we are planning for four year olds need to make sure three-year olds are being supported
- Challenges – Race-to-the-Top resources were available to two geographic areas re accessing resources and programs – how can the early learning community let people know – it was found that families knew about the resources and programs available they had difficulty filling out applications, submitting the applications, etc. – also transportation is a big challenge in remote areas – misunderstandings re expectations – also capacity was an issue – other barriers including not all families value early education – Question: how can we reach families who are the most vulnerable? – use the places in the community that families frequent – trust is important – places where families receive other services – invite families in to participate in discussion on how to reach them with resources – need to think outside the box of a state system –
- Capacity – could have providers who may have space, not quite sure – Question: what could center directors do? –general consensus is centers do have space (CBC) – schools in low income areas have space – public school facilities may not be designed for early learning – private providers may be more conducive – things have changed for centers – challenges PATCH had when looking at desired and actual capacity – center programs are market driven - ask programs more intentional, thorough questions to get actual information re capacity – also how is capacity going to be addressed in other settings – strategies will be different in building the capacity to support this plan– head start programs are driven by funding – clearly define high-quality – Question: What is needed to expand capacity? Child subsidies to attend preschool, support to increase quality depending on how complex your quality requirements are, scholarships for teachers including higher education’s capacity to take more students – Question: what incentives are needed to

encourage private providers to partner with DOE? Same waivers DOE has, before engaging in public private partnerships need to define and clarify high-quality – HAEYC has been a big part of that through HECAP – partnering with other agencies i.e., OHA, etc. – Castle is currently supporting Seagull schools in improving their facility – not looking to replace public dollars but to supplement and enhance – for mildly developmentally delayed children support staff are able to come in to the private sector – preschool screening really worked – relationships are key to this happening – does not need to be DOE but any one supporting children’s developmental growth – Opportunities include CCDF funds to bring back services that were cut – try to partners with departments to do more integrated services

- Recruitment and Training – CEED at KCAA – grow them from where they are – start with people who have a tendency toward young children and support their growth – INPEACE example – people leave due to low pay – Master’s Cohort really energetic group who wants to assist – Castle Foundation had longstanding commitment to assisting practitioners to grow in field including scholarships – helped recruits recognize early childhood is an important field to get involved in – Family piece in action strategy is really key – if we give parents opportunities whether they stay or not we are still building the knowledge base and work capacity of the community – Hanahauoli has opened their training site – higher education needs a better understanding of the workforce entering the programs – possible workforce study including needs assessment – 2 year and 4 year programs in early childhood in quandary question: what is it that we need? We are training people and they move to DOE – types of classes within degrees – need multiple avenues – look at pre-service and in-service – discussion important to higher education needs assessment
- Retention is also an issue – can have them sign a document that they will stay after you invest in their professional development – when we had TEACH the issue was needing subs
- Question – what resources do we need to provide needed comprehensive services?
- Wrap around services should be looked at including parent support services, family involvement, etc. – in 259 within community hubs there were support specialists who coordinated and organized family access to the different services – challenges with parents who are in the court system – the training and other services that support them – possibility to build on Cal Sia’s work

## **VII. Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS)**

- GG distributed 20 copies – apologized for not having enough but people can share
- Thank you to people who worked on it before – provided the foundation for the current work
- Power Point Presentation

- What kind of comments have people given after reviewing the standards? Some people want to know where these lead – some into word-smithing – Storyline, Inc. who is doing focus groups will share report in October at HAEYC State Conference
- How are the standards organized? – Can these standards inform the K standards? – the K standards might be set – conversation has been good re the alignment –Some members find the K standards to be developmentally inappropriate – can we help the DOE understand the developmentally appropriate – there has to be a two way conversation with DOE and find a way to raise issues – hope is that we can have these conversations – how can we help people use these standards in an appropriate way? – will the members of the ELAB have the opportunity to comment? – for now members need to attend a focus group – may not be realistic to schedule one just for ELAB – will the ELAB be asked to endorse the HELDS? – yes – Terry will put it on the agenda for the retreat – these standards and the common core (DOE) were discussed at Governors Conference – discussion was focused on how can the two groups work together – professional development is key in the standards implementation to avoid them being misused – lots of challenges with instituting any new thing – but to move forward in our system we have to engage the other departments at the decision-making level – the standards give us a way to come to the plate

#### **VIII. ELAB Sub-Committee Updates**

- Public Will Committee – Be My Voice – JC new staff member at GBA – ELAB is key component to bring community together – campaign will be going strong – looking forward to working with ELAB

#### **IX. Public Comment**

- Introduction of new community members
- Mike had inspirational quote – “We are what we repeatedly do – excellence is not an act but a habit.” Aristotle

#### **X. Review of Meeting Decisions and Communications**

- No decisions needed

#### **XI. Next Meeting: ELAB Retreat**

**DATE:** August 15 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

August 16 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** To be determined

#### **XII. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.**

Public in attendance:

*Cindy Hirai*

*Tod Robertson*

*Kathy Murphy*

*Coreen Lee*

*Grace Fong*

*Robyn Chun*

*David Tom*

*Ku'ulani Keohokalole*

*Theresa Vast*

*JC Mikulanec*

*Deb Zysman*

*GG Weisenfeld*

*Melodie Vega*

*Jo Ann Farnsworth*