

ECCS Grantee Update Call

Moderator: Frances Marshman
February 7, 2011
3:00 p.m. ET

Operator: Good afternoon. My name is (Beth) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time, I would like to welcome everyone to the ECCS Grantee update call. All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speakers' remarks, there will be a question and answer session.

If you would like to ask a question during this time, simply press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. If you would like to withdraw your question, press the pound key. Thank you.

Frances Marshman of JSI, you may begin your conference.

Frances Marshman: Thank you very much, (Beth). I – we appreciate the way you've sort of started off with an ECCS cheerleading call for all of us, but I've been told that we have approximately 75 people on the call today which is just wonderful. I'm joined here in Boston with colleague Myriam Hernandez-Jennings, Orla Kennedy, (Megan Hilner), Juli Powers, and Jackie Nolan are out there and in DC, presenters (Dena Green), (Barbara Hamilton) and (Audrey) (inaudible) will – are ready to go to talk to you all today as well.

As advertised, this is an update call. And we're glad to have a chance to check in with each other. It's been a long time since August where it was so nice to meet all of you in person, and we at JSI thoroughly enjoyed our two day meeting together, well actually the whole week.

I – I'm know going to – I have nothing more to say. I will remind people about questions and answers. We have one slight adjustment already to the agenda which is to – if it make sense to have a break for Q&A around 3:30, but in the meantime, here is (Dena Green) to say hello and make some introductions.

Are you there, (Dena)?

(Dena Green): Yes, I am. Hello, everybody. This is (Dena Green) and I know most of you have either seen or heard my voice before and I'm thinking if you've been here at least two years, you've done both. Welcome. This is the ECCS national call that we had in a long time. So I'm sure that you're anxious to get your questions together and I'm thankful to JSI that we have the operator who can field your questions to us.

So we are allowing a little time for me to talk, but a lot of times for you to ask questions. The first thing that I wanted to talk about if you look at our agenda, we have here an introduction and an overview of our new Early Childhood Health and Development) branch.

I'm sure that some of you heard that ECCS is no longer with, under – directly under the division of child and adolescent health that now with – a large amount of money that have been put into home visiting. Dr. Heppell decided to create a branch, when ECCS first started years ago we were in the Infant and Child Health branch. But there were (inaudible) guidelines that say that they had to have at least a certain amount of people within a branch in order to actually have a grant.

So, our program was moved to under Dr. Heppell's division and purview exclusively. But since we have been able to bring the home visiting program to our division of Child and Adolescent Health, Dr. Heppell has established a new branch and this branch is called the Early Childhood Health and Development branch.

With that has come not only a whole group of people who are working as project officers and/or staff to the Early Childhood Health and Development

branch, but we now have also have been able to hire regional project officers for all of the projects or programs within this branch.

All of the home visiting project officers are now project officers for ECCS, so their title is Project Officer Home Visiting/ECCS. And how that works is that each of the region has a person that's responsible for ECCS and home visiting.

Some of you may have met the visitor staff, because they have been taking site visits to all of the various regions. I've asked them to whenever possible to also invite the ECCS coordinators. But since their knowledge and information about ECC has been very limited a lot of them may not have done this thus far.

We're at a point in the home visiting program that there is now time for them to actually function with you as your regional project officer. And what does that mean? Well, when ECCS first started as you know long ago, we had Lorraine Brown who worked as a project officer where she was basically responsible for Healthy Child Care America. And we had (Jill) and I, who were project officers for the rest of the country under ECCS.

Now, that we have this new branch, we do have a person that has replaced Lorraine Brown in terms of Healthy Child Care America in this branch. But we also, well, as you know also that (Joe) is no longer with us. So we also have project officers that are really not – that well, I can say (Joe) and I are no longer project officers and including me, eventually.

And your regional project officer will be your project officer. In other words, instead of you coming directly to me or to (Joe) if he were here to deal with what are your immediate concerns or, you would go directly to that regional project officer. Since (Joe) had left, we have not had anybody yet to replace him. So at the moment, I am the person – the contact person in the division for all of ECCS issues and problems.

But it would be expeditious and more effective if you in your everyday needs would contact your regional project officer, in many cases, because they're brand new. They'll still be calling me and asking me to follow up and in some

cases with the (prior approvals) for example, I have had to walk them through that system.

And because my commitment has always have been to ECCS and the grantees that I've worked with as well as the grantees that I have not worked with, I've never closed my door or my telephone, so I'm not saying because we've made these changes that nobody is to contact me, because that would not be what I want you to do.

But for your everyday work in terms of project officer, this is the person that's going to receive your applications when you turn in your continuation applications. They are the persons that will do your (inaudible) – your carryover prior approval request and all those kind of things – little things that a project officer would do.

At this point, I'm going to name or tell you what the new staff looks like in our branch besides our project office – your regional project officer. I'm thinking that everybody by now should have gotten a contact list that lists the – your region, your regional project officer – oh, I guess, I should say that, that even though we have 10 people, one in each region to represent home visiting and ECCS, we also have a central office person that – how do you say, manage or helps manage the work at home visiting and ECCS in the region. So if the regional person has an issue with either ECCS or home visiting, they would call their central office project officer and that person is there to facilitate the process in terms of whatever has to be dealt with to help them solve the problem.

So you have a list here that Frances sent out with your agenda that names your regional project officer, your central office project officer, and your JSI (PA) contact with – also is regional. Other than the people that you have on this list, we have four additional folks that work in the Early Childhood branch. And one of course, is (Barbara Hamilton). And she'll be talking to you a little later. She is the person that is now doing the Healthy Child Care America Program, especially as far as this new branch that we have.

We have (Carlos Cano), who is our research and evaluation person for Early Childhood. (Judy inaudible), she is a medical director, and (Judy) is not here today, so I can't tell you exactly what she'll be doing, but once before, I do know, (inaudible) was our medical director for the division and through ECCS.

So, I don't know if I need to go to the list of all of the regional project officers, but I'll save that and come back to that. And I'll stop here, just sign (out) if you have any questions before I go down to the update, because (inaudible) was not able to participate on this call, because she told me to tell all of you that, he looks forward to speaking to you.

And if you have any – because right now we are at a point within (inaudible) our third of our three years, we are at a point of developing our new guidance sometime in the spring or the summer. And if any of you have any considerations or ideas where you think – where you think ECCS should go in the future of where we, you know, ideas on how should plan our program in the future that you should send those ideas to me and I'll forward them to her where we'll use that in the development.

We do plan to also convene a panel of outside Early Childhood experts to also give us an insight and how we develop that guidance. But this will be something that we'll be working on this summer. So, I'm going to stop for a minute to see if we have any questions about the reorganization first.

Frances Marshman: (Dena), this is Frances, I just want to remind our listeners that the – that the contact list that you're referring to which I had sent in the reminder e-mail last Thursday, February 3rd on the second page includes all project officer e-mail, and telephone numbers as well as JSI contact information.

And I guess, operator, (Beth) that means that we're – we're happy to open the lines now for questions if you could do that, do so, that would be great.

Operator: At this time, I would like remind everyone, in order to ask a question, press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. Also, that we ask that you state your location.

Frances Marshman: Thank you.

Operator: We'll pause for a moment to compile the Q&A roster. Your first question comes from the line of (Martha (Heights)).

Your line is open.

(Martha Heights): Thanks to you. This is (Martha Heights) in Arkansas. And we did receive the copies of the ECCS Home Visiting JSI contact list. But I – and I just want to make sure that there was not an attachment that had the names of the folks that (Dena) just mentioned in central office and if (they're) not there ...

Frances Marshman: (Inaudible) ...

(Martha Heights): ... where would – we'd be able to get that at some time?

Frances Marshman: You're absolutely right, (Martha). Apologies, there is contact information that will be forthcoming and I can send it out on the (listserve).

(Martha Heights): That's great, thank you.

(Dena Green): It's like (Martha), so just let me say that our branch – I plan to include an organizational chart in the handouts. But our branch just changed last week in (inaudible) adding a new staff person. Well, that's why – that's another reason why you haven't gotten that list, but I remember that you needed to know there were others here too completed the branch.

So as soon as we could – well, we'll never be – we may never be sure in the immediate future, but I'll send you a listing with that information too.

(Martha Heights): Very good, thank you.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of (Jamie Anderson). Your line is open.

(Jamie Anderson): Hi, this is (Jamie) from New Jersey. (Dena), I have a question. For those of us who put forward a carry-forward request or a budget request in December through the previous hierarchy to yourself and (Karen) through grants.gov,

Do we need to re-put that stuff through or should we still sit tight and wait to hear back from (Karen)?

(Dena Green): Well, let me just say this – this is – I list – I had enough time to have a (grants) people in here. There are two things that happen with those carryover requests, the first is that when we named the new regional project officers and sent that information into the (AHB) manager system, they immediately – well, in some cases they immediately changed the project officers from (Joe) and I to the new regional folks.

And which meant that the regional folks may have gotten the e-mail that generates the carryover request. And some of them didn't know what that meant, you know, they didn't know what the e-mail was. So they didn't do anything about it. So that was one delay.

The second delay is that (inaudible) (Karen) had a whole of them that came to the (AHP), because what happens is when grantees submit their (FSR) and there's that question that they ask you, "Do you want a request a carryover?" That some grantees did that – with (Karen) – that after that – after that process, definitely it goes back to (Karen) who is then has the system generate the carryover request to the project officer.

In some cases, that came to (Joe) and I, and in some cases it didn't. She has been holding them for a while because she wasn't sure who the new project officers were. So I've got (inaudible) sent you a request that were made since September that have not been processed.

As you have problems, if some you and some of you have let me know already. But if you've submitted a carryover in September or October and you haven't heard anything, if you send the information to me, because I've been sending this to (Pete Conway) who is our deputy, because at some cases, again, I remind you that Karen – at one time (Karen's) (inaudible).

People had a difficulty talking to her or hearing from her because her mailbox was really crippled at one time. They've had a lot of stuff going on there, so it could just be behind. So I've been trying to keep track of who have not heard anything and sending them on to our deputy. So he's been able to deal with it.

Frances Marshman: So, (Dena), are you – this is Frances, are you saying that if people haven't heard anything from their submissions made last September or October, they should resend them?

(Dena Green): No, that they should send the information to me.

Frances Marshman: OK.

(Jamie Anderson): And (for mine) sent in December?

(Dena Green): Sorry.

(Jamie Anderson): (For mine) sent in December, because grants.gov is telling me that it was accepted but it hasn't told it's been completed yet.

(Dena Green): Well, see, what you'd probably need to understand in terms of the whole process, once the project officer approves it then it goes back to grants management and then grants management then has to process it. And then they may have to send it to somebody else, process it from there. I don't know how long the actual process takes.

But you're doing good if it's December from folks that have submitted it since September. But I don't think you can resubmit it. And I wouldn't advice you to do that. I would just advice you to just be patient, you know, and, you know, you have until May 31st to spend any carryover funds you might have. And just remind yourself to – every week this is what use to tell my grantees to, you know, just continue to try to call (Karen) to find out what status your (inaudible).

I would also remind you to include your grant number on your correspondence, that makes it easier for her. And to say like New Jersey and New York, you know, actually put your grant number, because that's how she keeps (inaudible).

(Jamie Anderson): OK.

(Dena Green): OK. Thank you, (Jamie).

(Jamie Anderson): Thank you.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of (Judy Walrack). Your line is open.

(Dena Green): Hi, (Judy).

Operator: Your line is open.

(Dena Green): (Judy)?

Operator: Perhaps she has stepped away. Again, if you would like to ask a question ...

(Judy Walrack): Hello? I'm sorry.

Operator: (OK).

(Judy Walrack): I'm sorry. I had my line on mute too. Double trouble. Hello?

(Dena Green): I'm here.

(Judy Walrack): OK, thank you. This is (Judy). I wanted to simply say that on the contact list, you'll be adding the e-mail and the phone numbers for the regional project officers as well?

(Dena Green): They're on there.

Frances Marshman: It's there on that second page, (Judy). You have to turn it or turn it over.

(Judy Walrack): Oh, OK. Sorry, I got it.

Frances Marshman: OK, that's great.

(Judy Walrack): All right.

(Dena Green): Thank you.

Operator: There are no further questions.

Frances Marshman: Operator, are there any other calls before we proceed?

Operator: No further questions at the present time.

Frances Marshman: OK, that's great. Thank you. OK, back to you (Dena).

(Dena Green): OK. I'm going to now go down to the part where we're talking about the non-competing continuation guidance. This year – I think you will be pleased that the continuation guidance is very much a progress report. And you do not have to include all that information you used to include.

I think the biggest part of your report or your application will be responding to the performance report. It's going to (HRSA) clearance right now. And I'm looking forward to us having it out –very soon in a timely fashion so that you'll be able to respond in a timely fashion.

As I've said, I'm not sure with the date, but I'm more than certain because it's so simple that you will be – you will have more than enough time to respond. And at this point too, I'll say it again in terms of the new structure – program structure that if you have – I'd like for us to try to work through our regional project officers.

But if you do have difficulty contacting them and I'm sure they'll let me know if they're having problems responding to a question. But I'm still available to answer any kind of questions or concerns you might have about that.

And I'll just go to the next one. And we'll take both of them at the same time before we move on. And that is the future conference calls and Webinars. I know they are some new ECCS coordinators since we had our last orientation. I've been working on designing an orientation program for the home visiting staff.

And as we complete that, I'm hoping if we can't at least invite you to the one that we're doing for the new – regional project officers that JSI and I will put together something just for the ECCS program coordinators – ECCS program coordinators (inaudible).

I wanted to get some of the titles that we were looking at in terms of the content for our future Webinars. I know we do plan to have one very soon on (indicators), because as a result of a request made by one of our great grantees (inaudible) indicated we had a (inaudible) to see that a lot of people are interested in this topic again. So we're working on developing that and that should be held sometime in March. So watch your e-mails. We'll be hoping to hear from you during that time.

And we also plan to present Christopher Botsko and the work that he's doing in evaluation. I know that's something that everybody is doing. I would see this year in terms of being the third of three years as really important for you to think about bringing together or compiling and designing a picture for us about what you've been doing in the past three years, bringing all that together in your progress report that you're going to be doing for the continuation.

And that too will help you may be come to some conclusions with your partners as to where you see ECCS fitting in this future with home visiting and early childhood development of study groups, the challenge funds and all this new funding that's coming down from early childhood. You know, what your vision is based on the work that you've done and where you see yourself going. That would be a great picture for you to put forth for us as you're developing your application.

I think it's really important that you continue to do the work that – the excellent work that you've been doing, partnering with all of your various partners including the state advisory councils, you know, and the work that you've been doing with your partners through the (summit) that I think that was a really good experience that I haven't heard a lot in terms of the feedback from you, individually.

And I myself was on sick leave during that time, but I understand that it was a very good experience. And it was an opportunity for people to work together in partnerships and in collaboration. But that will be really important that we maintain the work that you've done and also document it.

So, we're hoping that the Webcast and the opportunities that you'll have working with the home visiting staff will make it clearer for you in terms, wow, the great work that you've done and how important it is for you to continue this – to do the work that you have been doing, because I think again that ECCS has provided an excellent framework and a foundations for all of the new funding and Early Childhood Programs that are coming around.

So, I say again, they give them (inaudible) we look forward to that continues work in that area and the roles that you've done. (Inaudible). And I'm going to ask if we have any questions at this point before we go into (Barbara)'s presentation.

That's all I have to say in terms of that – in terms of where ECCS is at right now. As I said, we are looking to do a new guidance in the spring. And we hope to invite some outside experts to help us visualize or conceptualize what – where we want to go. But we'll be looking definitely to you who have been actually doing the work out in the states to give us some ideas. And tell us what your vision is.

Operator: We do have two questions. Please, state your location. Now, we have three, your first is (Shirley inaudible). Your line is open.

Frances Marshman: Hi, (Shirley).

(Shirley): Sorry, I was on mute. (Inaudible) have.

(Shirley): This is (Shirley), calling in from Alaska, talking to myself here. The question I had (Dena) was do we have any idea whether ECCS will be fully funded this year up to the 140,000? Or if you have an idea when we would know that?

(Dena Green): No, I don't know, but I expect that we will be. But that's what I expect, I'm not really sure. But I will be able to, the guidance should be out soon. And I'll be able to tell you, I may be able to tell you even sooner than that.

(Shirley): OK, so for this current year, we will know?

(Dena Green): Absolutely. You're asking, you know, in terms of what kind of funding you'll be getting at the end of this year, all right?

(Shirley): No, I'm asking for this current year, I think it's the beginning of the year. We were funded at 132,000 with the hope that we would get fully funded up to a 140,000 before the end of the year.

(Dena Green): Well, I definitely don't know how much will be funded for the next year and even what can happen at the end of this year, because, you know, we are on a continuing resolution. I know the formula that (Pete) has used in the past was that if people had carryover funds then they were able to use their carryover funds which wouldn't give them additional funds, but would which would give them all of the funds.

In fact, people are getting carryovers now, the ones that we were talking about from last year. But even those who were funded at 132,000 this year, they got additional money from '09 to complement – or to supplement the 132. So in some cases, people have already gotten their 140,000.

But by the time the guidance come out or comes out, you'll know.

(Shirley): Thank you.

(Dena Green): And if I know before then, then I can let you know individually. I wouldn't post on (listserv).

(Shirley): Thank you.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of (Anne inaudible). Your line is open.

(Anne): I had a (inaudible) question 'til you answered it. Thank you.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of (Kelly Monson). Your line is open.

(Kelly Monson): Yes, hi. I just have a question on earlier. Was a letter sent to the family home visiting grant coordinators about this merger with ECCS and family home visiting?

(Dena Green): But what is the question? I need to verify your question.

(Kelly Monson): It was a letter sent by (MCHB) to the state family home visiting grant coordinator about the merger with ECCS and family home visiting.

(Dena Green): Well, I guess the question I need to ask is who do you consider the family home visiting person coordinator?

(Kelly Monson): Well, whoever is receiving funding is usually considered the grant coordinator.

(Dena Green): Well, say, I think probably what you're – what – there's a difference is there was an existing home visiting program before this merger? And there are new home visiting – there's an – it is an evidence-based maternal and child health home visiting program. Those particular people were recently hired by the maternal and child health program to do their job.

In terms of the evidence-based, I mean, a program that may have existed prior to ECCS – this merger, I'm not sure that would have been something that Dr. Heppell would have taken care of. But so the existing or the pre-existing home visiting program are not the people that I'm talking about today.

(Kelly Monson): Now, I just want to clarify, I'm talking about at the state level, not at the federal level or the regional level.

(Dena Green): So what program are you talking about at the state level, that's what I'm asking here?

(Kelly Monson): Any other family home visiting programs that might fall under this new merger.

(Dena Green): Now, see that those existing – any existing home visiting program has not nothing to do with what I'm talking about.

(Kelly Monson): OK, thank you.

(Dena Green): Yes. The home visiting folks that we're talking about are a brand new program in a Maternal and Child Health Bureau here. And we're working on our third announcement for funding. There are a whole different group of grantees. Some of them are in – they had more than one in some states and there's only one in some state. But this is a totally different program in any existing home visiting programs.

Frances Marshman: But (Dena) in summary, it's sounding like Dr. Heppell never wrote a letter with a no – it was a no position to be funding a letter to existing home visiting professionals and states around the country to announce this merging of activities between early childhood comprehensive systems and home visiting.

(Dena Green): Exactly, because – and they are funded through (ACS). And I know that one of the things that people here that are working in home visiting (of) doing or are trying to make contact not just – not even on the state – on the state level but just on the regional level with the existing home visiting programs.

But you're absolutely right. Dr. Heppell had no reason to or (inaudible) responsibility for or attachment to any of the pre-existing home visiting programs.

Frances Marshman: So in order to have a fully integrated system including ECCS and home visiting the responsibility lies with grantees to become more acquainted with their home visiting programs and activities in their states.

(Dena Green): Absolutely. Again, I just say to make a more comprehensive systems that that would be one of the new partners that all of you in your various states should be looking out for. And your regional project officer should be facilitating that process.

Now, I wanted to ask if is there any more questions?

Operator: We do have one question left. I'm sorry. We're now up to three. Would you like the next question now?

(Dena Green): Yes please.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of (Martha Heights).

Your line is open.

(Martha Heights): Hi, this is (Martha) again. I want to – in Arkansas. I want to piggyback a little bit on the previous question. Because what I understand the difference in the home visiting grant because ECCS, in most states, is, well – because it is an MCH grant, it just seems to me that there could be some opportunity to let Maternal and Child Health Title V folks in each state know that this is going on. Because I would think that in most states, MCH and Title V would have, you know, a key role.

And so, you know, to notify them, specifically the MCH directors, maybe you've already done that, I don't know, but, of course, in Arkansas it's a challenge because we manage the ECCS grant in Child Care and Early Childhood Education.

And we work closely with MCH, but we've not necessarily been at the table for home visiting. In addition to that, Arkansas is one of – (ABCD3) is one of five (ABCD3) states. We talked about this at our recent meeting and how critical it is for us to link all of these things together at the state level, which is exactly what you all are saying.

But I just think any kind of communication to share or discuss this information as broadly as possible would be extremely helpful to states because we can only do so much in a state. And I think ECCS, all grantees do really a good job, from what I know, reaching across the table.

But, you know, when something comes from the federal agency or a funder, it makes a difference. So, that's just a comment for me. And a question is are the regional project officers on this call?

(Dena Green): That's what the next thing I'm getting ready to do to have them just say "Hi" to you because I'm thinking the majority of them are on the call.

(Martha Heights): Well, that's good because I wanted our project officer to be aware that we are not in Maternal and Child Health in Arkansas. We are really a little bit of a different animal. And I know that may be true with some other states, but I think that's very, very important in terms of, you know, reaching out and partnerships and that kind of thing.

Then I do have one other question. (Dena), you mentioned the Early Learning Council – and in Arkansas, that's our Early Childhood Commission. And we have been working on plans ever since the meeting in Washington to really strengthen the link – I'm not going to say merge – but to strengthen the link and really have a stronger partnership between ECCS. Although I sit at the table at the commission, we felt like after that meeting that we needed to make some changes to better collaborate with the council and support the workings of each of ECCS and the commission.

So – and we were planning, in our grant application, to request some things and make some changes in terms of ECCS to improve that relationship and strengthen the collaborative system in Arkansas.

Now, I know you said a continuation application, but I just want to be sure or ask, you know, if that's OK. I mean, it would definitely improve, you know, Early Childhood Systems in Arkansas by being able to do that.

(Dena Green): All right. And I don't think it's a yes or no question to that way, but if it's something that works for your state, (Martha), I think that's what you should work towards doing. You know, we can talk off the line later on about actually what you're – what you actually plan to do.

(Martha Heights): OK.

(Dena Green): It sounds like, again, state specific. So, if it works for your state, you know, it will improve Early Childhood Systems delivery with services collaboration, then that would be something that we welcome.

(Martha Heights): OK.

(Dena Green): Let me go back to something that you just said early on when you were talking about the state (inaudible). Those people – at least the federal level – are aware, when Dr. Heppell was making this change. He sat down with (Kathy) (Inaudible) over in the Title V Grant office. And she was well aware of it at that particular point. And I'm thinking that the MCH folks regionally also know.

But if you are asking and if you think it would be helpful to everyone for us to also send a letter to your state Maternal and Child Health agency to inform them, then that's something that we can do.

(Martha Heights): Well, again, speaking from our perspective – this is (Martha) – it would absolutely help us in Arkansas, you know. And again, you know, states are different. But in us, I think we need it because we are – we have not been at the table and we have not been asked to be at the table although we have asked for reports at our regular ECCS partnership council meetings.

So, from my perspective, we would welcome that very much. But, of course, I can't speak for other states.

(Dena Green): OK. Sounds good.

(Martha Heights): Thank you.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of (Charla McCarthy). Your line is open.

(Charla McCarthy): Hi. Thank you. This is (Charla) from Wyoming. And I do have a question. I apologize if this is a repeat at all. I entered the call a little bit late.

Wyoming is a state that we will be grudgingly allowed to apply for the home visiting funds. We are not being given permission to use any of those and will not – at least currently – be able to move forward with any of the home visiting activities that we had put forth in the need assessment that we completed.

Will the ECCS grant kind of be a standalone but (inaudible) home visiting funding? Or would that affect us as well?

(Dena Green): I don't – you have to answer the question – ask the question again because I'm not sure what you're asking. You're not going to supply – you won't have a home visiting grant. Is that what you're saying?

(Charla McCarthy): Well, Wyoming was allowed to apply by our governor, but we're not given any authority to spend or utilize any of the fundings.

(Dena Green): OK. So, then what is the question under that?

(Charla McCarthy): Like I said, I was just a little bit late, but it's my understanding you're saying that there's a merger there going on between ECCS with the home visiting?

(Dena Green): Well, someone used that term "merger," I didn't use the term. It doesn't mean that now ECCS and home visiting have one funding tool and as one program. That's not what it – that's not what we mean.

So, let me (inaudible) what has happened. We have now hired 10 regional project officers for the home visiting program, which means that even though we have home visiting grants in various states, within the region that those states are in will be now managed – regional project officers coming out of our regional offices.

Now, these people who are project officers for visiting will also now be regional project officers for ECCS. It means that all the states within a certain region – like, once upon a time, (Joe) and I, we thought about our program as states and not as regions.

ECCS will now be thought of as regions and those regional project officers for home visiting will also be managing and also be in charge of all the work that (Joe) and I did on a regional level for the (inaudible) region.

(Charla McCarthy): OK.

(Dena Green): And that's really joined together (inaudible). I'm getting feedback. There is no merger of the programs or the funding. Does that answer your question better?

(Charla McCarthy): That clarifies. Thank you.

(Dena Green): You're welcome.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of (Shirley Bette).

Your line is open.

(Shirley Bette): Hi. This is (Shirley) again. And I was just thinking back to your comment, (Dena), on the challenge grants and such in talking about new proposals how we would interface with those. And I'm just thinking if there's any way that we can sort of be kept up to speed on how that federal funding is shaping up, that would be really helpful.

(Dena Green): Sure. Well, you know, as we – you know, (Joe) and I usually propose things like that to the (inaudible) and also we included on our Web site. So, as we hear, we'll definitely let everybody know.

(Shirley Bette): Thank you.

(Dena Green): (Inaudible) before they see it on the list, they let us know so we can post it.

Frances Marshman: Operator, are there any more questions at this time?

Operator: No questions.

Frances Marshman: OK, that's great.

Dena, would you like to introduce (Barbara Hamilton)?

(Dena Green): Yes. Well, before I introduce (Barbara) (inaudible), I'd like to say – ask if there are any regional project officers on the phone that we can at least hear their voice so that they can say "Hello."

Frances Marshman: Dena, we can't do that as all the other lines are muted with the exception of our lines of speakers. So, I can tell the group that as of this morning, all the regional project officers had RSVPed. So, unless you want each of them to call in and get into the question and answer line to say their voice.

(Dena Green): But if they were asking, can they get on the line with whatever the question are?

Frances Marshman: Yes, we could do that.

Operator: Yes, they could do star 1 and go in to the queue.

(Dena Green): And we'll see if we get it in, if not, then we'll move on to (Barbara).

Operator: Yes, we do have six – one moment please. Your first is (Penny Kyler).

Your line is open.

(Penny Kyler): Hi. This is (Penny Kyler). I'm the project officer in Region 9 and I'm looking forward to working with you all. I have not done site visits to the ECCS program, but hopefully I'll be able to get around to doing that very soon.

(Dena Green): Thanks, (Penny).

Operator: Next, we have (Angela) (Inaudible).

Your line is open.

(Angela): Good afternoon, everyone. My name is (Angela Inaudible), and I'm the acting regional project officer for Region 7: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri – or sorry – Region 8, I work with Region 7 as well – Region 8 for Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

And as I mentioned before, I'm in acting capacity. We'll be hiring a regional project officer for Region 8 soon.

(Dena Green): Thank you, (Angela).

Operator: Next, we have (Jacky).

Your line is open.

(Jacky): Hello, everyone. This is (Jacky) (Inaudible). I am the regional project officer in Region 7, that's Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. And I look forward to seeing everybody soon on site visits given – if the weather holds. So, I'm looking forward to working with you.

(Dena Green): Thank you, (Jacky). (Jacky) is the former ECCS coordinator.

Operator: Next, we have (Josephine) (Inaudible).

Your line is open.

(Josephine): Hi. Thank you.

Hello, everyone. My name is (Josephine Inaudible), and I'm the Region 5 project officer, which includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. And I am based in Chicago and I look forward to speaking with you all in the upcoming weeks. Thank you.

Operator: Next, we have (Barbara Tallassee).

Your line is open.

(Barbara Tallassee): Hi. (Barbara Tallassee) in Boston. I cover the New England states. I think I've – I know the majority of you and have probably met all of you at the August meeting in Washington, D.C. And we will be spending much more time together in the ensuing months and I look forward to it.

Operator: Next, we have (Mona Martin).

Your line is open.

(Dena Green): We have you on mute, (Mona).

(Mona Martin): OK. I didn't think I controlled that.

Hi, everybody. This is (Mona Martin), and I am in Region 2 which is the New York regional division with New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and The Virgin Islands although they don't have a ECCS grant at this time.

And I have met a couple of you and I'm looking forward to meeting you Puerto Rico very soon. And I am very much – I have a history of working very closely with home visitations and ECCS grantees and, you know, do understand the need to have each other, know one another and have everybody at the table.

And certainly in the great state of New Jersey, there's actually very close work between the human services and the MCH and the ECCS and others all around the table and, you know, that's a real good thing. And I think (inaudible) it can work its best. And I am available any time I can be of any help.

(Dena Green): Thanks.

(Mona Martin): Thank you.

(Dena Green): Thank you.

Operator: Next, we have (Laura Wolfgang).

Your line is open.

(Laura Wolfgang): Hi, this is (Laura Wolfgang) in the Dallas regional office. And I think I met a couple of you. I cover all the Region 6 states, which is Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas and Louisiana. And I look forward to meeting everybody.

Operator: Next, we have (Marilyn Stevenson).

Your line is open.

(Marilyn Stevenson): Hello from the Atlanta regional office. Region 4 covers Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and

Tennessee. And I think all states have an ECCS (inaudible) with the exceptions of Mississippi.

I think I have met some of the ECCS directors because I know particularly for Georgia, our ECCS director (inaudible) advisory council for home visiting. This has been something that we've encouraged in the Region 4 and I look forward to working with all of you. Thank you.

Operator: There are no further introductions.

(Dena Green): Very good. Thank you so much, operator. And thank you all ECCS regional – home visiting regional project officers.

If you look on this list – and I know (Angela) was one of the people that's also a central office person and temporarily a regional person – that each of your regional project officers has a central office project office that work with two regions. And you can follow that in your (inaudible).

As time goes on, you'll be able to meet the (inaudible) to some of the central office folks, too, hopefully on our next conference call.

Right now I'm going to turn to (Barbara) who's going to give you an update on Healthy Child Care America and what we think she has upcoming.

(Barbara Hamilton): OK. Thank you, (Dena). And thank you, Frances, both of you for allowing me to be on the call to give sort of an activity update for the Healthy Child Care America Cooperative Agreement Program.

I'm new to the federal government. Many of you may have known me from my work with the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. And I'm now here in Washington, DC and Rockville, Maryland in particular to help the project officer for these fabulous programs that are out of the cooperative agreement.

Many of you who have been with the ECCS probably for a long time know that Healthy Child Care America Cooperative Agreement sort of preceded at

the ECCS, worked with the various particular grants in the states on the Healthy Child Care, too.

We have a rich history of improving the quality of Early Care and Education. They have been around – the agreement programs have been around since 1995 with three main goals: establishing and enhancing quality assurance, building child care health consultant infrastructure and improving access to health insurance and medical homes.

Thanks, Frances, for including the information sheet with your notice of the program coming up. And I'm not going to go over all the details, but I wanted to just mention a few items that I want you to be aware of and to look forward to seeing.

As you know, over the past year, many of you have been involved in national and state initiatives regarding obesity prevention. Ohio and Arkansas originally highlighted in our Project Thrive Webinar about their program. And you will see that this is one of many topics that is sort of laced throughout the three projects worked in this year and coming years on trying to get excellent opportunity for promoting healthy environment in the Child Care Education field.

The three programs, the National Research Center for Health and Safety and Child Care Early Education, the National Training Institute for Child Care and Health Consultant and the Child Care and Health Partnership at the American Academy of Pediatrics, work quite collaboratively. And as you will see that their firms are very integrated in supporting each other and the programs that you're doing at the state levels.

And so we thought it was a good opportunity now just to talk about a couple of the resources as you move with your work through the states. So, I'm going to go through each one just briefly, but welcome questions and also encourage you after this call to make a new visit to their Web sites about the resources that they have to support both the ECCS and the upcoming home visiting programs because with that there'll be a lot of technical assistance to the home

visitors. And many of these resources could be very useful to that part of the program as well.

The first is the National Resource Center which is health at the University of Colorado, College of Nursing. Dr. Marilyn Krajicek is the project director. And listed is the Web site, nrckids.org along with the toll free number.

Many of you have been involved and this would be no surprise that we're in the third edition or revising the third edition of Caring for our Children, which is sort of the foundational piece for all the quality standards and so forth that we hope states are using to enhance their state regulations and so forth.

It's very much the long target to be released at the end of the first quarter of this year. So, continue to visit their site for release and that will also be on the ECCS list or when that's available.

It's very exciting about new standards that will be on there as well as enhancements to a lot of the issues such as hand sanitizers, (inaudible), use of plastics, all those topics that have come up since the last edition in 2002 will be covered in the new one.

And I'd like to think – we know that many of you served as stakeholders in the review process as well as some of you served also as technical panel experts have a huge collaborative effort in that.

And because of this interest and national initiatives in obesity, National Resource Center went ahead and accelerated their particular standards on nutrition, physical activity and screen time. And hopefully, all of you have seen those. They are listed on the Web site. They're now also available in Spanish.

And there have been – there are several projects that the resource center is working on currently to support that work. And those are listed in the sheet that was sent to you. But they most – they're all under development and should be released by the end of February. So, be sure, again, to look back.

One important thing for system work is they've conducted a national assessment of the obesity (inaudible) terminology in child care licensing regulations and have done a draft report on the baseline sort of portraying the status of this high impact components that we're into preventing obesity standards.

These components were selected by an expert panel at the NRC across the country. Forty-seven components were reviewed and assessed at where states are at this point. That's going to be some exciting work that will be released very shortly. We have a draft here and we'll be giving that back to the NRC for final release.

And then there are specific tools for a variety of audiences for the licensers, for families. Again, that's something maybe in the home visiting and future projects that you're working on and also videos for caregivers to use in promoting specifically to the (inaudible) activities.

The next large component, National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants. That's based at the University of North Carolina. Dr. Jonathan Kotch is the project director for that program. Again, their site is there.

Many of you have access to resources to train the trainer for Child Care Health Consultants in your state. We encourage that to continue as to develop those and build those networks. They are a key source to get some child care providers and early educators on the quality factors of health and safety issues that use the foundation of the standards in their training work.

They've had a remarkable record of training over 462 trainers that have trained over almost 5,000 child care health consultants. In the last – this current train they're in, they've touched base in New York, Washington, Maryland, Arizona, have been participants as well as members of the Armed Forces. They continually update their training modules.

You'll see, again, nutrition and physical activity being a key topic. And they do trainer kit – toolkit that help those back home that are doing the actual consulting work, working with materials for child care providers.

Those are available under Web site for the grant – for the people who have graduated from the child care health consultant training program. And they have also – because they're key in getting that information distributed, they've had a strong participation in development of the new standard by – from their work and what they've seen what has worked and what needs to be included in the standards.

They reach out, the value of the child care health complication. You'll see they've disseminated and published many research reports and interests on that. That may – can be helpful in guiding your work to develop more networks within your state on that, in the value of the Child Care Help component as well as presentations to various audiences that they've listed there.

That also holds true for the child care and health partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics. They have a wonderful network of chapter child care contacts. Many of you, I believe, have those as a member of your ECCS team or work on your ECCS team. They provide (inaudible), if you don't have that person, you probably would very much want to go there to find out your closest contact for that.

They also are a key partner in the development of the standards and they do promotion to their audiences as well as of pediatricians that are also child care providers. To people who – specifically about the standard, they've developed a standard of the month that is a nice one-page, easy to give out and show the value of a particular standard as well as highlighting them in their e-newsletter that's available.

They, among with members of the NRC, the National Resource Center, have participated on national discussions on obesity prevention. I think it's very important if you have questions about that to contact (Jean). And, (Jean), I hope you're on the call and I'm sorry I didn't mention. (Jean Vanorsdal) is that manager of this program at the AAP and certainly a good key contact for you to visit with about that.

So, also, they have forthcoming presentations again to get the word out, if you know of other things that they need to be involved with, please let all three know. They've developed great online curriculums on (inaudible) specifically for caregivers and have had a good response from that, again, something that you can promote through your state.

And then upcoming, they're developing Bright Futures age-based handouts that will cover a lot of topics on developmental stages and, again, work both with your ECCS program and coordinating with your home-visiting, those will be useful, too.

I've gone fast through that, but I'll encourage you all to check their Web site periodically. They're always producing new items. We thank you for you know supporting that, and let us know if there are new things that you feel could be new resources based on the standards and other of the training program and the work with the AAP. We're always welcome to new ideas and how they can work to support your work.

As mentioned before, you'll be getting a handout with my contact. But if you would like to contact me in the meantime, my new e-mail is bhamilton@hrsa.gov. So, thanks again for that opportunity.

(Dena Green): (inaudible), I'd like to add something here, something I should have done when I introduced (Barbara) was to – try to decrease anxiety and confusion by saying, at one point in time, when ECCS first started, one of our goals in early care and education was to integrate the standards and all of the learning experiences we've gotten from Healthy Child Care America and through our ECCS program and plan and we had less of a staff focus on Healthy Child Care America.

And with this new transition or the new branch, we felt that we did not want to lose that emphasis in that program, so that's why we now have a person, an actual staff person, who is the contact and the keeper of the Healthy Child Care America information and resources and with the program information that you probably had early on.

So I'm just explaining that because some people are partly saying, "Well, wait a minute. How did this happen?" So this is where we're at now. So, questions? (Barbara)?

Operator: Again, if you would like to ask a question, that's star, one on your telephone keypad – and please state your location.

Your first question comes from the line of (Monique Falcon). Your line is open.

(Monique Falcon): I'm sorry. This is (Monique Falcon-Hannah). I'm the Region III Project Officer. I was having some technical difficulties in being able to announce my self. I'm actually the Regional Project Officer for D.C., Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. And I've had the opportunity to meet several of you at our – the home visiting home site – the site visits and I look forward to continue and to nurture that relationship. I apologize for coming in at this time.

(Dena Green): Thanks, (Monique).

Operator: Next, we have (Kelly Monson). Your line is open.

(Kelly Monson): Yes. This is (inaudible). Thank you, (Barbara). That was very, very interesting. I appreciate (hand down in) what you had to say. Is there any way you can assist in giving the national AAP to put a little bit more pressure on chapters to identify a child care consultant?

Again, in Minnesota, we are struggling for three years since the previous person left to get our chapter to even look at child care. But from the national level, that would really be helpful.

(Barbara Hamilton): OK, thanks. I hope (Jean) is on the call and we'll talk about what might be the options to see if they can get a chapter contact. And if there is one or they're working on one, we'll make sure that you're aware of it, that we make that aware.

(Kelly Monson): Well, there isn't one and they're not working on one, so a gentle nudge from the national would be very helpful.

(Barbara Hamilton): OK, great, we'll take a look at that.

(Kelly Monson): And also, just to comment, we – two years – we have been working with the national NAPNAP, the Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Association, one of my staff is currently the president of the Minnesota chapter, to also try to get that organization to be more actively involved in the child care consulting role because I think they are a very important health promotion prevention pediatric partner, if not, just the Academy of Pediatrics itself.

Just FYI, you may want to go knocking on the door of the national NAPNAP, Pediatric Nurse Practitioners organization.

(Barbara Hamilton): You're correct and that they are very active and have been very active in many states in promoting Child Care Health Consultants. One thing I didn't mention and I'm sorry – and just brought it up, (Kelly), so I appreciate you bringing this question up.

The child care health partnership, the American Academy of Pediatrics, on their side to help the Healthy Child Care – to help the healthychildcare.org site that's listed – they have gone through and tried to find a key contact for each state on the Child Care Health Consultants. They haven't gotten it for every state, but they have been working on that.

So that's something to check and if you of know of some resource that they don't have or that if it's been updated, if you could contact them about that, not just your state, (Kelly), but anybody that's on the call. I'm sure they would appreciate that.

(Dena Green): Thank you, (Kelly).

Operator: Next, we have (Sandra Potter). Your line is open.

(Sandra Potter): Hi. Thanks very much. My question is similar to the last one, but it relates more to whether you've done a recent survey of Healthy Child Care America

(inaudible) (council) to programs across the country. I know that funding has been tricky for most states and we just lost funding for our child care and nurse consultant and I'm looking maybe for some ideas about how other states or regions have been able to sustain their programs.

(Barbara Hamilton): I'm not sure. I don't believe there's been a national survey. But both on the NTI graduate listserv and on the National Resource Center's listserv, there have been questions back and forth about how people are funding Child Care Health Consultants.

If you're not on the National Resource Centers' list, I would suggest that you contact them about being on that and potentially posting that question again. It's been off and on that that's been asked and there has been some data collected. Also, Sandra Cianciolo at the NTI, the National Training Institute, may be able to provide you with some additional information on that if she, I know she (inaudible) for what's going on in the states about that.

(Sandra Potter): Thanks very much.

Operator: Next, your question comes from the line of (Sandra). Please state your last name and your location. Your line is open.

Sandra Cianciolo: Hi. This is Sandra Cianciolo. I'm with the National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants, and I just wanted to comment on a couple of things that were said today. Thanks (Barb) for that great overview.

I wanted to make a clarification on the toolkits that you had mentioned that we create. Most of the trainer toolkits that we create are for use in training Child Care Health Consultants themselves. There are a couple of toolkits that we've created that Child Care Health Consultants can use with teachers and providers. So I just wanted to make that clarification on your handout.

Secondly, with regards to the NAPNAP comment, Angela Crowley is the representative from NAPNAP on our National Advisory Committee and she is very much instrumental in keeping NAPNAP aware of the Child Care Health Consultation. They have a child care (SIG) in NAPNAP and two members, in particular, Angela and (Abby Alcon), who is a graduate of the National

Training Institute and is chair of the child care (SIG), are very instrumental in presenting on Child Care Health Consultation and trying to find ways to get nurse practitioners involved in being health consultant.

And then, finally, around the survey to see how to fund Child Care Health Consultants, of course, this is a concern to us at the National Training Institute and we do keep tabs on how states are doing and who has an active Child Care Health Consultants training program and which states are training and mentoring and supporting Child Care Health Consultants.

We're recently completing a survey on our own listserv about which of our graduates are still active and training Child Care Health Consultants and we help to keep that up-to-date or get information on that very soon.

In our training, we talk about how to fund Child Care Health Consultation and so, maybe the person who asked that question could give me a call and we can talk about that a little bit more. My number is 919 – (Adrienne), I'm on the phone. My number is 919-966-6288 and I apologize for my son's outburst there.

(Barbara Hamilton): Thank you, Sandra, very much for that clarification and additional information.

Operator: Next, we have (Lorraine Clayton). Your line is open.

(Lorraine Clayton): OK. Thank you. (Barbara), you mentioned the development of Bright Futures handouts. Do you have an idea of to when those will be released?

(Barbara Hamilton): They're hoping to have them done by the end of March.

(Lorraine Clayton): Terrific. OK. And how are they put together in terms of age ranges?

(Barbara Hamilton): I'm not sure about that. I haven't seen the drafts yet. But if you contact (Jean), she could give you more additional on that.

(Lorraine Clayton): OK. Thank you.

Operator: Next, we have (Jean Vanorsdal). Your line is open.

(Barbara Hamilton): Perfect timing.

(Jean Vanorsdal): This is (Jean Vanorsdal) and I'm the manager of Healthy Child Care America, a child care health partnership with the AAP and I just wanted to address a couple of things.

I will certainly nudge Minnesota regarding chapter contacts. We are actively pursuing chapter contexts in several states right now and we've just received news today that we've gotten two more which was very exciting, but unfortunately, it wasn't Minnesota.

So we will continue that work. As far as working with NAPNAP, I've also discussed with (Abby Alcon) who is our NAPNAP representative. We've discussed the opportunity to pair up chapter contacts with actual representatives from NAPNAP, from their special interest group in early childhood as well.

We have only just begun those discussions, but we're looking at what that would look like, if that's something that we can pursue or not. So that's kind of an exciting opportunity for all of us.

And then, as far as the Bright Futures' handouts, we have two-month-old, four-month-old, 12-month, 18-month, two-year-old, two-and-a-half-year-old, three-year-old, and a four-year-old. So those are the ones that we are pursuing at this time. We are just about finished with the last one, but then they have to be reviewed. And as soon as we have all of the changes and edits, then we'll send them on for a second round of review at the next level. So we're really excited to get those done and get those out.

(Barbara Hamilton): Thank you, (Jean).

(Jean Vanorsdal): You're welcome.

Female: Hey, would you – this is (inaudible). Hi there. Would you be willing to recite your e-mail address just in case people want to follow-up with you on anything?

(Jean Vanorsdal): Absolutely. My e-mail address is jvanorsdal@aap.org.

Female: Vandorsal, right?

(Jean Vanorsdal): Correct.

Female: OK. Thank you.

(Jean Vanorsdal): Thank you.

Operator: Next, we have (Martha Hyatt). Your line is open.

(Martha Hyatt), your line is open.

(Martha Hyatt): I'm on mute. It's me. I'm on now. Sorry, I have muted my microphone, too. I'm picking up from other people.

First of all, I'd say hi to (Jean). I hope you made it home OK from the Washington meeting and thank (Barbara) for her great presentation and overview of all the good things that are going on.

I want to – (another) (inaudible) and thanks – that I want to say thank you for, is I just received the first standard of the month. I don't know whether they've been coming out or if they're new and they just look really great, so thanks for those.

And my question is, we're talking about NAPNAP and we're talking about partnerships, and I'm just curious how closely or how you work at the federal level or national level with the family practice physicians, family physicians group. I know there' have been some collaborative efforts in the past. And, again, family practice physicians are so important in Arkansas and you know especially in relationships with child care and child care providers.

So I wonder if you could just touch on for a few minutes, any kind of relationships or collaboration on how you work with them.

(Barbara Hamilton): Thanks, (Martha). I'll be very honest. I'm not sure what the past history has been with that, but I will definitely find out. And I know that they have

been an important part when we've used family physicians in looking at the standards and getting their feedback. But from a federal level, I will really have to check that. I'll just ask (Dena) if she's aware of any you know specific (inaudible) that (inaudible), but that's a great idea. And if you have any thoughts about that or contact people, let us know.

(Martha Hyatt): OK. Thanks.

Operator: There are no further questions or comments at the present time.

(Barbara Hamilton): OK.

Female: Thank you very much, operator.

(Dena Green): I'd just wanted to add one last thing – is that Lorrie Grevstad (inaudible). You probably heard her name on the (inaudible) and some of you are familiar with her. She's a former ECCS coordinator from Washington State. She is now the Project Officer for – the Regional Project Officer for Home Visiting in ECCS coming out of Region X. So you'll be hearing a lot from Lorrie.

But I have nothing else. I know my assignment is to let everybody know as soon as possible when we find out about future funding and also to see about sending a letter to all the MCH directors, (inaudible) folks, to let them know about the change.

And, I guess, I'll be talking to you all if you don't have any other questions or comments or invitations or announcements.

Female: And (Dena), I'm going to work with you to update the contact list to include a few additional people and we'll circulate that on that listserv.

(Dena Green): Thank you and also, keep watching the listserv for upcoming Webcasts, Webinars, or a conference calls.

Female: Thank you very much, (Tina) and (Barbara).

(Dena Green): Thank you.

(Barbara Hamilton): Thank you.

Female: Thank you (inaudible) for joining this call today.

(Dena Green): OK.

Female: You have the contact information for project offices and central office in regions in JSI. If you have any questions, please be in touch with us. Take care.

(Dena Green): Thank you so much.

(Barbara Hamilton): Thank you.

Female: Thank you, operator, too. Bye-bye.

END