

**Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge
Family & Community Engagement Committee Meeting**

June 23, 2014

Minutes

Location:

NJDOE, 100 River View Plaza, 3rd FL CR, Trenton, NJ

Attendees:

Suzanne Burnette, NJDOE, NJ Head Start Collaboration Office
Gambi White-Tennant, NJDOE, New Jersey Council for Young Children
Vincent Costanza, NJDOE, Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge
Erika Kelley, NJDOE, Division of Early Childhood
Heather Martindale, Jersey City Public Schools
Tasha Travis, Quality Care Resource Referral Services

Not in Attendance:

Margret Krebs, Acelero Head Start
David J. Harris, Greater New Brunswick Day Care Council
Wendy Cotton, Princeton Nursery School
Elmoria Thomas, EIRC
Joyce Thomas, US Department of Health & Human Services, ACF
Margaret Milliner, NJDHS, Division of Family Development
Shonda Laurel, NJDHS, Division of Family Development
Mary Jane DiPaolo, Community Child Care Solutions
Barbara Pugh, NJDOE, Title I
Barbara Andrew, US Department of Health & Human Services, ACF
Sharon D. Budka, NJDCF, Division of Family & Community Partnerships
Kate DiMemmo, NJDCF, Division of Family & Community Partnerships
Sharon Rawlins, NJ State Library
Monica Townsend, Prevent Child Abuse-NJ
Jennifer Buzby, Southern NJ Regional Early Intervention Collaborative

Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves.

Review Minutes

Committee members reviewed and approved May 19 minutes prepared by Erika Kelley.

Round Table/Updates

Suzanne Burnette announced that she would attend the sixth annual Celebrating Fatherhood event in New York on June 24.

Family and Community Engagement Definition

Committee members reviewed draft definitions submitted by Barbara Andrews, Sharon Budka, Kate DiMemmo, Erika Kelley and Barbara Pugh. Committee members agreed on the following as a definition for family and community engagement:

Family and community engagement is defined as parents, families and communities working in partnership for the purpose of: (1) building strong relationships to ensure access to resources and services that promote family well-being; (2) foster school success [both at home and school]; and (3) encourage ongoing learning of families, caregivers and children.

Erika Kelley will send the definition to committee members and request feedback. The committee will move forward with developing standards once the definition has been approved.

Meeting Locations

Committee members discussed other possible meeting locations since the Princeton Library charges a fee to use its space. Alternative meeting locations will be an agenda item at the next committee meeting. In the meantime, Suzanne Burnette has reserved space from 10-12 Noon at the NJDOE, 100 River View Plaza, 3rd FL CR, Trenton, NJ, for the meeting dates listed below.

Next Meeting dates

July 28

August 25

September 22

October 27