**January 9, 2020 Strong Start Coalition Meeting**

**Metro United Way, Louisville**

Attendees:

Amanda Greenwell, United Way of Greater Cincinnati/NKY,

Amanda Wright, KET

Amy Booth, University of Kentucky

Amy Cooley, Erlanger-Elsmere Schools

Andrea Day, Division of Child Care

April Trent, Save the Children

Ashley Brandt, Metro United Way

Becca Parrish, Partners for Appalachian Families

Bill Buchanan, Kentucky Department of Education,

Brittany Barber, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

Carlena Sheeran, Hardin County Schools

Cori Gadansky, 4C, Louisville

Dawn Thompson, 4C, Louisville

Ann Larson, University of Louisville

Erin Powell, The Collaborative Center for Literacy Development

Felicia Alford, St. Benedict Center

Gabriella Greenwell, OVEC

Gary Cremeans, United Way of the Bluegrass,

Jessica Cain, Division of Child Care

Jill Jacobi-Vessels, University of Louisville

June Widman, Appalachian Early Childhood Network

Kathy Mullen, Visually Impaired Preschool Services

Keith Lyons, University of Kentucky

Kristin Collins, Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky,

Lori Norton-Meier, University of Louisville

Mike Hammons, Learning Grove (formerly Children, Inc.)

Nicki Patton Rowe, Early Brain Development Consultant

Sally Shepherd, Governor’s Office of Early Childhood,

Terry Tolan, Center for Non-Profit Excellence

Whitney Stevenson, Fayette County Schools

Shanta Renae Small, Community Action, Lexington

Molly McComas, Scott County Schools

Kathy Reutman, Boone County Schools

Kathy King, 4C, Louisville

Nicole Krider, United Way of Kentucky

Patricia Tennan, Kentucky Youth Advocates

Jancy Andris, University of Louisville,

Cyndy Rees, Council for a Strong America

Perry Papka, Prichard Committee

Helen Carroll, Prichard Committee

(Please let me know if your name is not listed here)

**Expanding High Quality Family Child Care in Kentucky: Louisville Pilot Update**

Terry Tolan, Ashley Brandt, Dawn Thompson and Kathy King presented an overview and update of the Louisville Regional Pilot for this project, funded by the Kellogg Foundation. See attached powerpoint.

**Strong Start Policy Agenda**

Perry Papka presented and shared the following links:

* Early Childhood Action Page - [https://www.prichardcommittee.org/early-childhood-education/](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.prichardcommittee.org%2Fearly-childhood-education%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd8d19de914bb48cd130408d792eac796%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637139409806469109&sdata=xuOztpfA%2F0wwm2nJjQYkiVTH8FGZQvc0QAmsxbBrmHA%3D&reserved=0) - Contains fact sheet, a short video and a “Take action” link to contact your legislator in support of Strong Start agenda.
* Prichard Committee’s “Big Bold Ask”  - [https://www.prichardcommittee.org/investing-in-education-excellence-with-equity/](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.prichardcommittee.org%2Finvesting-in-education-excellence-with-equity%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd8d19de914bb48cd130408d792eac796%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637139409806479118&sdata=NGPBaginuH3DptVP8V1aMumHAwhZL2kRuuSEf5F4c8M%3D&reserved=0) - describing our investment plan for education over the next 6-years, including childcare and preschool.
* Sign on letter: We want to get feedback on the sign-on letter as the idea is to have Strong Start organizations undersign and we would send to governor and legislature.

(2020 Strong Start Policy Agenda and Draft sign-on letter sent in email on 1/12/2020)

Approval form for sign-on letter to be sent on 1/24/2020

You are encouraged to talk to your legislator about the Policy Agenda and the messaging around “Our Kids Deserve a Strong Start”! If you need help in contacting your legislator or with the messaging, the Prichard Committee is happy to help.

Comments:

Remember the women in the legislature. . . .

We need more child care but can’t find workers. Salary issues.

As wages go up, fewer people qualify for cc assistance.

**Partner Updates**:

Governor’s Office of Early Childhood: Sally Shepherd

* Linda Hampton resigned her position as Executive Director of the GOEC to become the Senior Director, Program Development-Rural Education, US Programs & Advocacy at Save the Children. A new GOEC Executive Director will be appointed soon.
* Kentucky was not a recipient of the highly competitive Preschool Development Grant Continuation opportunity. However, Kentucky did receive approval on its no cost extension through March 31, 2020.
* As indicated in the Strategic Plan, the ECAC will secure new, diverse funding and utilize existing resources more effectively. Fiscal Mapping information is located on the [ECAC page of the GOEC website](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fkidsnow.ky.gov%2Fabout%2FECAC%2FPages%2FECAC-info.aspx&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc2858440f0264e18fc2408d79b61ce48%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637148716676733821&sdata=HcH8kIV4AGiPSkPRpKLLsuVs4bBYLnCJwXdmbcZpic4%3D&reserved=0) in the September 2019 ECAC materials.
* The [KHSA](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheadstartky.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cc2858440f0264e18fc2408d79b61ce48%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637148716676733821&sdata=SyiDTM1z7vS1PKz8x%2Fq%2BdivnX5%2Bf6nRRmW7BgNKI6%2Bc%3D&reserved=0) Annual Conference dates are March 17-19, 2020 at the Galt House. Registration and more information here: <https://headstartky.org/events/>

Kentucky Department of Education: Bill Buchanan – see attached powerpoint

* Levels of kindergarten readiness – previous evaluations were Ready or Not Ready – not such a good evaluation – not promoting a growth mindset. Now there are three levels of readiness: ready with interventions, ready, and ready with enrichments. Not deficit based. We should communicate that way.
* Slide 7: Kindergarten readiness by domain: what can be done by in early childhood settings to encourage child well-being in some of these areas?
* Preschool Accountability – 2020-21 – will have a new accountability evaluation system.

More about this system will be shared at regional meetings across the state in March.

* Preschool Partnership Grants
  + Mid-year reports due to NKU by Jan 15
  + In spring, NKU will conduct individual partner interviews
  + Final report available in the summer
  + If Partnership Grants are available moving forward, we won’t know until after the legislative session

Cabinet for Health and Family Services: Andrea Day

* Waiting for Secretary to be named, as well as DCBS Commissioner.
* Received final approval on state plan
* Federal monitoring visit in November – waiting on follow-up call for results, hoping early February.
  + May have to open health and safety regs, based on questions and conversations around registered providers, emergency preparedness, lock-down drills, and how we will handle the Cliff Effect – a current hot topic.
* Peer to Peer call with Kansas to continue to get infant and toddler support network off the ground.
* Reimbursement rate – evaluating to promote what’s best for all providers, equitable.

**Member Updates:**

Council for a Stronger America – Cyndi Rees joined us to learn more about Strong Start. To learn more about Council for a Strong America - <https://www.strongnation.org/locations/kentucky>

Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD) – Keith Lyons

* Use Imagination Library: get books into hands of kids but also use in family engagement work, trainings on what parents can do at home with the books before children enter school.
* Kentucky Reading Project now has early childhood component. Erin Powell is new director of KRP.

Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS) – Kathy Mullen

* Imagination Library and American Printing House for the Blind now partnering on early intervention – can now get books in hands of visually impaired children every other month or if they are children of adults who are visually-impaired.
* VIPS offers training for pre-school teachers of visually-impaired students.

University of Louisville – Ann Larson

* In partnership with the IBM Global Education and Skills Academy, U of L is creating a new digital transformation center that will transform the access, awareness, design and use of digital technology to enhance learning and discovery in Kentucky. Ann has invited the SS group to contact her if interest in learning more, pursuing services through this new center.
* See attached brochure.

Boone County Schools – Kathy Reutman

* This year, evaluating at all BC’s collaborative partnerships, define them and shore them up.
* Boone County Success by Six dissolved – joined NKY Success by Six but created Boone County Early Learning Fund (funds from public library and extension office) – provides grants for training to allow agencies that serve Boone County students to impact quality early care.

Learning Grove (formerly Children, Inc.) – Mike Hammons

* Strong Start advocacy goals are shared with other groups – we’re coordinating our goals but also our strategy. Important to leverage our networks and to get the word out about the importance of early childhood.
* Impressed with how many legislators are talking about early childhood – childcare assistance, all day kindergarten and preschool – we’re having an impact working together to get the word out.
* Children’s Advocacy Day is January 23.
* Tara Johnson-Noem – left her advocacy role at United Way of Greater Cincinnati to become Executive Director of NKY Workforce Investment Board. Can help us address workforce issues.

Kentucky Department of Education – Bill Buchanan

* Early Childhood Advisory Council (birth through 3rd grade subcommittee) - has spent the last year working on transition and practice, researching what’s happening in other states with support of PDG dollars. Evaluating best practices, birth through third grade.

Community Action, Lexington – Shanta Renae Small

* 100 % participation in a new CAC book program – encouraging reading, putting books in hands of families who may not be focused on reading.

Scott County Schools – Molly McComas

* Working on universal preschool.
* Appreciate the information about work with other cultures and translation of English materials – this is a huge need for Scott County.

Save the Children – April Trent

* Changes – Angie Boggs has moved to Senior Director and the new state director is Alyssa Taylor.

Child Care Aware – Amy Booth

* Getting information out to families about what quality child care looks like.
* Updating website from Kentucky Partnership for Early Childhood to Child Care Aware of Kentucky. Should be complete within the next month.

Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky – Kristin Collins

* Involved in Expanding High Quality Family Child Care Pilot in eastern Kentucky.
* Involved in criminal justice reform initiative in community – broad lens – what needs to be in place in a community so that people don’t go back into the system, and how child care is impacted, plays a role.

Appalachian Early Childhood Network (formerly Eastern Kentucky Child Care Coalition)– June Widman

* We’re a small organization for a broader reach. In the last year, we trained all 700 individuals in our region. We are also a food program sponsor for family child care in the region. We returned $366,000 to the community through reimbursements for the food program in our communities.
* Now we want to move forward to determine how we find folks who really could do family child care as a business.
* We want to help family child care stay in business.

Division of Child Care – Jessica Cain

* Five regional pilots for Expanding Family Child Care in Kentucky
* In process of determining the work plan for the remainder of the grant period, through May 2021.

Metro United Way – Kim

* Working with Play Cousins – targeting children not in child care. Want to make sure everyone has access to child care.

Hardin County Schools – Carlena Sheeran

* Piloting five day a week, full day preschool.
* Started an outdoor learning classroom for preschool

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools – Amy Cooley

* We now have a space at a mobile home park – to help support a community where many of our children are. Opened December 12. Many community partners, including United Way. Can use space of family engagement and engaging students of all ages.
* Bringing Toddler School to the community center.

United Way of Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky – Amanda Greenwell

* Relaunched My Pre-K website.
* Promoting kindergarten registration with school districts; partnering with businesses to get word out to employees.

United Way of Kentucky – Nicole Krider

* Please spread the word and join us and our local United Ways for Live United Day in Frankfort on January 30th.

University of Louisville, Early Childhood Research Center – Janey Andris

New early childhood researcher at U of L

University of Louisville – Jill Jacobi-Vessels

* Impressed with Strong Start meetings and the members who are involved – love the collection of experience and variety of lens.
* In the state, we are struggling with turnover in early childhood and salaries are an issue – when we look at raising the CCAP rate, that doesn’t necessary raise the salaries of staff. Let’s get creative and not forget all of the pieces.
* Shared that she saw billboard (64 West) on her way home yesterday about the importance of early childhood – that’s exciting!

University of Louisville, Early Childhood Research Center – Lori Norton Meier

* Her news – she’s going to be a Grandma!
* Working to make a Bachelors Degree more accessible to the working early childhood professionals.

OVEC Head Start – Gabriella Greenwell

* Related to kindergarten readiness, we want to make sure we’re providing services for children and families who are experiencing poverty.

Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities – Brittany Barber

* Provided info on Early Childhood Consultants – working and supporting families impacted by opioid/substance abuse. These consultants are working in each of the 14 Community Health Centers and provide services statewide. Contact Brittany for more information: Brittanya.Barber@ky.gov
* Save the Date – June 9 – 11 – System of Care Academy. Will include trauma-informed care training, free to those who participate. Contact Brittany if interested – training fills up fast.
* See attachment – Early Childhood Program Crosswalk

Partners for Education – Becca Parrish

* Tennant Kirk – retired.
* We are involved with Prichard Committee’s family engagement grant, specifically in the Appalachian region.
* Website launched: <https://partnersforappalachianfamilies.org/>
* If there are resources that you feel would be important to share with families and schools, please let Becca know.

Fayette County Schools – Whitney Stevenson

* This past fall, hosted 14th annual Early Childhood Summit – 350 attended – included free training, trauma-informed care.
* First Five initiative continues.

KET – Amanda Wright

* KET has signed up 500 families for Bright by Text and are looking for many more. Please help get the word out. Families and caregivers can sign-up by the age of their child (prenatal-age 8) to receive 2-4 messages a week.  Messages cover developmental milestones, brain development, social-emotional behavior, nutrition, and more.
* Can localize message by zip code.
* Have postcards that can be handed out or mailed.
* Have information available in Spanish.
* Contact Amanda if interested.

4C, Louisville – Dawn Thompson

* Ramping up Head Start services with partners Family Children’s Place and Shine Early Learning.
* Start serving children in February.

Metro United Way – Ashley Brandt

* Partnering in different ways with both Head Start grants and are partnering with UofL and NCFL locally to do coaching for grant.
* Excellence Academies – some are now Head Start.
* Funding process – we will be reserving about 20% of unrestricted funding for organizations who don’t get United Way funding to apply for grants.

Center for Non-Profit Excellence – Terry Tolan

* Working with variety of non-profits to build capacity and on strategic planning.
* Independently:
  + Working with a group in Danville to set their early childhood agenda with a summit this year.
  + At micro level, working with several Jefferson County organizations to do operations and financial reviews for individual child care centers.

Prichard Committee – Perry Papka

* Will be providing budget updates during session.
* PC has a new communications director – Jessica Fletcher.
* Important to reach out to legislators – the absence of your voice probably matters more.

United Way of the Bluegrass – Gary Cremeans

* New CEO – Timothy Johnson – came to Lexington from DC, Philadelphia, and New York
* Prior to coming on board, Bluegrass was developing a new strategic vision about how we do our work – Timothy brought a lot of collective impact experience for the benefit of Bluegrass. Will impact all Bluegrass counties.

**NEXT STRONG START MEETING: APRIL 9, 2020 – HOSTED BY KEITH LYONS AND THE COLLABORATIVE CENTER FOR LITERACY DEVELOPMENT AND KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:**

**118 JAMES COURT, SUITE 60, LEXINGTON, 40505 - MEETING INVITATION TO FOLLOW.**