
WISCONSIN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY SCAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prepared for

The Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council

By

The Cross-Sector Professional Development Initiative

Endorsement 12/8/11

CHARGE TO THE GOVERNOR'S EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

*BUILD ON AND COORDINATE EXISTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRUCTURES TO
CREATE A SYSTEM TO TRAIN TEACHERS, CAREGIVERS, AND OTHERS TO FACILITATE
CHILDREN'S COMPETENCIES IN ALL AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT*

Cross-Sector Professional Development Leadership Team

Ann Ramming

*UW Madison Waisman Center **

Linda Tuchman

UW Madison Waisman Center

Linda Leonhart

Wisconsin Head Start State Collaboration Office

Jill Haglund

Department of Public Instruction

** Primary Author*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Included in the Executive Order creating the Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) in 2008 was a requirement that the Council “develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State.” In accordance with this mandate, the 2010 ECAC report to the Governor specified that an important opportunity for action is to “build on and coordinate existing professional development structures to create a system to train teachers, caregivers, and others to facilitate children’s competencies in all areas of development.” As an important step forward in system development, the Wisconsin Cross-Sector Professional Development Initiative (CSPDI) was charged with conducting a statewide professional development policy scan.

The Cross-Sector Professional Development Initiative was selected for this purpose because it is a broad-based group of state leaders committed to development of a comprehensive professional development system. The mission of the CSPDI is “to achieve a coordinated statewide early childhood professional development system” through the following:

- Developing, aligning, and utilizing core competencies in early childhood programming
- Designing a coordinated statewide cross-discipline training and technical assistance system
- Enhancing linkages with higher education
- Promoting professional development across early childhood sectors

The purpose of the statewide policy scan was to provide a snapshot of current statewide efforts in early childhood professional development, and to suggest emerging opportunities in creating a comprehensive, cross-sector system. The framework outlined in the NAEYC *Policy Blueprint for State Early Childhood Professional Development Systems* was used to organize the scan, which includes emerging opportunities in each area and a set of recommendations for next steps.

SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

- Create an inter-departmental center for early childhood professional development to align and coordinate cross-sector efforts, using braided funding as needed.
- Expand and coordinate existing professional development efforts related to implementation of the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, with special attention to social-emotional development, dual language learners, children and families experiencing homelessness and/or poverty and other key content areas.
- Support alignment of WI Model Early Learning Standards with K-12 common core standards through connections among DPI, DCF, DHS, and the Registry.
- Facilitate implementation of best practices, including communities of practice, coaching, mentoring, and ongoing technical assistance.
- Explore the progression of early childhood teaching credentials and licenses that articulate across systems.