

Elkhorn Public School – Planning Region #25

PLANNING MEETING

February 17, 2025 at 12:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

In Attendance - Tracie Burton (EPS - Early Childhood Coordinator), Maxwell Cao (Parent), Amber Chong (EPS - Service Coordinator), Christie Dean (EPS-Early Childhood Special Education Preschool Teacher), Renee Fish (EPS - Early Intervention), Ashley Fritz (EPS - Admin Assistant), Ganga Ghimire (Parent), Casey Hupp (EPS-Early Intervention), Beth Johnston (EPS - Service Coordinator), Blanca Miller (ESU #3 ELC), Brenna Neuhaus (EPS-Parent), Tara Pugliese (EPS - Early Intervention SLP)

- Welcome: T Burton calls the meeting to order at 12:35 pm.
 - This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act.
- Introductions
- Presentations: No presentations for this meeting.
- Budget: Grant Year 2024-2025 -the grant was approved
 - By-Laws- [Planning Region Team #25 Operational Procedures](#)
- Update Regarding Referrals - (January 1, 2025 - January 31, 2025)
 - A Chong reported that during 1/1/2025 - 1/31/2025 there were 23 referrals
 - i. Of the 23 referrals: 11 were referred by health care provider; 17 by parent; 4 by hospital; 2 by transfer; 1 by WIC; 1 by relative/friend
 - ii. Of the 23 referrals: 10 were age 2-3; 8 were age 1-2; 5 were under a year
 - iii. Of the 23 referrals: 4 were verified; 17 are in process; 2 was withdrawn by parent
- Parent surveys are being conducted, we have mailed in 10 of them.
- Program Updates-Sent clarification email on 2/12 for our PRT CAP

Learn more about the ESU #3 Early Childhood Team [HERE](#)

- **Early Learning Connection Omaha Region (ELC)** - [Jennifer Haggart/Blanca Miller](#)

ESU #3 Early Learning Connection (ELC) Omaha Region is the early care and education professional development partnership for Cass, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties supporting educators and providers in DHHS licensed programs who work with and care for children birth through age eight. For more information, visit www.elcomaharegion.org

- [RSVP!](#) Each Planning Region Team is asked to have at least one representative attend one of these sessions. Sessions to plan for 2025 2026 will be
 - March 11 – 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. @ ESU #3
 - March 12 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. @ Learning Community Center North Omaha
 - March 13 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. @ Kids Can Community Center (en español)
- Upcoming Events that may be of interest:
 - [2025 Infant Toddler Symposium: Nurturing Development through Play and Connection](#) | [Simposio de Niños Pequeño: Nutriendo el Desarrollo a través del Juego y la Conexión](#) - Sat, Mar 1 (Elkhorn Schools Foundation)
 - [Autism in EC: Transforming Troublesome Behavior](#) | [Autismo en La Primera Infancia: Transformando Comportamiento Problemático](#) - Sat, Mar 22 (Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative)
 - [Speak Up! Straight Talk about Early Childhood](#) - series begins April 7 (online)
 - [2025 Celebrating Young Child Conference](#) | [2025 Celebrando a Los Niños Pequeños](#) - Sat, Apr 26
- **Early Learning Connection - Coach Consultant:** [Becky Dunlap-Morton](#)

Early Learning Connection Coach Consultants cultivate the development and growth of coaches who work with early childhood educators and families so that each child has equitable access to

quality care and education. Coaches include those working in state and community initiatives serving families, early childhood centers, family child care homes, and Head Start programs. For more information, please visit [Early Childhood Coaching Website](#) or the [Coach Development Network](#) websites.

- Upcoming Events:
 - [Early Childhood Coach Training with Dr. Ferial Pearson](#)
 - After Hours Cadre – March 4th and May 6th, 6:30 p.m.
 - Domain 4: Assessing the Success of the Partnership – March 27th, 9:00 a.m.; April 7th, 12:30 p.m.
 - [Changing the Way We Look at Challenging Behaviors: A Coach’s Perspective](#) – April 3rd
- Lisa Meyer, Imagination Station: No updates
- Family Involvement: We will be offering our playgroup each Friday. They are held at TTCC or at Hillrise.
- Parent/Family Training: Still considering options.
- Community Provider Collaboration: We were approved to meet with child care providers in our community and talk to them about EDN and how to refer students. For any training topics, we would reach out to ELC to give them their ideas. We are going to start planning visits now that we have a packet created with EDN brochures.
- Current Child Find Activities:
 - EI staff attended Parent Teacher Conferences at each Elementary Building this past week.
 - Bess Johnson Library-Child Find Collaboration
 - i. Will have a EDN presentation at the beginning of Story Time; the next presentations will be April 15th and 16th.

ii. We will have staff available to answer questions and to hand our child find materials.

- We do have a banner that was recently purchased to use for our child find activities. This banner has the EDN logo and information about how to contact the school district.
- Visits to pediatricians and medical clinics in our area and provide brochures and other materials. This is done through our contract with MICC. Our PRT is also considering doing our own visits to providers in our community once we have completed the childcare visits.
- Provide local childcare providers with EDN information. Update 1/13/2025: Recently received folders with EDN logo, will create a sample of what materials we would like in each one. Update 2/12/2025 The sample has been created. We will work on planning times to visit childcare centers.
- Always looking for other ideas for Child Find opportunities. Any ideas?
 - i. T Pugliese notes that parents are sometimes in a rush to get to Parent/Teacher conferences and suggests that attending an Open House may be an easier way to catch parents' attention. T Pugliese also states that referral numbers are often lower at that time of year and reaching out to parents at that time could solve that. She also suggests attending or providing information to be shared at the beginning of the year Teacher In-Services and/or meetings to spread awareness with staff.

1. T Burton agrees with these recommendations

- Program Delivery/Staff Development:

- This year we are having weekly team meetings. During these meetings we will discuss new referrals, caseloads, assign PSPs, and provide coaching opportunities for all PSPs.

The agenda format was adopted from research by M.L. Shelden and D.D. Rush. Authors of *The Early Intervention Teaming Handbook; The Primary Service Provider Approach*.

- Three Main Goals:
 - i. Routines Based Interview (RBI)-All staff have gone through RBI training. We do not have an internal RBI coach and so we will be utilizing a state coach. Fidelity checks are done yearly. All staff are trained in Routines Based Interview. The goal is to have an internal coach for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - ii. Child & Family Outcomes-ongoing goal.
 - iii. Home Visiting (Getting Ready)-Six of our staff members will be attending the Getting Ready training November 13th and 14th in Hastings, NE. They will be followed by a state coach for this school year. The other staff members will be coached and observed by an internal coach. Each year, staff members need to meet fidelity.
- Support for Services-
 - Services Coordinators Training-
 - i. The EC coordinator is working with a few EL teachers in our district to create a PD that is designed to support our staff when working with families from different cultures and backgrounds. Still to be determined.
 - ii. February 20, EC Coordinator and SC will attend the Professional learning opportunity through Buffett Early Childhood Institute, Working with Families in Poverty
 - iii. March 4, Our Early Intervention Team will participate in the Using RBIs to Create Functional IFSP Outcomes workshop which will be facilitated by our State TAs.

- iv. April 3rd & 4th, The Services Coordinators, Speech language pathologists, and EC Coordinator will attend the ASD conference virtually.
- v. Along with these workshops, our Services Coordinators attend all district in-services and meetings that are applicable to them.
- Service Gap and Needs in the Community-What are some resources in our community that can help support families in our community?
 - i. What are the gaps and barriers in our community that prevent our families from accessing Part C services?
 - 1. What are the areas in our community where we are not receiving referrals? Neighborhoods? Physicians we are not receiving referrals from?
 - [PRT-Professional Development Plan](#)
- Transition from Part C Services (Birth to age 3): We have dates set aside to have transition meetings with the preschool teams. Transition Meeting on February 21st to collaborate with the preschool team. Rostering for preschool will be on March 5th.
- The PRT Meeting Schedule for the 2024-2025 school year is posted on the Elkhorn Public Schools website. Next meeting will be March 20, 2025 at 12:30pm over Zoom.
- R Fish motions to adjourn; C Hupp seconds; all in favor; meeting adjourned 12:53 pm