



KwaZulu-Natal Early Childhood Development Community of Practice

Meeting Notes

Durban Teachers Centre, 14 Clayton Rd, Overport, Durban, 4001
27 March 2018, 10.15 – 13.15

Welcome and background

The KZN ECD Community of Practice (CoP) is a BRIDGE convening that provides a platform for sharing, updates and collaboration in the province. The meetings link to the National ECD CoP meetings to ensure knowledge sharing at both levels of the system. This meeting is the first of the year. The [last KZN ECD CoP meeting](#) that took place 2nd November 2017. The champion and facilitator of the CoP is Patsy Pillay, Director of New Beginnings. Patsy introduced the meeting and noted apologies.

In line with BRIDGE's methodology of bringing all the voices into the room, the group participated in a check-in process for participants to introduce themselves.



Key Issues as encountered by delegates in different districts in KZN

The facilitator provided the opportunity for participants to share any updates or key issues arising in the various districts in KZN.

- The Wentworth Forum colleagues expressed challenges with crèche registration and lack of funding for home based crèches. Representatives of the Forum have followed everything by the book, and have sent a number of emails highlighting the attempts to support centres to become registered, but with little progress. They requested that the CoP advise on any ideas for how to progress. The issues of centre registration are complex and a national issue being discussed in various ECD networks, including the ECD Inter-Sectoral Forum for ECD which is led by the Department of Social Development. This government-led Forum has initiated a Task Team to look into improving the process of Centre Registration using bronze, silver and gold levels. The topic of registration was discussed at a National ECD CoP meeting in August 2017. [Click here](#) for the highlights report of that meeting.

- Sammy Louw from Kids Paradise raised the issue around the new qualification, and a lack of advocacy and understanding. Patsy suggested this matter be raised after the qualifications presentation, which was agreed to.
- Another comment was made that there seems to be a lack of commitment and support for ECD issues by local municipalities and provincial government. These bodies need to play more of a role in the ECD field. In addition, funding and rural advocacy are issues at all ECD levels and needs to be addressed.
- The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) had a workshop on the 18th of February 2018 in KZN. Unfortunately, only people on the NECDA database received the invite and therefore attended, which resulted in low attendance. Colleen Osborne, who is a NECDA member, volunteered to share key activities from NECDA in the future.
- Accreditation of ECD providers: Patsy noted that the accreditation will be renewed for the next 3 years as per her conversation with the local SETA representative. Patsy to confirm this by the next meeting.
- New Occupational Qualification: Colleen explained some of the challenges around this new qualification i.e. new fundamentals, exam, WIL. The workplace practice hours will increase and the student will be forced to practice in a site that they are not teaching/employed at but will practice at a site chosen as 'best practice'. This may result in students losing their jobs. The curriculum material is not out currently, but there is a concern that when it is released, that it only be made available to TVETs and not NGOs. There has been no announcement of the organisation that won the tender to develop the materials for the L4 qualification.
- A comment was made that the ECD sector needs to voice out their opinions more, and we need to find ways of doing this more effectively.
- Rosemary Wildsmith (visitor Professor from the North-West University) noted issues (such as funding, infrastructure, qualifications, bursaries, internships, registration, town planning etc.) have been raised with the DHET and in the chambers (management of SETA), with little response or recognition.
- Rosemary also shared research indicating that out of 27 000 crèches, only 13 000 are registered. The research also showed that there is a need for social workers to be trained in ECD.
- The social workers present explained that now that they had to deal with wards, they were overwhelmed with work and there is no specialisation for ECD in their training.
- FNB representatives spoke to research in KZN. They were in the province to visit various ECD sites.
- Action – it has been proposed that a meeting be arranged with the MEC and Local Government to raise these issues. Patsy will discuss this possibility with Kaley from BRIDGE.

Showcasing the Wentworth ECD forum – a case study on home based registration challenges

The Wentworth ECD Forum meets monthly and decided to focus on a case study of the challenges to get a home based crèche registered. Rezoning costs R40 000. Only 5 crèches in Wentworth are registered. Some files are lost and many have to start again. Romany (the Forum Chair) demonstrated her file and length of time it took her to put together. It was requested that the CoP help address the challenges around home based crèche registration in relation to lack of government support, lack of funds and complexity. The CoP will endeavour to find out more information on the Western Cape and Eastern Cape provincial ECD models and share the lessons learnt for how NGOs and government can more effectively together.

Update on March 2018 National ECD Community of Practice

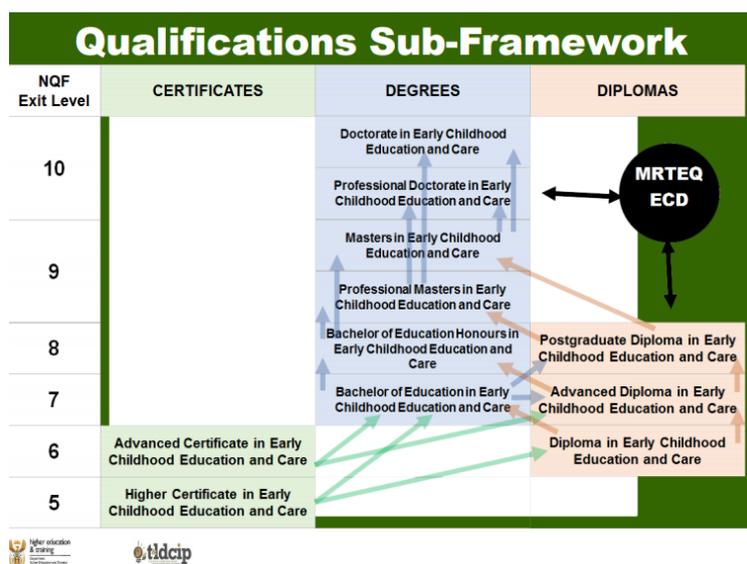
Patsy presented the meeting highlights using a slide presentation, provided by BRIDGE.

The National ECD CoP meeting involved sharing by the SA Montessori Association, a presentation by Tshikululu on the FNB Home Based Centre Intervention Evaluation and an update on the ECD Qualifications landscape. As part of the qualifications session, DHET presented on the MRTEQ-ECD Policy which sets out the professional and post-professional qualifications for educators working in the Birth to 4 space.

Read the meeting highlights by [clicking here](#).

ECD Qualifications Landscape

Patsy provided a brief overview on ECD qualifications from inception to date, including the new Occupational qualifications at NQF L3 and L4. The EU Funded Consortium, [PIECCE](#), is in the process of developing a standardised programme framework at L6 and L7. The Framework will be used by Universities to develop qualifications, with the first intake of students in 2020. There are issues regarding the articulation and alignment of ECD qualifications. Patsy referred to the DHET presentation to present a detailed overview of the new qualifications. [Click here](#) for the full presentation.



Plenary Discussion re qualifications:

- NGOs have offered training for many years. The teachers want to know who will fund their education if they want to study ECD at a higher level, and who will pay their salaries. People with SETA qualifications want to know if they will be paid the same amount as teachers with the new DHET qualifications.
- If you have a NQF level 4 ECD qualification, can you do a degree? How do you transition?
- Level 5 is more of a stepping stone towards level 6. Rhodes uses level 4 as an RPL. 2 years in level 5, 2 years in level 6 and 1 year for a degree. There are people who have a three year diploma with 240 credits and are told that they need to start from scratch if they want to enrol for a degree as their credits cannot be transferred to the degree.

- Only good salaries will make the ECD industry attractive.
- People trained in ECD in the past were promoted to higher grades that resulted in losing teachers because of money issues.

General inputs:

- JAM shared that their provision of porridge to ECD Centres are in conflict with the designated Centre menu plan for registered centres.
- Unlimited Child have increased their interventions outside of KZN.

Way forward and check-out:

- The KZN CoP would like to understand which KZN ECD Forums exist at a provincial and local level. In 2015, BRIDGE produced an overview of ECD Forums at national and provincial levels ([click here](#) for the document). Patsy will speak to BRIDGE about supporting the CoP to undertake mapping all the KZN provincial and local ECD Forums, with the intention of improving communication and integration in the province.
- Sammy Louw will send invitations that he gets from the KPACC Forum (government led) meeting and will forward this to be shared with the KZN community.
- Colleen Osborne will forward matters of interest from NECDA to Patsy and BRIDGE, to be forwarded to all members.
- There was a suggestion that the CoP should be more proactive in taking up issues.
- Explore the possibility of arranging a meeting with KZN local government and the MEC to take forward issues raised. The task team to deal with this is Rosemary, Sammy, Colleen, Zama, Patsy. Patsy will discuss with BRIDGE a process to take this forward.
- Explore the provincial ECD Forum models in Western Cape and Eastern Cape to be better informed about how government and NGOs work together.
- CoP participants agreed to touch base with other ECD forums and networks in the province to attend the next meeting, and think about linkages.
- An attendance appreciation certificate was raised for regularly attendees of CoP meetings. To be taken forward by BRIDGE.
- Debate on next meeting venue – PMB vs Durban. Given the lack of transport, it was agreed that it will be in Durban.
- Showcasing for next meeting – Grow Franchise, followed by Unlimited Child at next meeting.

The next KZN ECD CoP meeting will take place at 14th June 2018 at the DTC.



Name:	Organisation:
Beulah Van Staden x 2 colleagues	FNB
Cedelle Hansraj	Mini Miracles Pre-school
Colleen Osborne (LARKIN)	Midlands Community College
Estelle Greyling	ISFAP
Hlengiwe Mkhize	New Beginnings
Jabu Mtheku	Caversham Education Institute
John Benn	JAM South Africa
Maureen Liphoko	Midlands Community College
Patsy Pillay	New Beginnings
Phil Bowyer	Soul Action
Phumelele Ngidi	DSD – Ethekwini North
Rachel Bowyer	Soul Action
Romany Roberts	WECDF
Rookaya Henry	Sanctuary of Learning Preschool
Roseisha Ishwardut	The Unlimited Child
Rosemary Wildsmith	North West University
Sammy Louw	Kids Paradise
Sue Philpott	Disability Action Research Team
Tara Rosser	GROW with Educare Centres
Zama Mthethwa	DSD – Ethekwini South