



## Governor's Early Childhood Commission Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Senate Office Building, Capitol Complex  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

### Meeting Minutes

**Commission:** Lt. Governor Spencer Cox, Casey Cameron for Jon Pierpont, Sydnee Dickson, Dr. Joe Miner, Ann Williamson

**Commission Staff:** Karen Peterson, Tracy Gruber, Montana Meyers, Kirsten Rappleye, Mark Brasher

**Interested Parties and Guests:** Joyce McStotts, Katie Ricks, Lisa Morgan, Melody Pedersen, Lisa Davenport, Nicole Bissonette, Kellie Kohler, Allison Nicholson, Audry Wood, Bacall Hinks, Bill Cosgrove, Brian Zabriskie, Carrie Martinez, Elizabeth Garbe, Finau Conklin, Jamie Robinson, Jennifer Mitchell, Jessica Smith, Jody Zabriskie, Katherine Bark, Kory Holdaway, Lisa Davenport, Lisa Morgan, Melody Pedersen, Natalie Brush, Nicolle Bissonette, Nune Phillips, Page Checketts, Scott Cheney, Sheila Walsh-McDonald, Teresa Davenport

| Agenda Item  | Discussion  | Recommendations/Action   |
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| Welcome and Introductions                              | Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox welcomed the group. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Call of Members</li> <li>b. Approval of the 12/12/2019 meeting minutes.</li> </ol>   | Lt. Gov. Cox called for a motion to approve the 12/12/2019 minutes. Dr. Joe Miner motioned. Casey Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes approved. |
| Agency Updates on Early Childhood Response to Covid-19 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Office of Child Care - Tracy Gruber gave an overview of the One Utah Child Care System, Covid-19 Child Care Task Force, and Professional Development Changes during Covid-19. As of 5/20/2020 22% of Licensed Centers and 8.6% of Licensed Family were closed, but it is anticipated those percentages will continue to improve. They have served over 300 children so far in the One Utah Child Care Program. The Child Care Operations Grant went to over 400 providers which granted resources necessary to keep programs open and will continue through the end of June 2020. Many summer programs were not going to reopen due to lack of resources and Office of Child Care is hopeful to award agreements in every County, in a couple of weeks. The Recovery Work Group that is focused on the near and long term sustainability of Child Care in the upcoming year. Child Care programs are working with Office of Child Care and Child Care Licensing to assist with the many health and safety requirements, to help them recover.</li> <li>b. Babywatch Early Intervention Program - Lisa Davenport provided an overview of the Babywatch Early Intervention Program prior to and in response to Covid-19. Babywatch has remained open for business; all services continue to take place in the child's natural environment. Since March 2020, all early intervention services have been delivered virtually (No face to face visits have taken place with children and their families). All intervention services delivered to eligible children via tele-intervention are being reimbursed by Medicaid, HIP, and State Funds. For reimbursements, the service must include video</li> </ol> |  |

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|                                      | <p>conferencing; telephone only visits are not able to be reimbursed. The Babywatch Early Intervention Program Manager sends weekly emails to all administrators and providers across the State of Utah which includes various articles, national and state updates, trainings, videos, and printable resources for both direct service providers and families during Covid-19. The CSHCN Bureau website also offers updated resources with information about Covid-19.</p> <p>c. Office of Home Visiting - Katherine Bark provided an overview of Evidence-Based Home Visiting. Due to the impact of Covid-19 on home visiting they are stopping services/redirection of staff to Covid-19 response, lower rates of model compliant home visits, lower caseload for home visitors, continued referrals and enrollment of families, higher need for services, increased risk factors for families (Maternal depression), freezes or delays on backfilling positions/hiring home visitors(limiting caseload capacity). Some of the primary concerns are the safety of staff and families. They are recommending tapering in home visits and more virtual, lack of access to receive services (devices and internet), virtual meeting fatigue, relationship-building &amp; capacity of home visitors, implementing screenings (IPV), and focusing on high risk families. They are looking at what it will be like to begin transitioning back to in-person home visiting, continuation of combined virtual, and telecommunication visits.</p> |   |
| Needs Assessment and Strategic Plans | <p>a. Allison Nicholson presented on the Needs Assessment and the PDG5 Strategic Plan and provided an overview of the system elements in a coordinated and aligned system, discussed the Key system findings in the Needs Assessment, and discussed the strategies for the Strategic plan and the key takeaways within each of the domains.</p> <p>i. Needs Assessment: <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/needsassessment.pdf">https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/needsassessment.pdf</a></p> <p>ii. Strategic Plans: <a href="https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/pdgb5.pdf">https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/pdgb5.pdf</a></p>   |   |
| Next Steps in Conjunction with ECU   | <p>a. Tracy Gruber Early Childhood Utah (ECU), advisory committee co-chair discussed the strategic plan and development and plan to bring to the next meeting. Recommendations will be vetted and will be aligned with the strategic plan. All stakeholders need to be at the table to review recommendations and make recommendation to Commission. Two activities ECU is focused on right now 1) Comprehensive developmental screenings across the state for Utah children and 2) Professional Development System for Early Care and Education.</p>   |   |
| Other Business                       | <p>a. Next Meeting: July 9, 2020 9-10:30 a.m.</p>   |   |
| Adjournment                          | <p>Lt. Governor Cox called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p>   | <p>Lt. Governor Cox called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Joe Miner motioned to adjourn. Lt. Governor Spencer Cox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.</p> |