

**Sussex Early Childhood Council (SECC) - Monthly Council Meeting  
in partnership, with  
Sussex County Health Coalition (SCHC)**



---

## Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2018

---

Easter Seals, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
10:00 am to 11:30 am

***SECC MISSION:** The mission of the Sussex Early Childhood Council is to promote the highest quality comprehensive early childhood system for Sussex's young children and their families by Providing Leadership and advocacy through collaboration among families, communities, providers and schools.*

***ELAT MISSION:** The Early Learning Collaboration identifies issues and needs of young children in the community and collaborates with our partners to provide them the support through training, education, and resources.*

**Welcome & Introductions:** Christine Hoeflich-Olley called the meeting to order and the committee introduced themselves. Motion to approve minutes made by Toni Dickerson motioned was seconded by Peggy Geisler, minutes were approved as presented. Cheryl reminded the committee members that starting in August we will no longer have printed copies of the minutes available. SCHC sends out the minutes via email prior to the meeting, please read and send any corrections and changes to SCHC.

**Attendees:** Gina Ling, Christine Hoeflich-Olley, Nancy Edwards, Toni Dickerson, Linda Chantler, Mary Moor, Christine Stoops, Stephanie Wagner, Ramona Pickett, Robin Bucci, Jere' Hutson, Demetris Williams, Barbara Johnson, Paulina Gyan, John Fisher-Klein, Molly White, Jen McCue, Peggy Geisler, Cheryl Doucette, Lisa Coldiron, Nancy Burris

**Action Items:**

- **Paulina Gyan:**
  - will send SCHC her power point presentation and handouts to send to all committee members. On Going
  - Send information on states that have optimal screenings. On Going
  - Will send information on VROOM app. Members were asked to check out VROOM and provide feedback.
- Mary Moor will present to the committee in May. Confirmed
- SCHC/Committee will reach out to Belvie, present an update in June, move update to August. On Going.
- SCHC will invite Dr. Jordan Weisman, AmeriHealth to present to this committee. On Going
- Nancy Edwards will share information on the conversational turns “vest” that tracks interactions and conversations with a child. DONE
- Lisa Coldiron will share information on the tool box program the “sisters” created and are using. On Going
- Read Aloud Delaware will provide SCHC would like 100 packets for the IR Latino event in May. On Going
- Jen McCue, Nemours will present to this committee in June, to be confirmed.
- \$tand by Me to present after July break. SCHC will schedule.
- **SECC-ELAT will move this committee meeting from 9/25 to 9/20.**

**Guest Speaker:** Paulina Gyan, Division of Public Health, Maternal Child Health, ECCS CoIIN Update, Speakers Bureau  
Phone: 302-744-4992; Email: [paulina.gyan@state.de.us](mailto:paulina.gyan@state.de.us)

August 2016 received the first grant. May 2018 will be the end of the first cohort, moving to the second cohort. Direction comes from the State level, then to the local level, have partnerships with local county partners.

ECCS Impact AIM: within 60 months, participating communities will show a 25 percent increase from baseline in age appropriate developmental skills among their communities' three (3) year old children.

- Children – birth to 3 in community to thrive by 2021.
- Focusing on: developmental health promotion and family well-being/relational health.

HOW: Continuous quality improvement

- Change EC programs' approach to interventions.
- Move from 'untested' interventions to small tests of change
- Using PSDA cycles to bring about effective change --then Scale and spread

Collective Impact Framework

- Large scale social change across EC systems required – High level cross sector coordination.
- Collective Impact framework helps to structure collaboration, guidance and shared measurement
- Mutually reinforcing activities

Take Home Message/Reminders

- Target population: 3-year olds and their families
- In identifying projects/activities – main question to ask – “How will this make a difference in the lives of children and families”?
- We should be able to demonstrate how our actions have made a difference in the lives of families.
- Small Tests of change – CQI/PSDA
- Also, in tracking developmental health we need to address relational health
- Essential to design our activities by addressing the measures/indicators.

Parent conference on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Helping parents become leaders, and champions for their kids.

Speakers Bureau Services on Early Childhood Education and Health Flyer. A collaboration of early childhood professional, providers and parents focused on empowering families and communities to increase their knowledge and engagement regarding early childhood development, healthy literacy and education, to improve outcomes for children and their families.

Mom bags funding from CoIIN. First follow up appointment with newborn's pediatrician is mainly scheduled by the hospitals before mom leaves hospital. St. Louis, MO, has a packet that gets mailed to the mother's home address after delivery discharge. This program is expensive, but SCHC is looking into the St. Louis Program.

Improve the quality of screening, referrals, and follow-up by establishing a set of indicators programs/stakeholders that provide developmental screens and early intervention services. Developmental screenings through local community health fairs over the spring and summer. Streamlining referrals, so kids needing services don't fall through the cracks. Working with CPSU social workers in libraries to reach out to families to assist with making appointments, receiving services for kids and their families.

Working through the care coordination effort:

- Currently on hold with concerns from our early intervention program – child development watch.
- Have reached out to HMG National/NICHQ for TA to assist us work through differences

We need to do small tests of change to move the needle.

Q: have you see an increase in developmental screenings across the state? Data is not available to document changes but there is an increase. What are we still missing from Sussex County, what else needs to be done? Not an equability resource distribution throughout the state. Northern DE has more resources than Sussex County. After the first ASQ screening, there is a fall off, doctors don't get reimbursed for follow up screenings. However, subtle developmental changes may be missed. How can this group help? This group can influence policy changes.

Q: How do we plan for the influx of babies born with opioid addiction? Can we get ahead of this now?

Debbie Pringle, Connections, has a Mom's group. Debbie and Paulina will work together. CoIIN new mom bags could be a good connection.

Q: Who do you have at community events performing the development screenings. Delaware 2-1-1 team, and trained staff to do the ASQ screenings. Working with Delaware 2-1-1 for the last five years, gathering data.

## Reviewed of Action Items

Before we invite legislatures to committee meetings, we (as a group) need to make sure the agenda is clear on what we would like them to address. Invite multiple legislatures while they are out of session instead of just one person. Lt. Gov. would be interested in attending. As a committee, pitch a policy brief to the attending legislature. SCHC is willing to work with committee volunteers to draft a brief/position. Anyone interested in serving with the Ad Hoc Policy should contact SCHC. Possible brief: Increasing the coverage from 3 to 5 screenings. Medicaid is probably the best payor in the state, covers 150,000 residents. Look at insurance companies for support on increasing the screenings. SCHC will invite AmeriHealth, Jordan Weisman, to present to this group (developed a pro-active program).

Office of Early Learning has representation, John attended. He said he would be attending on a monthly basis. The committee thanked him for coming. We will add John to the monthly meetings for 5-minute update. Starting the process of looking at Delaware Stars program, opportunity to provide feedback on Delaware Stars. The Georgetown meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 to 8 pm, details will be resent. Survey data will be reviewed and then focus groups created.

DECC/ESSA Update: Christine will send SCHC a copy of minutes from last meeting to share with the group/minutes. July/August, \$tand by Me, will present an update.

### 2018 Member/Committee Goal Setting: Peggy Geisler

We have a dashboard, healthy babies, Health Committee, SECC-ELAT looks at healthy babies. Kids are entering school that are not ready to learn. Majority of the kids that we need to reach are not in day care and they are not getting early language skills. How can we reach those these kids to increase language acquisition? How does the community reach the parents? Kids that read at are early age have a huge advantage over kids that have not been read to. Schools can't catch up the kids to grade level reading.

Discussion on how to assist parents read to their kids. Help Me Grow: VROOM app has a free download. Several tips for parents. Paulina has the information on Vroom. FREE app. SCHC can easily promote the VROOM app. Peggy asked the committee members how many people they could reach in their circle of influence, now times that number by everyone on the committee? The potential to reach lots of people, with little effort could be huge. Many of the initiatives are up north, Read Aloud needs to be better engaged in Sussex County. The kids that have real severe issues would not be able to use VROOM. Lisa Coldiron will provide information on the box of tools by the "sisters". Look at the reading landscape, make some recommendations, push out to the committee/community. We can work on kids not reading, that is preventable.

### Partner Updates:

- DE Readiness Team, getting ready for Kindergarten folders are available, if you want copies, let her know. Packets are available in English and Spanish. AI: SCHC wants 100 packets for IR event, May 2018. Bilingual resources will be available. Schools are trying to become a safe hub for Latino families with funding from Arsht Cannon and Matt Haley fund.
- Mary Moor will present in May. Christine/SCHC to get reach out to Belvie to present to the committee in June.
- SECC-ELAT will move this committee meeting from 9/25 to 9/20. As a committee we will help Christine prepare a 5-minute presentation.
- Parents as Teacher Project, parent involvement showed a 22% decrease in child abuse to educate legislatures. Study validates that Parents as Teachers does work. 30 years in the state of Delaware celebration end of May 2018.
- Partners can use SCHC office space. Family Shade will be using SCHC space to reach more Sussex County residents. SCHC helped with Summer Collab last year. New SCHC partners: Teen Sharp, Delaware Can, STRIVE all are best practices that Peggy is familiar with. Other agencies looking to work with SCHC space.
- Jen McCue, Nemours: works in the trauma in the hospitals. She goes to where the kids are coming from. She is looking for more partners in Sussex. Christine and Stephanie will partner with her. Pregnancy screening of mom's can get a free infant car seat. Agencies provide translators. Manuals are available in Spanish and creole

**Meeting Adjourned: Next meeting will be May 22, 2018, 10:00 am, Easter Seals conference room.**