



## KwaZulu-Natal Early Childhood Development Community of Practice

### Meeting Notes

Durban Teachers Centre, 14 Clayton Rd, Overport, Durban, 4001  
14 June 2018, 10.00 – 13.30

#### WELCOME, CHECK-IN & INTRODUCTIONS

This was the second KZN ECD Community of Practice meeting for the year. In addition to national and provincial updates and discussion, the meeting focused on models for inclusion in ECD.

The Facilitator, Patsy Pillay welcomed all attendees to the meeting and each person was given the opportunity to introduce themselves, which organization they represent and their roles therein. Patsy took the participants through the agenda and apologies were noted.

#### BUZZ GROUPS ON KEY ECD CONCERNS IN KZN- PLENARY DISCUSSION

The facilitator provided a background to the request for buzz groups on key ECD concerns for KZN. She provided a form to guide them. Colleen who was also at the ECD National Intersectoral meeting further explained the importance of ensuring that the concerns must be taken up from all levels and information should be cascaded both ways, bottom-up and top-down. Three groups were formed.

Members first listed 10 points of concern and this was then prioritized to 5 key concerns. All three groups presented their top 5 ECD concerns as follows:



##### Group 1:

1. Qualifications in ECD, where do practitioners belong? DBE or DSD
2. Inclusion Training/ Education
3. Registration of ECD sites with DSD
4. BRIDGE's role in cascading information (time it takes, access to emails)
5. Bursaries for ECD practitioners

##### Group 2:

1. The lack of Recognition of NQF level 5 ECD qualification
2. Exploitation of ECD workers
3. Quality of ECD sites lesson plans needs attention

4. Role of ETDP SETA: unclear /lack of communication/open communication
5. Quantity of qualifications

**Group 3:**

1. Grade R programme is knowledge based not skill based in class
2. Registration requirement of ECD centres is too stringent
3. Funding and resources for grade R and ECD class to function too little
4. High demand of short courses in ECD-Level 1-Level 3
5. Lack of availability of resources including salaries for practitioners

Members were also invited to fill in the network update form. Available on request.

## **UPDATE FROM MARCH KZN COP MEETING & GENERAL KZN ECD UPDATES**

**Sammy Louw attended the meeting at the Premiers office on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The following issues came up for discussion:**

- Grant in Aid for all ECD centres
- Child protection
- Disability grant database
- Children living on the borders, in rural areas, non-registration of births – can request for paternity tests to help this process – if one parent is South African
- Reaching out to children who are not in ECD centres
- There is R5 million available for children rights
- Transportation of children
- Colonel Ngcobo's cell phone number is 082 556 8981 and can assist with issues around children from Pinetown area
- Next meeting still to be confirmed

It was suggested that since Sammy attends these meetings, he could represent the BRIDGE KZN CoP at this meeting. The facilitator of KZN will attend when possible, and it will be good to receive the invitation in advance for other members to attend.

At the last KZN ECD CoP it was discussed that the CoP would like to get a better understanding of the existing ECD Forums in the province to enable improved communication and coordination. In order to do this, the CoP will build on the [mapping of ECD Forums](#) conducted by BRIDGE in 2015. The meeting participants completed a data gathering form to list KZN ECD Forums that they are aware of. The BRIDGE central office will collate this information and send the Forums a short survey to complete. BRIDGE will then produce a map of ECD forums in the province.

### **Issues from the members:**

Leisel from Play SA commented that if the delegates know of anybody that does not have a qualification, they can refer them to do [PlaySA for free online training](#). Patsy noted that this programme was highlighted last year and most members were aware of this programme.

Patsy raised the issue on declining attendance by the delegates. Colleen suggested that they should encourage each other and also follow up on the organizations representative before the meeting, sharing lifts too. Rebecca suggested it will be great if each member can bring a new member.

Colleen asked if there is any way that we can ensure CoP participants get invites to ECD-related meetings that are received from various stakeholders. These need to be shared in advance to give people enough notice, which has not always been the case. Patsy indicated she will raise this issue with BRIDGE. Creating a BRIDGE KZN CoP WhatsApp group and own group email was also recommended as a way of quick communication. Issue of confidentiality and BRIDGE's protocol was also noted.

Sammy said that they have made an application to offer level 6 from DHET and they are waiting for feedback.

Teresa from TREE suggested that PPT infrastructure from the EThekweni municipality should be invited to future meetings.

### **Update on National ECD Community of Practice**

Patsy referred to the slides prepared by Kaley and noted to the members about her resignation. The members wished Kaley all the best and thanked her for her contributions in supporting the KZN COP. The National ECD CoP meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 focused on the following:

- Showcasing of an organisation called Penreach programme
- Monitoring & evaluation
- Presentation by Linda Biersteker about South African tool kit on ELOM. Colleen commented that ELOM is not a measure to assist the child; it's to assist the assessment of a programme in ECD. Delegates suggested it will be good to get someone to come and train all the trainers in ELOM.
- Action – Rebecca will check on the possibility of an ELOM rep that could speak to the BRIDGE CoP and also check on training in KZN- all parties interested could subsidise travel – was more cost effective in this way.

## THE EARLY LEARNING OUTCOMES MEASURE

The Early Learning Outcomes Measure (ELOM) is an easy to administer South African pre-school child assessment tool. It is rigorously standardised and culturally fair.

The ELOM indicates whether an Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme is effective in preparing children for Grade R, and identifies areas for programmatic improvement.

This innovative tool has been developed for government, funders, programme developers, ECD providers and monitoring and evaluation specialists, who need valid evidence of programme effectiveness.

### Direct Assessment

- Gross Motor Development
- Fine Motor Coordination & Visual Motor Integration
- Emergent Numeracy & Mathematics
- Cognition & Executive Functioning
- Emergent Literacy & Language

### Teacher & Direct Assessment

- Social & Emotional Development & Awareness
- Approaches to Learning (persistence, attention & concentration)

### Teacher Assessment Only

- Self-care
- Social Relations (adults & peers)
- Emotional Functioning

For more on the findings of the ELOM pilot and to access the full presentation, visit the BRIDGE Knowledge Hub

To view the update presentation from the National ECD CoP, [click here.](#)

## PANEL ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION MODELS IN KZN

Patsy noted that she had received a request to present from MCC and recommended this panel on Inclusive Education given its importance. Two presentations helped frame the discussion:

1. Our inclusive Journey presented by Colleen Osborne (Larkin) from Midlands Community College- click [here](#) to see the presentation.
2. Training ECD practitioners inclusively toward inclusive education in ECD presented by Odette Swift from DeafSA & Patsy Pillay from New Beginnings- click [here](#) to see the presentation.

### Discussion

Colleen noted that through the funded training on Inclusive Education, the staff had gained a lot of knowledge and ideas. She mentioned an example regarding the importance of selecting Christmas gifts for disabled children instead of just any gift that may not be user friendly.

Patsy noted that New Beginnings and DeafSA are considering doing a short course on sign language and members can contact the offices of New Beginnings if they are interested.

Blanche from UKZN was excited about the work of the NGO'S and asked if these could be presented to students. She will contact the providers. This related to the power of networking and sharing.



## Announcements and next steps

- Patsy announced that the World Forum will be held in Macau- China in April 2019. The closing date for presenters is July 1<sup>st</sup> and there is a fund raising kit available.
- Rebecca to follow up on ELOM possibilities.
- Contact New Beginnings should you wish to find out more about the Sign Language course.
- The showcasing of an organisation segment at the next CoP meeting will be done by Singakwenza
- Sue announced the Nepal Conference on ECD
- Patsy - invite to a book launch on 29th June 2018 hosted by the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Jacana Media.
- Sammy will share date for next premiers office meeting, once received

The next KZN CoP meeting will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018.



### Meeting participants:

Name:	Organisation:
Amanda Ndlovu	New Beginnings Training
Blanche Ndlovu	UKZN
Colleen Osborne (LARKIN)	Midlands Community College
Doreen Hamiel	Wentworth Forum
Julie Hay	Singakwenza
Leisel Samantha	sydenham community forum
Lucy Cronje	Ocean View Montessori School
Mbali Mthembu	Health dep
Nosiphiwe Tshabha	Midlands Community College
Odette Swift	DeafSA

Patsy Pillay	New Beginnings Training
Penelope Lovedale	PHS
Philisiwe Ndlovu	Training and Resources in Early Education
Rebecca Wakeford	Midlands Community College
Sammy Louw	Kids Paradise
Sandy Naidoo	Sinosizo Siyaphambili
Teressa Ngobese	TREE