

Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners - Southern Region Report  
Meeting and Videoconference, November 10, 2005

### Southern Region participants

Denise Bunbury, 4C  
Angie Chandler, SWR&R  
Sue Donahoe, CESA 2  
Meredith Green, Waisman Center  
Martha Hestad, CESA 3  
Carol Keintz, DCPC  
Elizabeth Olson, DCPC  
Elizabeth Solomon, B-3 Connections  
Deborah Thies, B-3 Connections  
Kari Slovek, DCPC  
Connie Haessly, Monona Grove Schools  
Christine Enockson, Watertown Schools

Jennifer Vogel, Deforest Schools  
Peggy Presley, DCPC  
Bonnie Erickson, Columbia Co. B-3  
Chris RehlerVance, Clinton Schools  
Rita Kehl, MMSD  
Megan Riviere, SCR&R  
Tamar Jacobsen, MMSD  
Annette Kornell, Satellite  
Ruth Reinl, MMSD  
Linda Kudrna, Learning Ladder Preschool  
Ann Rammingner, Collaboration Coach

### Regional Discussions

#### Early Childhood Coordinated System (ECCS)

The ECCS survey is now on the web at [www.collaboratingpartners.com](http://www.collaboratingpartners.com)  
Click on "Survey of Local Groups"

#### Homelessness, (Continued Discussion)

This quote from a participant sums up our discussion very nicely.

*I obtained some valuable information to take back with me to share with others. I especially appreciated learning about what is being done at state and regional levels to work with children and families who are hungry and homeless in Wisconsin - professionally and personally. I have a sibling who lives in a homeless shelter in Iowa City (his 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> shelter in as many cities). His children have been in the social service system since they were toddlers. They lived off and on with a drug addicted mother (and in foster care). They are now living with a family member and they are receiving family support. I think poverty, poor/no prenatal care, and mental health issues, and collaboration of agencies to provide these services - these are the most essential needs of our state.*

#### Early Childhood Accountability - Samuel Meisels, Erikson Institute

We enjoyed hearing Samuel Meisels talk about accountability issues and his feeling about the inappropriate use of the current NRS testing of Head Start children.  
*Sam Meisels was outstanding!! Thank you!!*

#### What can state government do to help us in our work?

- Provide information that is current, complete with applicable contact information and which is disseminated in a variety of ways to reach all audiences.
- Ensure that all levels of service providers receive information including teachers, administrators, child care, Head Start, B-3, etc.
- Continue the funding for coaches to continue the good work that has been achieved.
- Keep the website up to date.

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### What can the regions do to continue collaborative efforts?

- Work to get information shared at videoconferences and by other means to the local levels such as direct service providers and families.
- Reach out to local councils or community groups.
- Consider web site enhancements to connect people in regions. (The ECCS survey should help with this)
- Utilize other CESA's for videoconferences so that outlying areas would have easier access.

### Wisconsin principles to guide our accountability system

We looked at the following guiding principles and through consensus selected guiding principles that we thought should be the Wisconsin Principles that guide our accountability system.

WI Model Early Learning Standards  
National Education Goals Panel

Early Childhood Outcomes  
WI Interagency Principles, B-3

Julia Herwig summarized all of the regions work towards the WI principles and put this summary out on the list serv.

### Nature of collaborative group that has constantly changing membership

We discussed the difficulty with a collaborative group that has some stable membership and also invites new membership at each quarterly meeting. At each meeting, time must be spent explaining what WECCP is all about.

### Strategic Plan

The strategic plan that was developed at a summer retreat was shared with the group for feedback. This strategic plan is posted on the website.

### Highlights of Regional Meeting/Videoconference from participants

- It helped me connect and reconnect with other ECE professionals and with ongoing initiatives in Wisconsin. It also reaffirmed my motivation to stay involved locally, regionally and at the state level.
- Had some good personal networking opportunities over lunch
- I have not been participating but would like to from now on. I like the idea that the So. Region meetings are paired with the video conferences.
- Small group discussions were rich - focus still seems ambiguous
- Nicely facilitated
- Nice sharing of collective across site work at end of day. Bringing in Meisels was great! Continue to do this kind of technical support/information.
- Felt 1<sup>st</sup> draft of guiding principles was excellent and collaborative first effort. Meisels' presentation very worthwhile and stimulating.