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 **“Update on the New Statewide Plan for Early Childhood Care and Education”**

**Snapshot Sessions Notes**

**Association of Alaska School Board Annual Conference**

Friday, Nov. 8, 2019 • 1:30-3:15 pm

Four 17-minute snapshot sessions were presented to school board members and superintendents by Christina Hulquist, Program Coordinator II at the Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Child Care Program Office, department lead for the Impact Project and lead member of the Early Childhood Joint Task Force (JTF) and Betsy Brenneman, Preschool Development Grant Coordinator at the Association of Alaska School Boards and member of the Early Childhood Joint Task Force. Also attending and helping with the presentations was Chelsea Burke, Project Assistant at DHSS Child Care Program Office.

Presentations during each of the four sessions evolved differently, however, in general, Christina presented the rainbow graphic of the state’s ECE system and the JTF stakeholder graphic and explained the status of the statewide early childhood needs assessment and strategic plan. She offered an overview of the collaborative work of the JTF and its leadership team this year in meeting the requirements of three separate early childhood grants. Betsy showed them the chart of all PDG activity areas and explained more about the status and goals of the needs assessment and how it ties into the strategic plan. She also spoke about the current stage and design of the strategic plan and about upcoming community engagement meetings, alerting attendees meetings may be taking place where they live, work or represent.

Attendees were invited to ask questions, offer ideas of how they saw themselves involved in early childhood work and to express their thoughts about the state’s early childhood landscape given their experiences

As the sessions progressed, Christina told attendees it was encouraging to hear some of the same concerns we have heard from many other places and to know we are not off track.

**Attendee responses:**

* We need to get Head Start back in our community.
* Accessibility and affordability are real issues, especially for 0-3 Early Head Start. We really need it and want it back.
* More increase of opportunity for early childhood. Newhalen School
* Stronger AEYC statewide. It used to be stronger. It needs to do better outreach and parent trainings.
* EC teachers should organize into an association.
* We got an early literacy grant which is great.
* More money for pre-K grants
* Head Start vs. pre-school – there are barriers to how they function together, we need more alignment.
* A basic definition of kindergarten readiness is needed. It could be made flexible for communities.
* Some teachers are certified and some are not. This is a problem.
* Some districts provide certified teachers for private preschools and for a district preschool (Nome).
* Partnerships with tribal organizations are important.
* The strategic plan could be helping small rural communities with resources. We have significant demands for care. Help us to develop – how to get more homes licensed?
* Is there data on the effect of Imagination Library. It is very important to see that data. It is working.
* EC takes planning and teacher support.
* We need consistency across the state – a kindergarten readiness defined curriculum so that all kids are getting the same thing at the same time to have a level playing field. And then professional development.
* Parent skills are needed.
* Educational services for new parents giving them parenting skills and telling them where resources are.
* Tribes need more information, they would be able to work with others.
* Young parents are a concern. They need parenting skills.
* Ability to share information is stifled because of the strict regulations around protected info (HIPAA, FERPA, etc.)

**Attendees**

**Session 1**

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| **Name & Title** | **Organization** | **Contact #** | **Email** |
| **Tracy Wirak**, school board member | Haines Borough School District | 406-459-3531 | twirak@hbsd.net |
| **Katie Holmlund**, school board member | Petersburg School District | 907-209-5792 | KatieHolmlund@hotmail.com |
| **Jeff Short,** school board member | Juneau School District | 907-209-3321 | jwsosc@gmail.com |
| **Kathy Ahgeak,** superintendent | North Slope Borough School District | 907-304-3315 | kathy.ahgeak@nsbsd.org  |
| **Wassillie (Wally) Gust,** school board member | Southwest Region School District | 907-693-6522 | wgust2015@yahoo.com |
| **Kathy Sherman**, school board member | Northwest Arctic School District | 907-412-3345 | ksherman@nwarctic.org |
| **Edgar Hoelscher,** school board member  | Lower Yukon School District | 907-758-2297 | ed\_hoelscher@yahoo.com |
| **Shannon J. Nanalook,** school board member | Lake & Pennisula School Disttrict | 907-571-3130 | sejohnson24@yahoo.com |
| **Deedie Sorensen,** school board member | Juneau School District | 907-723-4473 | ssoren@gci.net |

**Session 2**

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| **Name & Title** | **Organization** | **Contact #** | **Email** |
| **Ferdinand Sharp,** school board member | Southwest Region School District | 907-843-0721 | ferdinandsc@hotmail.com |
| **Patrick Mayer,** superintendent | Aleutians East Borough School District | 907-383-5222 | pmayer@aebsd.org |
| **Brandy Arrington,** school board member | Nome Public Schools | 907-304-2713 | bmarrington95@gmail.com |

**Session 3**

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| **Name & Title** | **Organization** | **Contact #** | **Email** |
| **Barb Jewell,** school board member | Cordova City School District | ---- | bjewell@cordovasd.org |
| **Julia Phelan,** school board member | Delta/Greely School District | ----- | juliahphelan@gmail.com |
| **Paul Kelly,** school board member | Juneau School District | 907-240-3447 | paul.kelly@juneauschools.org |

**Session 4**

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| **Name & Title** | **Organization** | **Contact #** | **Email** |
| **Debbie V. Cary**, school board member | Kenai Peninsula Borough School District | 907-398-8308 | dcary@kpbsd.k12.ak |
| **Debbe Lancaster,** superintendent | Wrangell Public School District | 907-874-2347 | dlancaster@wpsd.us |
| **Millie Hawley**, school board member | Northwest Arctic Borough School District | 907-645-2153 | mhawley@nwaarctic.org |

Submitted by Betsy Brenneman, PDG Coordinator, AASB, bbrenneman@aasb.org