

# **School Readiness Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Organizational Committee Call

Conference Call

August 4, 2016 – 1:00pm-2:00pm

## **Attendees**

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### **Present Committee Members:**

Maritsa Alger, Delegate John Bell, Dr. Rosemary Burton, Dr. Irene Carney, Dr. Chris Chin, Dr. Walter Clemons, Delegate Mark Dudenhefer, Senator Siobhan Dunnavant, Senator Adam Ebbin, Navine Fortune, Kathy Glazer, Mark Gordon, Bonnie Graham, Delegate Tag Greason, Phillip Hawkins, Secretary Bill Hazel, Secretary Dietra Trent, Lisa Howard, Andrew Ko, Henry Light, Shelley Lingamfelter, Toni Marchese, Dr. Sara Miller, Laurie Moran, Craig Ramey, Dr. Christine Schull, Commissioner Margaret Schultze, Walter Stosch, Gary Thomson, Janet Turner-Giles, Anne-Marie Twohie, Barry Weinstein

Dr. Christine Harris attended on Dr. Steve Staples' behalf

### **Absent Committee Members:**

Gail Johnson, Rob Krupicka, Delegate Roxann Robinson, Senator David Suetterlein

### **Scribe**

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Maggie Chambers

## **Agenda**

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- **Welcome**
- **Committee's Charge**
- **Impetus for the Committee's Creation**
- **Context for the Committee's work**
- **Committee Structure, Composition, and Responsibilities**
- **Next Steps**

- **Adjournment**

## Welcome

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- **1:00pm** – Secretary Dietra Trent began the meeting
  - She provided welcome remarks to the group and introduced herself to the Committee, speaking on her personal background in higher education.
  - She thanked committee staff and leadership for their being a part of the Committee.
  - Deputy Secretary Holly Coy took attendance of members on the call.

## The Committee's Charge

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- Dr. Bill Hazel provided background on the charge to the committee, which he stated is to make recommendations on how the state can address the development and alignment of an effective professional development and credentialing system for the early childhood education workforce in the Commonwealth.
- He elaborated that this is rooted in the fact that one of the most important factors in learning outcomes for young children is the capabilities of the adults who support their growth and learning.

## Impetus for the Committee's Creation

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- Delegate Tag Greason provided background on the impetus for the creation of this committee.
  - Delegate Greason started by congratulating Secretary Trent on her recent appointment.
  - He talked about education's role in the marketplace, explaining that school readiness and early childhood education is one that gets attention.
  - He emphasized that the discussion on early childhood education was not about universal pre-K programs, but instead about mixed delivery systems that leverage the system to provide opportunities for all children to be ready for school.

- He said that providing access to high quality early childhood education is first about the adults teaching in these programs, and explained that the workforce is paramount to the success of children in those programs.
- He emphasized that investing in children early is better than investing in late high school.
- He spoke about the great success with the SOL Innovation Committee as a bipartisan group of experts, and explained that this committee was created as an opportunity to use that successful model.

## **Context for Committee's Work**

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- Kathy Glazer of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation provided a briefing on the context for the Committee's work in the early childhood education space.
  - She said that a large body of evidence points to the most important factor in supporting early childhood learning and development being the capabilities of the adults who interact with and care for them. This makes early childhood practitioners key partners for families during formative years.
  - She described the great variation in both early childhood education (regulated private child care, federally funded Head Start, state funded preschool) and likewise in the early childhood workforce.
  - She said that the different regulatory authorities over these programs dictate the credentials required for early childhood teachers, and these differ greatly, which causes a structural divide between programs and a discrepancy for the standards for early educators. This has been a distraction from developing a sensible and cohesive career pathway for VA's early educators.
  - The School Readiness Committee has the responsibility to utilize research, experience from other states, and member expertise to smooth out the professional development pathway for the early childhood education workforce.

## **Committee Structure, Composition, and Responsibilities**

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- Deputy Secretary of Education Holly Coy briefed the committee on the intended structure, composition, and responsibilities for the Committee, including: the specific perspectives members represent, the articulation of a chair and vice chair, term limits, steering committee, and facilitation by VECF.

## **Nomination and Election of a Chair**

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- Secretary Bill Hazel nominated Mark Gordon as Chair of the Committee, and Gail Johnson as Vice-Chair of the Committee. Delegate Greason seconded the nominations, and the Committee voted in favor of those nominations.

## **Questions and Wrap Up**

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- Secretary Bill Hazel and Deputy Coy answered questions about when recommendations need to be made, dates of future meetings and suggested background reading materials.

## **Next Steps**

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- Next Full Committee Meeting Dates:
  - September 8, 2016—10:00am-1:00pm
  - November 10, 2016—10:00am-1:00pm

## **Adjournment**

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Secretary Bill Hazel adjourned the call.