A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR, LYNN SICKLES

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

2016 was a year of progress, anticipation, and transition for the Early Care & Learning Council. At the Annual Meeting & Luncheon last June we launched the United to Promote Quality campaign, the first phase of our Quality Investments for Children (QIC) initiative.

Bill Millet was our keynote speaker on that occasion, once again drove home the relevance and imperative of quality early learning experiences. In his comments, Bill commended our agency for the innovative strategies we have embraced in New York to raise awareness among families, community members, and business leaders regarding the critical link between early learning and economic development. We are very pleased that a mere nine months after the launch of QIC we now have 100% participation in the campaign by our energized Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) members - several of whom have already begun Phase 2 of the QIC initiative. We remain convinced that our efforts to engage community members and business leaders across the state will ultimately result in new public and private resources being committed to support Quality.

In the course of the past year, we supported the training, technical assistance, community education, and advocacy needs of our CCR&R members, made inroads with the Business Leader Engagement project and the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiative, and began implementation of our three year subcontract with Hunger Solutions New York to fulfill a Department of Public Health initiative that seeks to better inform all child care providers across the state regarding the availability and benefits of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

In August, the board of directors began the lengthy process of developing a new three year strategic plan. The plan will assist the organization with setting priorities, help determine where to focus our energy and resources and ensure that employees, the board and other stakeholders are working towards common goals.

In late October of 2016, David Voegele (ECLC Executive Director since 2013) announced his resignation and pending move to Vermont. Thus began a three month executive search process, culminating in the hiring of Meredith Menzies Chimento as the new Executive Director of the Early Care and Learning Council, as of March 1st of this year.

As we look ahead, the organization and its stakeholders have new challenges to face with the implementation of the revised Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which in turn could bring changes to how ECLC and its member CCR&R agencies conduct our work and carry out our commitment to quality early childhood services. As the saying goes “change is inevitable”. Working with a strong and committed board, staff and our local CCR&R members we are poised to meet the challenges ahead and embrace the future.

Lynn Sickles
ECLC Board Chair
MISSION

To promote excellence in early care and education with equal access for all families. We do this primarily through the support of and in partnership with a strong network of community-based organizations that provide Child Care Resource and Referral services.

VISION

All New Yorkers will have affordable child care choices that optimize the education and healthy development of children and promote strong families and communities.

A CRITICAL LINK TO EVERY NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY

The Early Care & Learning Council (ECLC) is a statewide not-for-profit membership organization representing 35 Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agencies across New York State. These agencies are on the front lines, providing direct assistance and support to parents, child care providers and employers in their communities.

As the only organization of its kind, ECLC is uniquely positioned to educate, share best practices, collect data and provide technical assistance that improves the quality of early care and education in our state. ECLC’s statewide presence has made it an effective advocate at the local, state and national level.

CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Each year, ECLC and its member agencies, work together to provide support to families and child care providers. For 42 years we have collaborated to increase the quality and affordability of early education in New York State, through parent engagement activities, infant and toddler programs, training and technical assistance to child care provider, businesses and advocating for a higher quality early education system. Highlights from 2016:

REGIONAL COLLABORATION TO PROMOTE QUALITY

More than 300 hours of training were dedicated to maintaining the New York Standards of Excellence and Child Care Aware® of America National Quality Assurance Standards. Topics included: Adult Learning Theory, Equity and Diversity, Infant CLASS, Google Docs, PowerPoint, Excel and Responsive Caregiving.

47 face-to-face workshops on selected center management topics based on identified regional needs were offered to Child Care Center Directors through collaboration of 3 ECLC staff trainers and 20 CCR&R trainers at 20 CCR&R agencies across the state. We trained 365 Child Care Administrators (a nearly 25% increase from last year) across the state.

CAPACITY BUILDING TO PROMOTE QUALITY

More than 40 hours of capacity building opportunities/events were supported by ECLC staff. 17 CCR&Rs hosted these opportunities on many topics including NACCRRAWARE, For Our Babies campaign, Theory of Change Planning, Regional Communication Models, Continuity of Care, Family Engagement, Business Engagement and Social Media.
Quality Investments for Children (QIC) was launched at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on June 8th, 2016. QIC is a statewide initiative which seeks to not only educate communities about the importance of Quality, but to generate new resources that support Quality, such as volunteers, grants, in-kind donations, and the influence of community leaders.

The initiative launched with Phase 1, the United to Promote Quality campaign, which seeks to educate the community and raise awareness. Phases 2 and 3 will help communities engage with Quality and become empowered to commit to Quality.

34 CCR&Rs have begun the United to Promote Quality campaign, and are actively raising awareness in their communities. These activities include tabling at community events, sending out press releases and newsletters, speaking at chamber events and coalition meetings, working with local businesses to display QIC messages, distributing QIC brochures and palm cards and administering Pre-Quality Awareness surveys to measure impact.

Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

In 2016, in partnership with New York State Network for Youth Success, and Hunger Solutions New York, The Early Care & Learning Council began to work with the networks of providers most impacted by child-related CACFP efforts. The activities and specific objectives of the grant have been undertaken by the CACFP partners collectively, with a shared goal of expanding access to CACFP.

The purpose of the CACFP Project is to build a foundation of outreach, materials, technical assistance, and application assistance for the providers who could benefit from CACFP. The goal is to increase the number of eligible providers participating in CACFP so that all children who attend their Day Care Center/Home or Afterschool Program receive the nutrition assistance they need.

Funding for this collaborative grant has been confirmed for a period of three years, from March 2016 through February 2019.
EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION & B.U.I.L.D.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiative is designed to assist and support the work of our 35 CCR&R agencies - statewide as we address policies and practices associated with equity and inclusion efforts. The work is designed to facilitate sustainable movement in identifying and addressing root causes of disparities.

Highlights from 2016:

- Facilitated monthly meetings for the ECLC Diversity & Inclusion Statewide Taskforce
- Coordinated efforts on one of three board approved recommendations for educating the network on inequities and economic impact of inequities.
- Conducted multiple trainings around diversity and inclusion for statewide membership.
- The Early Care & Learning Council New York State Equity Leader Advisory Network (ELAN) Fellow Fannie Glover, has developed a statewide diversity team comprised of business, higher education, early education, policy, and Early Childhood Advisory representatives. ELAN is a national team of fellows working to reduce and or eliminate racial inequities.
- ELAN/NBCDI (National Black Child Development Institute) Expulsion/Suspension Project is developing a statewide awareness campaign.

BUSINESS LEADER ENGAGEMENT

Business Leader Engagement Initiative is designed to educate and engage key business leaders on the importance of high quality early education and child care to our current employees, future workforce pipeline and to New York State’s economic future.

Highlights from 2016:

- Long Island again, held three major Business Leader Work group events with Bill Millett, President, Scope View Strategic Advantage delivering a powerful ROI economic message on early education.

Late 2016, the Early Care & Learning Council, Council for Strong America, The Business Council of NYS, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, The Children’s Agenda and Child Care Council, Inc., teamed up to host a regional breakfast meeting with Rob Grunewald, Economist Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis delivering a powerful message to business leaders on early education and our economy.
New York State Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Network

Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc.
Counties Served: Essex

Allegany County Community Opportunities and Rural Development, Inc. (ACCORD)
Counties Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Wyoming

Capital District Child Care Council, Inc.
Counties Served: Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Fulton, Montgomery

Center for Children’s Initiatives, Inc.
Counties Served: New York City

Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.
Counties Served: Chautauqua

Chemung County Child Care Council, Inc.
Counties Served: Chemung

Child and Family Resources, Inc.
Counties Served: Ontario, Seneca, Yates

Child Care Aware® Steuben and Schuyler
Counties Served: Steuben, Schuyler

Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc.
Counties Served: Clinton, Franklin

Child Care Council of Dutchess & Putnam, Inc.
Counties Served: Dutchess and Putnam

Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.
Counties Served: Nassau

Child Care Council of Oneida County Cornell Cooperative Extension
Counties Served: Herkimer, Madison, Oneida

Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc.
Counties Served: Orange

Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.
Counties Served: Suffolk

Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc.
Counties Served: Westchester

Child Care Council, Inc.
Counties Served: Livingston, Monroe, Wayne

Child Care Resource Network
Counties Served: Erie

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.
Counties Served: Rockland

Child Care Solutions, Inc.
Counties Served: Cayuga, Onondaga

Child Development Council
Counties Served: Cortland, Tompkins

Child Development Support Corporation, Inc.
Counties Served: New York City

Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.
Counties Served: New York City

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee, Inc.
Counties Served: Genesee, Orleans

Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
Counties Served: Jefferson, Lewis

Day Care Council of New York, Inc.
Counties Served: New York City

Delaware Opportunities, Inc.
Counties Served: Delaware

Family Enrichment Network, Inc.
Counties Served: Broome, Chenango, Tioga

Family of Woodstock, Inc.
Counties Served: Columbia, Greene, Ulster

Integrated Community Planning Council of Oswego County, Inc.
Counties Served: Oswego

Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.
Counties Served: Niagara

Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc.
Counties Served: Schoharie

Southern Adirondack Child Care Network, Inc.

St. Lawrence Child Care Council, Inc.
Counties Served: St. Lawrence

Sullivan County Child Care Council Inc.
Counties Served: Sullivan

The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc.
Counties Served: New York City

Thank You to our Members!
2016 SUPPORTERS

The Early Care & Learning Council’s Strong Start NY annual giving program has received generous contributions from CCR&Rs, community supporters, our Board of Directors, ECLC staff, as well as foundations and businesses. Their contributions ensure that ECLC can maintain the quality of its services and programs for the community. Please visit www.strongstartny.org for more information on our annual campaign, special events, and how you can get involved today!

Abbe Hahn-Hook
Abbe Kovacik
Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc.
Alan Jones
Allegany County Community Opportunities & Rural Development, Inc. (ACCORD)
Anne Skrebutenas
Amazon Smile
Barbara-Ann Mattle
Black & Blue Steak & Crab of Albany
Brooke Ricci
Capital District Child Care Council
Carla Hibbard
Cathy Brodeur
Catherine A. Riley Fund
Center for Children’s Initiatives
Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.
Chemung County Child Care Council, Inc.
Child & Family Resources, Inc.
Child Care Aware® of Steuben & Schuyler
Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc.
Child Care Council of Dutchess & Putnam, Inc.
Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc.
Child Care Council of Oneida County Cornell Cooperative Extension
Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc.
Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.
Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc.
Child Care Council, Inc.
Child Care Resource Network
Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.
Child Care Solutions, Inc.
Child Development Council
Child Development Support Corporation
Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.
Chipotle Mexican Grill
Cindy Veahey
Community Action of Orleans & Genesee, Inc.
Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
David Voegele
Day Care Council of New York, Inc.
Delaware Opportunities, Inc.
Different Drummer’s Kitchen Co.
Discount School Supply
Donna Fredlund
Donnovan Beckford
Eastern Mountain Sports
Family Enrichment Network, Inc.
Family of Woodstock, Inc.
Fannie Glover
Frank Mahar
Helen Benton
Integrated Community Planning Council of Oswego County, Inc.
Jan Barbieri
Janet Walerstein
Jeannie Thomma
Jennifer Perney
Jessica Klos Shapiro
Jon Pinkos
Julie Champion
Kahlen Riviello
Kaplan Early Learning Company
Karen Harkness
Kathleen Halas
Katie Albitz
Kodo Kids
Krause’s Homemade Candy
Kristen Kerr
Lakeshore Learning
Lorraine Kinney-Kitchen
Lynn Sickles
Marjorie Lawlor
Marcia Brogan
Marcia Brogan Insurance Agency
Melissa Dobbs
Microknowledge, Inc.
New World Bistro
Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.
Nikita Agnihotri
Patty Persell
Peggy LiuZZi
Razoo
Rhonda Carlsson Smith
Saima Akhtar
Schoharie County Community Action Program, Inc.
Silver Parrot
Southern Adirondack Child Care Network, Inc.
Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC)
Spectrum Theatres
St. Lawrence Child Care Council, Inc.
Starbucks
Stewart’s Shops
Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc.
Suman Chin
Tammy Lynn Mayer
Tammy Parsons
TGI Fridays
The Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza
The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc.
The Anderson Group
The Traveling Museum
Trucker Joe’s

Thank You for your Support!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of receipts, expenditures and net assets for fiscal year 2016 (audited)

Receipts
Contracts & Grants $1,058,840.00
Grants/Foundations 41,048.00
Donations 6,057.24
Membership 78,846.66
Rentals 23,447.80
Staff Consulting 14,368.66
Special Events 34,335.00
Interest Income 219.75
Other 1,500.00
Total Receipts $1,258,683.11

Expenditures
Personnel $800,00.00
Consultants 107,773.19
Contracted Services 43,087.14
Special Events 27,521.12
Fixed Operating Expenses 128,474.46
Non-Fixed Operating Expenses 100,083.09
Total Expenditures $1,207,405.47

Net assets, beginning of year $163,585.17
Net assets, end of year $214,862.81

EARLY CARE & LEARNING COUNCIL’S STAFF

Meredith Cimento, Executive Director
Helen Benton, Special Projects Coordinator
Ryan Belak, Community Engagement Coordinator
Melissa Dobbs, Executive Support/Event Coordinator
Donna Fredlund, Data Administration Coordinator
Fannie Glover, Director of the Business Leader Engagement Project, and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Services
Abbe L. Hahn Hook, Director of Programs & Services
Jessica Klos Shapiro, Director of Policy & Community Education
Frank Mahar, Director of Finance & Administration
Tammy M. Parsons, Administrative Services Coordinator & Bookkeeper
Brooke Ricci, Program Specialist
Renée Richman, AmeriCorps VISTA Program Associate Coordinator
Jeannie Thomma, Infant Toddler Coordinator
A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEREDITH CHIMENTO

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It has been a very exciting three months here at the Early Care & Learning Council (ECLC). We know that 2017 will be a year of many challenges for the field of early care and education and I look forward to leading and being a part of the organization as we accept those challenges.

Working with its network members in concert with the board of directors and staff we will continue our efforts to ensure that all families have access to affordable, quality child care. We will work to enhance the education and healthy development of children and promote strong families and communities.

These are new and exciting times for early care and education in New York State. As systems evolve and challenges emerge, ECLC will continue to provide strong leadership that takes into consideration a diverse constituency while remaining focused on its mission and vision.

Meredith Chimento
ECLC Executive Director

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION IN NEW YORK STATE

In 2016 the Early Care & Learning Council continued to lead statewide advocacy and policy efforts through the steering committee of Winning Beginning NY, collaboration with the Early Childhood Advisory Council and through partnership with various organizations dedicated to the importance of early learning and development.

Thanks to the tireless advocacy of the CCR&R network and our partners, comprehensive Paid Family Leave legislation was passed into law. When fully implemented, the law will provide virtually all employees in the state up to 12 weeks of paid family leave.

Additional funding above last year’s levels was also secured for afterschool programming, QUALITYstarsNY and the expansion of pre-kindergarten programs.