

**PIECES Advisory Council  
November 14, 2003  
Family Enrichment Center**

**Members Present:** Sandy Murphy, Mary Francis Bleidt, Randy Bridgette, Rashida Dickerson, Margie Hale, Bill Huebner, Helen Post-Brown, Barbara Myers

**Other:** Fred Boothe, Kay Tilton, Cathy Jones, Ann Nutt, Kelley Worley, Karen Duckworth, Melanie Clark, Sally Byard, Joan Faris, Mary Ann Osborne, Frank Caputo

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED	KEY DECISIONS MADE
<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Additions</b></p>	<p>Sandy Murphy welcomed everyone attending.</p> <p>Bill Huebner made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Mary Francis seconded the motion. Motion carried. No additions to the agenda.</p>
<p><b>Public Comment-</b>Representatives from WV AFT voiced concerns regarding the requirement in WV DE Policy 2525 that all pre-k classrooms meet the standards in WV DHHR Child Care Center Licensing Regulations. Primary issues centered around conflicts with public school policy requirements such as the frequency of health exams, TB tests as well as performance evaluations. Public school teacher evaluations are governed by WV DE Policy 5310. Inspection by WV DHHR licensing specialists feels like dual oversight and places different expectations on pre-k teachers than other teachers in public school systems.</p>	<p>Kay explained that the licensing specialists will visit classrooms to review the facilities. They would not be evaluating the teachers. Policy 2525 does require that all programs meet the same regulations for all 4 year olds. This is what is recommended nationally. There does need to be compromise in areas of conflict and a need to work on specific issues. We need to decide on what is best for children and go from there. The attorney has informed Kay that they are not eligible for an emergency rule to make changes this Legislative Session.</p> <p>Cathy stated that the same regulations for all settings (Child Care, Head Start, Public School Preschool, etc) will improve the quality of care with 4 year olds.</p> <p>Kay invited members of WV AFT to attend the Regulations &amp; Standards Committee meetings to work on the licensing issues. Cathy can provide the cost of substitutes so that teachers may participate.</p>

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	<p>Randy made the motion to move this to the Regulations &amp; Standards Committee. Bill seconded it. Motion passed.</p> <p>Members of the WV AFT are welcome to participate on any PIECES committees.</p>
<p><b>Early Learning Standards Framework (ELSF)-</b> Cathy presented the ELSF to the State Board of Education as part of 2520.15. Pre-k Content Standards. The Board asked for clarification on the sentence <i>“The Framework is not designed as an assessment tool, nor should it be used as a way to delay the entry of eligible children into kindergarten.”</i> The Board also asked that the “experiences” section be clarified to reflect experiences that should be daily and those that should occur routinely. Clarifications will be made and the ELSF will be presented to the State Board of Education for permission to go to comment on December 11, 2003. They should go out for a 30-day public comment about December 15, 2003. Revisions will be made before going back to the Board for final adoption.</p> <p><b>Site Visits</b> - The TA Steering Team will be visiting models of collaborations. Eight counties were chosen from the plans submitted in June. No more than 3 Team members will go to a site. The profile from the 04 County Plan will be used to describe and summarize the collaboration.</p> <p><b>Pre-k Position Statement</b> - Cathy announced that the State Board of Education has adopted a Pre-k Position Statement. This statement will go out to all Legislators. (Attached)</p> <p><b>NAEYC</b> - Ann, Cathy, and Bill presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in Chicago. They presented on how WV is implementing Universal Pre-k. WV provides a model of maximizing</p>	<p>Kay thanked Ann, Cathy, and Sally for their hard work on editing the standards.</p> <p>Ann explained that Sally had pulled a group together to start the work. A variety of diverse groups provided input, comments and suggestions. Then a two-day retreat was held to revise language. Final review and edit was completed by Cathy, Sally and Ann.</p> <p>Sally stated that the ELSF was created from multiple research, experts, and practitioners.</p> <p>Mary Francis stated her concern that the ELSF align with the Head Start Standards.</p> <p>Ann, Sally, and Cathy assured that they aligned with the Head Start Standards, the National Pre-k Standards, and The Content Standards for k-12.</p> <p>Karen read the counties and dates set.</p> <p>Cathy invited the council members to go on a visit if available. Contact Karen if interested.</p>

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<p>resources to develop the initiative without a large influx of new money. The presentation was well received.</p>	
<p><b>Nominating Committee</b> - At the last Council meeting a nominating committee was created to identify new members. The committee met and discussed options for new membership (minutes attached). Before recommending names the committee felt the Council needed to discuss whether the positions on the council were "individual" seats or representatives of their organizations.</p> <p>Fred gave a brief history as to how people were selected to be on the advisory council. Sandy named the current membership representation:</p> <p>Community, Resource &amp; Referral, Private Foundation, Senate, House of Delegates, Parents, Head Start Association, Superintendents, DHHR, Head Start Collaboration, WVDE Special Education, Business, Economic Development Office, Governor's Office, WVCCU, Child Advocacy, WV Birth to Three, Higher Education, WV Community Action.</p> <p>Staff: Cathy, Kay, Fred, Melanie, Kelley, Ann, Karen</p> <p>The group discussed the possibility of having members be representative of constituencies where appropriate.</p> <p>Mary Ann Osborne noted that the WV AFT would be interested in being represented on the Council.</p> <p>The Council discussed the difficulty of some individuals being available for all Council meetings. There may be a need to include specific representatives at targeted opportunities. The opportunity to develop some interest and involvement through more specific committee work could evolve into Council membership.</p> <p>Official membership for Cathy Jones and Kay Tilton was</p>	<p>The council identified gaps in membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith-based</li> <li>Additional businesses</li> <li>Health (providers plus state agency)</li> <li>Senior services (intergenerational)</li> <li>Unions</li> <li>Media</li> </ul> <p>Additional Considerations were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Balance of community and state agency representatives</li> <li>· Balance of representation from various groups</li> <li>· Diversity</li> </ul> <p>The Council developed a recommended list of membership representation. Note was made on whether the Advisory Council would identify a specific individual to represent the constituency or whether the group would be asked to identify the representative. The list is attached.</p>

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<p>discussed.</p> <p>Cathy has identified for the appointment of representation of Superintendents and local county administrator. Kay Carpenter (Webster) and John Stallings (Taylor). Additionally, the DHHR identified Mary Ann Dean, CSM Nicholas County as a potential member.</p>	<p>Margie made the motion that Cathy Jones and Kay Tilton be members of the council. Randy seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p> <p>The names were discussed and the decision was to wait on a vote at this time in order to further discuss balance of representation. The nominating committee will bring a slate of names to the January Council meeting for the council to approve.</p>
<p><b>Legislative Session Preparation</b> - Sandy asked if there were issues that may come up during the session of concern or interest to PIECES. The Council discussed that opposition still exists to Senate Bill 247, the funding and the collaborative effort. It is foreseen that it will still be a fight in the legislature to maintain the legislation.</p> <p>The suggestion was made that if particular legislative areas are identified as problematic that they be targeted for support to develop positive collaborations to implementation of WV Pre-k.</p> <p>Another suggestion was made that counties with collaboratives that are working well be encouraged to talk to their legislators.</p>	

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<p>Mary Ann stated that the WV AFT has a task force working on early education issues.</p> <p>Sally stated that the lobby needs to be maximization/ collaboration of funds.</p> <p>Barbara (Head Start Association) and Helen (WV Child Care Center United) along with WWAYC will lobby to keep the collaboration, and will keep PIECES informed. A consistent position may be established.</p>	<p>Sandy encouraged all groups to have the same message that collaborative implementation and funding be continued.</p>
<p><b>Annual Report</b> - Target for the annual report is for Children's Day. Ann stated that she has a rough draft that includes accomplishments with a focus on system coordination. Input was requested on length of the report.</p>	<p>The council decided on a long piece with an executive summary to be due by Children's Day at the Legislature (February 18, 2004). It will be brought to the PIECES Council by the January meeting. Ann will try to email a draft out earlier.</p>
<p><b>Curriculum Recommendations</b> - The Quality Initiatives and Curriculum completed a review of curricula that were submitted by publishers. Evaluation was completed on the approved review tool and to insure that curricula would support the curriculum standards in Policy 2525. Ann reviewed the curricula evaluated and noted whether it was approved or not and why.</p> <p><b>Appeal Process</b> - Ann asked about the appeal process for the curriculum. Should the list be held if a company does appeal, or should there be no appeal process? Ann will send the companies that were not selected a memo of why they were not selected at this time.</p> <p><b>Teacher Support</b> - Ann stated that teachers will need support in implementing the curriculum.</p>	<p>Bill made the motion to accept the approved list of curriculum. Mary Francis seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p> <p>Bill made the motion that there be no appeal process at this time. Randy seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p> <p>The council decided to create a Task Force from members of both committees and WVCCU, WWAYC, and WV AFT to consider this issue.</p>
<p><b>Head Start Collaboration Project</b> - The project is funded on an annual grant. Bill asked to bring the work plan of the project to the council and that the PIECES Advisory Council act in an advisory capacity to the project. There</p>	<p>Kay made the motion for the council to act in an advisory capacity to the Head Start Collaboration Project. Randy seconded the motion. The motion carried.</p>

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could be future funds to help support the council.	
<b>Technical Assistance Plans</b> - The TA Steering Team will be holding 4 Regional meetings in the state.	An invitation will be emailed to the council members.
<b>Next Agenda</b> - The Systems Development, State Investment in Child Care, Child Care Licensing Issues, and Child Well Being Survey were moved to the January meeting.	
<b>Adjourn</b> - Sandy adjourned the meeting. Next meeting is January 9, 2004 at the Family Enrichment Center.	

## PIECES Advisory Council Membership

At large Community Representative (1)	PIECES Council identify
Child Care Resource and Referral Representative (2)	PIECES Council identify
Private Foundation (consortium?)	PIECES Council identify
Senate representative	Contact LOCEA
House of Delegates representative	Speaker of the House
County Public School Superintendents (2)	Association ? PIECES identify at least one
WV DHHR Community Service Manager	PIECES
Head Start Collaboration Office	PIECES Council identify
Parents (2)	PIECES Council identify
Head Start Association	Association identify
Preschool Special Education	PIECES Council identify
WV Birth to Three	PIECES Council identify
Business representatives (2)	PIECES Council identify
Governor's Office	Governor's Office
WV Child Care Centers United	Association identify
WV Community Action	Association identify
Kids Count	Association identify
Advocates (Coalition of WV Children/ Welfare Reform Coalition possibilities)	PIECES identify
Faith Based (explore Council of Churches )	PIECES identify
WVDHHR -	Kay Tilton
WVDE -	Cathy Jones
Health Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Healthy Child Care WV - Joan Faris</li> <li>· SECCS grant - Joan Skaggs</li> </ul>
Senior Services - Intergenerational	PIECES Council identify
Teacher's Unions	Association identify
Public Awareness	PIECES Council identify
Seek committee participation from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Development Office</li> </ul>	

- Higher Education
- Health providers