

**PIECES Advisory Council
Family Enrichment Center
March 12, 2004**

Present: Kim Asonovich, Mary Frances Bleidt, Randy Bridgette, Phil Edwards, Becky Gooch-Erbacher, Margie Hale, Bill Huebner, Ginger Huffman, Cathy Jones, Sandy Murphy, Mary Ann Osborne, Helen Post-Brown, Mary Quick, Michelle Rollyson, Kay Tilton
Barbara Myers, John Stallings, Kay Carpenter, Judith Woods, Tammy Hoover, Dave Treharne, Charles Young, Dennis Vonderau, Melanie Clark, Judy Curry, Beth Hall, Karen Duckworth, Kelley Worley, Cheryl Sisson, Ann Nutt

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED	KEY DECISIONS MADE
New Member Orientation 8:30- 9:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New members given new member notebook and historical/current context. • Add Mary Ann Osborne as official member from AFT WV
Welcome Introductions Approval of Minutes (handout) Additions to Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Ann Osborne made the motion to accept the minutes as read. • Motion. Seconded • Motion carried • No additions to the agenda.
Public Comment	No public comment.
Legislative Update (Kay/Cathy) Two Bills proposed and if passed will change the way pre-k is funded. HB 5202: takes pre-k out as mandate and changes it to a “goal, codifies PIECES-never made it out of Education Committee HB 4444: Proposes to eliminate all Pre-k Public School except Special Needs- This bill made it to the third reading of the House but was not acted on. This bill probably will be re-introduced next year. Noted that the Legislature received more email on this issue than any other (AFT, WVCCU, WVAYC, Kids Count, HS, Children Coalition, PIECES members etc. all successfully advocated against the Bills.) Also noted that there is risk that funding can be cut out of the budget Kay Carpenter reported on two other bills (one HB, one SB) which proposed that 3 year old children should be grandfathered in (both died).	<p>PIECES' needs to build advocacy to block bills from passing.</p> <p>Also noted that more parents are needed at the table.</p> <p>Thanks noted to everyone who supported WV Pre-k.</p> <p>Council can affect budget process over the next week. Council members present agreed to contact Budget Committee representatives</p>

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<p><u>Discussion on advocacy took</u> Council discussed the need to be prepared for next year’s session. Membership should consider how to be strategic in the upcoming session as well as specific strategies for the interim. Areas of discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider ways to demonstrate savings/worth of ECE programs and economics over time vs immediate balancing budget. • Continue alliance with AFL-CIO • Provide contacts with information on effectiveness of Pre-k and investigate ways to document effectiveness. • Consider who all is involved <p>Council also discussed that State Employees can not lobby: can only educate. Council not requesting state employee members to lobby –just resources for other council members.</p> <p><u>Other legislation:</u> Kay discussed that a Bill was introduced to get Family providers exempt from Zoning- Did not make it out of Committee- reintroduce next year</p> <p>The Tobacco Tax is dead- affects Medicaid Budget</p> <p>Increase in CPS Budget to comply with Federal PIP</p>	<p>Work on keeping legislators informed on what is going on throughout the year.</p> <p>Decided summer/interim session is a good time to educate the Legislature about the importance of ECE.</p> <p>Public Awareness Committee examines further to develop strategies.</p>
<p>County Plan Approval - Handout Provided Kay and Cathy informed members about County Plan Review Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each read 6/7 plans • Others read assigned plans as requested • Ranged excellent-minimal • 4 categories • TA team will review 3/4 categories in May • Decisions based on law/policy • Counties all mailed a letter on priorities for compliance with 2525 	

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<p>(Handout in packet) Many counties continue to struggle with inclusive environments although great strides have been made since last plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counties that fell into category 1/2 commended <p>Consequence if not approved in May 04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Aid funding formula taken away 	
<p>Site Visit Report - Draft Handout in Packet</p> <p>On Site TA – Karen Duckworth reported that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Educare” counties are further down the road in offering Quality pre-k programs Professional Development/Training still needed throughout Pre-k programs Varying range of quality Assessments are being reviewed (ELCOA/ECERS-R) to implement Feedback was not provided to county – purpose was to observe collaboration models 	
<p>Committee Actions</p> <p>Public Awareness (Handout provided)</p> <p>Margie Hale reported out that Abby Thorman, national PA expert recommends that a platform for ECE with specific policy proposals be developed to use for public engagement campaigns.</p> <p>Strategy Suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open meeting sponsored by PIECES and others concerned to develop a policy agenda. Seek co-sponsors for platform (i.e.: B-#, Kids Count Fund etc.) Release through Press Conference Talking Points Tool Kit to help organizations use platform to visit Legislators. <p>Be sure to have a unified message about all EC programs so does not become an “either</p>	<p>Ann check on availability of Abby Thorman to facilitate.</p> <p>Public Awareness Committee report in May on strategies for short term – this year to communicate importance of continued funding for early childhood. Begin to consider longer term efforts to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start with Legislature and bring parents into system Develop a campaign that reaches beyond PIECES

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<p>or” situation for funding.</p> <p>Symbols/ Logos go out for public comment soon</p> <p>Margie Hale reported on two new initiatives: “Vote for Children Initiative in WV: Main candidates sent questionnaire about child topics/how they stand on issues “Every Child Matters” (National Group opening office in WV) provides: Voter education, financial support to candidates. Can be utilized in WV for three things: 1. Polling in WV for support 2. Voter education (candidate stance) 3. Voter registration campaigns.</p> <p><u>Quality Initiatives: (Handout)</u> Helen Post Brown reported that committee considered ways to approve curriculum enhancements. It is their recommendation that a “list” of approved supplements would be less effective than a statement regarding use and review of supplemental materials. A one page draft statement was proposed and reviewed by the Council.</p> <p>Discussed the need for professional development in comprehensive curriculum to build capacity in WV. Also discussed Sally Byard/Concord College developing a training on how to use DAP Curriculum. A group will be meeting in April to continue these efforts.</p> <p><u>Regional Curriculum Sessions:</u> Council members were informed and invited to the March publishers presentation and instructed to sign up with Karen Duckworth if interested</p> <p><u>Infant and Toddler Initiative:</u> Kelley reported that in Jan. 04 Small group met to discuss role/expectation of potential</p>	<p>At May Meeting, Council members will look a “plan” and decide how to proceed</p> <p>Logos will be emailed or put on website for Council reaction/ feedback.</p> <p>Cathy recommends that the list be reworded to give it teeth : i.e.: Work Sheets not allowed</p> <p>Council gave authorization to proceed with guidelines</p> <p>Council suggested strengthening statement language in several places. Committee will revise and revision will be emailed to Council members.</p>

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<p>consultant to build on/ revise/change current program or use it as a guide to restructure I/T training.</p> <p>Discussed the scope of work (Handout) for the consultant including deliverables.</p> <p>Also discussed members of the Infant and Toddler Team attending the National Zero-Three Conference in Baltimore where Ann Nutt presented on WV I&T Initiative and team members were given the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions regarding High Quality Infant and Toddler Care, I&T Toddler Specialists, effective professional development, evaluation methods, and to meet with Abby Thorman on public will and engagement.</p> <p>ECERS-R Capacity Building: (Minutes Enclosed) Barbara Myers reported that an ECERS-R a core team is formed to help equip each county with at least one reliable ECERS-R rater. The core team will be calibrated by June 2004.</p> <p>ECCS grant: Phil updated the Council on the ECCS grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing Domain Name for Website (HCCWV) • Working on a listing of data resources for WV • Hold Forum in Fall (2004) 	<p>Criteria for Order of Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with counties who state full implementation • Design Process/ Procedures • Mail to process to counties
<p>May Meeting Date: Margie Hale reported that Council members are invited to attend a panel on Early Literacy : May 14, 2004 11:00 am Embassy Suites Charleston</p>	<p>Council decided to move the May meeting to: Embassy Suites Charleston 9:00 am – 11:00 am</p>
<p>Next Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Awareness Report • CWB Report 	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned.</p>