



CT Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet Meeting Minutes January 27, 2025

Time & Location: 6pm-8pm, Zoom

Facilitators: Amber A., Region 5 & Jennifer S. Region 6

Members: Region 1- Jenny C., Regan (Absent), Region 2- Raquel and Shannon, Region 3- Tiffanie, Jessica, Christina, Region 4- Tricia, Cris, and Kelly S., Region 5- Mallory, Amber and Kelly C., Region 6- Jennifer, and Stephanie.

Mission: *To build strong connections, listen intentionally, and partner with Connecticut families of young children, communities, and OEC to incorporate the expertise of all parents throughout the early childhood system to ensure family-driven equitable policies and programs.*

Meeting Purpose (*Why is this meeting needed?*):

- To continue to strengthen relationships and communication amongst members, ensure members have tools and information needed to succeed
- Receive parent cabinet input

Intended Outcomes (*What do we want to achieve by the end of this? What will success look like?*):

- New members have time to connect with existing members
- Members learn about legislative session and the role of OEC and Parent Cabinet
- Members learn about subcommittees and process to be able to join

Agenda Item/Topic	Facilitator	Notes	Key Takeaways and Implications for Parent Cabinet Members
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<p>Commissioner Office updates & Legislative Session overview</p>	<p>Acting Commissioner Elena Trueworthy, OEC and Special Advisor Michelle Cook</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting Commissioner Elena Trueworthy presented detailed information about Early Start Connecticut, explaining the consolidation of funding streams (school readiness, child daycare, and state head start) into one funding stream and implementation timeline. She reported that Request for Applications 1 has been released for existing childcare providers, with a second RFA coming soon for new providers. • Also shared the upcoming Governor’s budget will announce a significant early care and education proposal on February 5th. • Michelle Cook provided an overview of the legislative process and timeline, explaining the key committees and budget cycle. The session began on January 8th, with key dates including public hearings starting after February 20th and session ending on June 4th. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group will be giving input on the continued implementation of Early Start CT Local Governing Partners • More to come on testimony support, committee contacts and other legislative resources for the group
<p>Regional breakouts</p>	<p>Amber and Jennifer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group met to get to know newest members and practice elevator speech 	
<p>Subcommittee overview</p>	<p>OEC Staff: Chenae Russell, Parent Cabinet Coordinator, Elisabeth Teller, Birth to Three Family Liaison & General Supervision, Coral Wonderly, Data Scientist Laura Bennet, CCDF Quality Project Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chenae discussed the new subcommittee structure and processes, explaining how the parent cabinet will operate through various subcommittees to be co-chaired by staff. ▪ Staff co-chairs presented information about three active subcommittees: Data, Children with Special Needs, and Access and Affordability of Early Childhood Services ▪ Coral Wunderly to lead Data Subcommittee focusing on tracking progress against logic model outcomes and other data items ▪ Elisabeth Teller to co-lead Children with Special 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent cabinet members must join at least one subcommittee as stated in the bylaws ▪ Subcommittee co-chairs will be selected at the second meeting of each group ▪ Staff and parent co-leads will work together to schedule meetings and develop agendas

		<p>Needs Subcommittee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Laura Bennett to co-lead Access and Affordability Subcommittee which will help inform the Care for Kids program policy manual update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Quarterly deep-dive discussions will be scheduled for subcommittee updates during regular parent cabinet meetings▪ Parent cabinet members can serve on multiple subcommittees but must consider the one-hour monthly time commitment
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