



## Governor's Early Childhood Commission Meeting

March 29, 2021  
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

### Meeting Minutes

**Commission:** Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson, Casey Cameron, Richard Saunders, Tracy Gruber, Sydnee Dickson

**Commission Staff:** Brittney Cummins, Rebecca Banner, Montana Meyers

**Interested Parties and Guests:** Greg Paras, Nune Phillips, Collin Peterson, Jeremias Solari, Emma Moench, Kellie Kohler, Barbara Leavitt, Patty Norman, Nicole Bissonette, William Cosgrove, Kristen Schulz, Anna Thomas, Audry Wood, Codie Thurgood, Lisa Davenport, Louise Knauer, Mike Jolley, Sarah Woolsey, Jamie Bitton, Jessica Smith, Karen Borg, Lynne Nilson, Carrie Stott, Jennifer Thronsdon, Anna Thomas, Kelsey, Martinez, Elizabeth Garbe, Noel Taxin, Mark Nelsen, Teresa Judd, Encarni Gallardo, Katherine Bark, Stephen Matheson, Sarah (UHPP), Jared Lisonbee, Jen Robison, Stephen Matherly, Sandi Pershing, Sara Wiebke, Gay Lyn Bennion, Teresa Oster Davis, Christopher Furner, Heather Borski, KC Hutton, Rebecca Dutton, Jessie Mandle, Kali Ottesen, Sarah Schafer, Alda Jones

Agenda Item	Discussion	Recommendations/Action
Welcome and Introductions	Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson welcomed the group and did a roll call of members.	
Approval of Minutes	a. Approval of the 9/24/2020 Meeting Minutes.	Lt. Governor Henderson called for a motion to approve the 9/24/2020 minutes. Sydnee Dickson motioned. Tracy Gruber seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes approved.
Early Childhood Commission Orientation	a. Brittney Cummins reviewed the responsibilities of the Commission, via the below link; <a href="https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title63M/Chapter13/C63M-13_2019051420190514.pdf">https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title63M/Chapter13/C63M-13_2019051420190514.pdf</a>	
Early Childhood Utah Updates-	a. Nicole Bissonette and Dr. William Cosgrove provided an update on the work of the Council and their priorities. Dr. Cosgrove reviewed the importance of investing in children in Utah. Ms. Bissonette referred to HB 47 2019: <a href="https://le.utah.gov/~2019/bills/static/HB0047.html">https://le.utah.gov/~2019/bills/static/HB0047.html</a> for the establishment of the council. Ms. Bissonette reviewed the leadership with the Commission, subcommittees, and structure. ECU Advisory Council recommendations are vetted within subcommittees and with ECU Executive committee. They are aligned with B-5 strategic plan: <a href="http://www.dws.state.ut.us/occ/pdgb5.pdf">http://www.dws.state.ut.us/occ/pdgb5.pdf</a> The subcommittees have met regularly and procedural documents were developed. Ms. Bissonette provided an overview of the recommendations that were made from the ECU Advisory to the Commission in 2020, the three-part proposal that was presented at the 7/9/2020 meeting, and the final recommendation that was presented in on 7/9/2019 on professional development and discussed the goals and what the next steps are.	

<p>ECIDS &amp; UDRC Data Review</p>	<p>a. Jeremias Solari and Nicole Bissonette provided a review on the presentations at the last Commission meeting about the ECIDS (Early Childhood Integrated Data System) and the discussion about the duplication of work performed by ECIDS and UDRC (Utah Data Research Center). Mr. Solari and Ms. Bissonette presented their findings and recommendations to the Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Areas of Duplication:</b> Technical-transfers of data, identity resolution, storage of data, some overlap in purpose - assessments, informing policy, making data available for grants or advocacy efforts.</li> <li>• <b>Areas of Differences:</b> Data Governance – Role of source systems in decision making, some differences in purpose – Research (UDRC) vs. Early Childhood system management and informing current efforts (ECIDS). Differences in data scope whereas ECIDS is narrow, UDRC is broad. Amount of data transferred to each system might be different. ECIDS provides dashboards and reporting for partner agencies and UDRC provides in-depth research reports (some experience creating reports/dashboards). Differences in subject matter expertise whereas ECIDS is specific, UDRC is a generalist.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Solari and Ms. Bissonette reviewed the costs, recommendations, and what ECIDS and UDRC would maintain independently.</p> <p>There is a legislative bill to merge Health and Human Services as well as examine merging other areas of focus like early childhood. It is unclear how those will impact these recommendations. Regardless of changes made, resources for sustainability will be essential.</p>	
<p>Early Childhood Coordination</p>	<p>a. Lt. Governor Henderson introduced an opportunity to better align and collaborate Early Childhood Programs across state agencies and determine the focus for the work of the commission. Sydnee Dickson provided some background as to why this is on the agenda as well as presenting on the recommendation from USBE that looks at separating Early Childhood services into two general areas; Early Care and Early Learning.</p> <p>The Draft Early Childhood Governance Recommendation document: <a href="https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/701479.pdf">https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/701479.pdf</a> includes initial funding and staffing analysis.</p> <p>Tracy Gruber explained that they recognized through the B-5 Needs Assessment and the data, that our programs for Early Childhood are fragmented across multiple agencies, and community-based providers. The strategic plan stated that before you can start movement, you need to get the governance structure in the state situated. This proposal is the first step into this coordinated early childhood system and in visualizing a governance structure that will best meet the needs of families.</p>	<p>Lt. Governor Henderson called for a motion on the broad general goal as to the governance structure and that this commission be the decision making and oversight in coordinating entity for early childhood. Ms. Dickson motioned to make the designee as the Lt. Governor’s office with the Early Childhood Commission to serve as the lead in ensuring collaboration across divisions. Casey Cameron seconded the motion. Motion Carried unanimously.</p>

	<p>Lt. Governor Henderson indicated this commission can act like a cabinet member and be the coordinating body as overseeing and making informed decisions.</p> <p>Lt. Governor Henderson called for discussion about consolidation and the work of commission members to determine next steps.</p> <p>Ms. Dickson recommends the following groups;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tracy Gruber (Department of Human Services), Casey Cameron (Department of Workforce Services), and Rich Saunders (Utah Department of Health) to coordinate with the work of the broader agency consolidation.</li> <li>2. Ms. Dickson will lead an additional group in coordination with commission members to work on the chart and bring it back. A start would be to gather feedback and talk about metrics with guests on the call as these partners on the call are the ones doing the work on the ground level.</li> </ol> <p>Suggested that working groups will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evolve recommendation presented by Superintendent Dickson</li> <li>• Look at current programs in agencies being consolidated and determine what changes would be better for children and families being served</li> <li>• Identify programs that are missing from the recommendation</li> <li>• Identify metrics and ensure outcomes are being met</li> <li>• Bring recommendations to next meeting for a working session</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>Ms. Dickson motioned to have two working groups to further develop the chart proposed and that a future agenda item would include the broader group on this call for a work session on further developing framework on early childhood in Utah. Mr. Saunders seconded the motion.</p> <p>Ms. Gruber indicated a good starting point is <a href="#">the B-5 Needs Assessment</a>.</p> <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Other Business	a. Members of the public can submit comments to the <a href="mailto:ecc@utah.gov">ecc@utah.gov</a> email address at any time to be included in our commission meetings.	
Adjournment	Next Meeting: May 4, 2021 from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM.	Lt. Governor Henderson called for a motion to adjourn. Casey Cameron motioned. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting Adjourned.