



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

EARLY EDUCATION TASK FORCE

ALD. CAVALIER JOHNSON, CO-CHAIR

DANAE DAVIS, CO-CHAIR

**Bridget Clementi, Tim Coughlin, Erin Cronn, Shyla Deacon,
Tito Izard, Sheri Johnson, Paula Kiely, Geri Lyday, Vicki
Martin, Larry Miller, Gerard Randall, and Tracey Sparrow**

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Wednesday, May 17, 2017

9:30 AM

City Hall, Room 301-A

1. Review and approval of the minutes from April 24th meeting.

Meeting convened: 9:33 A.M.

Members excused: Bridget Clementi and Tito Izard

Mr. Randall moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, for approval of the minutes. There were no objections.

2. Discussion of the common themes and prioritize topic areas for focus from artifacts submitted by members (artifacts contained in file 161649).

Members introduced themselves.

The task of the body is to note common themes among the artifacts and choose from among those to focus its recommendations.

Ms. Sparrow wanted to focus on children ages zero to 3. Ms. Kiely agreed and noted that the earlier work is most successful. Ms. Davis wanted to ensure the transition to school readiness was focused on. Mr. Coughlin liked linking primary and secondary prevention strategies. Primary is to deal with the base problem and then deal with other issues that could also be resolved while Ms. Johnson thinks the primary strategy is aimed at everyone and the secondary one targets a specific audience at risk. Mr. Miller thinks the entry point is zero to 3 because then the transition will occur. Ms. Lyday said that kids that have had early intervention are light years ahead. She also noted that parents find the transition to K4 frightening as it's a different system. Ms. Deacon liked focusing on brain development and social/emotional development. Ms. Cronn also noted brain development begins in utero - members preferred the term "prenatal to 3". Ms. Cronn and Ms. Martin both noted that policy matters in how things are implemented. Ms. Johnson notes there is research on what practices result in benefits and a database, "What Works Wisconsin", at the UW that has this data and can be searched. Mr. Miller said that they should ask for the moon in terms of what resources are needed. Ald. Johnson noted a city enacted a tax on sugary drinks to pay for programs, but that might not be possible with Milwaukee due to the state. Ms. Davis would like to focus on supporting parents and Ms. Lyday said that many parents for whom English is not the first language face additional challenges. Ms. Martin sees that quality child care is not as available in the Promise Zones area and would like to also try to connect services among all the other organizations the parents

touch, such as courts, the police, social services, etc. The minimum wage is an issue as well as lack of knowledge of child development. Ms. Johnson said that the state funding for child care funding needs to be raised so it's closer to the market rate so parents can afford to send their children to quality day care. Ms. Kiely said that the research is very clear that the more you read to your child the greater his or her vocabulary and the more likely he or she is to read. Ms. Deacon also noted the importance of talking to a child and pointing out things to him or her or talking about pictures; that that is what early literacy looks like. Ms. Cronn said the data does support how important public health nurses are and they provide many services. Mr. Randall spoke on doing an asset map and trying to influence policy before it becomes set and then creates unforeseen adverse effects. Asset mapping is detailing what programs are out there, how they overlap and how they can work together better. Poor nutrition and toxic exposure (lead) are also impacting children and with better nutrition there's less absorption of lead and there's also a prenatal effect. Ms. Cronn also noted the lack of access to good healthcare and alignment of what services are needed. The city does have home-visiting nurses for pregnant women and for dads. There are 8,000 babies born every year in Milwaukee and the city interacts with approximately 600 of them. The city may get 100 referrals, but only 1/2 to 1/3 accept the offer for services. Some churches also offer group support services for pregnant women and new parents. Ms. Deacon suggested incorporating something as part of the current surveys hospitals do to women who have recently given birth. Referrals to city services tend to be either of those who seek them out or through WIC or doctors' offices. The court system is actually doing some coordinating for the children who come into the system. Ms. Lyday noted that the funding for child-supporting services has not increased in 8-10 years, but more children are being referred for services. Last year the county had 3,800 referrals while in the past it has been 3,200 and it is continuing to increase. Ms. Davis said that asset mapping, done correctly, is critical to strengthen the recommendations to demonstrate the needs. Ms. Cronn noted how much long-term stress is in the community and that affects many people adversely in a variety of ways.

Mr. Miller saw 5 themes:

Clear practices and interventions

Bridging and aligning existing resources

Policy

Resources -- existing and needed and ties to asset mapping

Test pilots - Promise Zones and an MPS 53206 initiative

Ms. Davis said subcommittees will be formed to create some recommendations. She and Ald. Johnson will select members for the subcommittees with an aim at diversity among the subcommittees.

3. Set June and July meeting dates.

The June date is June 26th and will be at Next Door.

Meeting adjourned: 10:41 A.M.

Linda M. Elmer

Staff Assistant

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