

**JSI RESEARCH AND TRAINING INST.**

**Moderator: Frances Marshman  
October 22, 2009  
2:00 pm CT**

Operator: Good afternoon, my name is (Phillip) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time, I would like to welcome everyone to the ECCS Grantee Update conference 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 1 on your telephone keypad. If you would like to withdraw your question, press the pound key, thank you. Ms. Marshman, you may begin the conference.

Frances Marshman: Thank you very much (Phillip). Hi, this is Frances Marshman at John Snow Inc., JSI, sitting here in Boston, Massachusetts with my colleagues, (Orlich Kennedy) and Jackie Nolan, and colleagues (Megan Hiltnor) and (Julie Powers) are in Denver and Atlanta.

We're very pleased to be having our first technical assistance call with all of you and at last count there were 45 of you going to be on the call plus partners so maybe a total of 65 people on the call. And it's wonderful to know that the West Coast to East Coast, to the District of Columbia, the Northern Mariana Islands,

Palau and Puerto Rico are represented today. So thank you so much everybody for RSVPing in advance.

As you know from the agenda, your project officer Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn, Joe Zogby and (Dina Green) will be presenting vital information to you today along with an opportunity to hear some news from the Grants Management staff at MCHB.

And the agenda has changed slightly but we are still going to open today with Dr. Stubbs-Wynn talking to you about the early childhood systems news that she would like to report on and we are intending to keep to the agenda and end around 4:30 pm Eastern Standard Time. And without further ado, I'd like to welcome Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn.

Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn: Thank you (Marsha). Hello everyone, it's always a pleasure to be a part of the Early Childhood System conversations. I'd like to talk to you today a little about the early learning and development initiatives. This is a joint Health and Human Services initiative along with the Department of Education.

The health side, our leader is Dr. Joan Lombardi and on Education, Dr. Jacqueline Jones. This initiative is in support of the President's birth to five activities and essentially what it is, is a six-component activity where it's designed to ensure that children are healthy and ready to learn. And it looks at the following six components: standards, professional assessments, data, workforce, parent engagement, and health promotion.

The way the ELD or Early Learning and Development Initiative is organized at the Department level, each of those six areas is now a study group led by co-chairs, one from the Department of Education and the other from Health and

Human Services. I've been asked to co-chair the Health Promotion Study Group. And as of today we have had our second meeting and are moving along.

Each of the study groups have been asked to proceed in an organized fashion first with a set of activities for lack of a better term, I would call informing. Whereas federal programs - we use the time to inform our sister federal programs in terms of what we're doing in each of the areas, some of the challenges, some of the successes, and also some of the things that we're learning from you the states in terms of initiatives that are working extremely well and inform the process.

The Early Learning and Development initiative is also a part of the legislation working its way through the Hill. On the House side, the legislation has passed. I believe it was Congressman George Miller who submitted it. And in terms of a funding level, it's calling for approximately \$8 billion and the time period would be, I believe, either a three or five-year period.

That's sounds like a lot of money and frankly it is. In today's terminology and dollars, I guess we are talking variants and trillions and it's a little difficult for those of us in ECCS to wrap our hands around because we're still talking i.e., thousands. But anyway, the legislation I mentioned has passed the House.

In the Senate, it is attached to the Senate Financing Committee and their deliberations over healthcare reform. And when there is a definitive bill on healthcare reform as anticipated that the language needed from the Senate on the ELD will be a part of that.

Part of the process that has been used in addition to the workgroups and their charge to first inform each other is not only sharing what's going on in each of the various federal agencies but also looking at what is the research telling us. This is

a major effort because there is a strong desire that evidence-based research be a major focus to the deliberations.

In addition to that, at some point in time, there will also be an opportunity for each of the workgroups to invite selected experts in that particular field in to share information that the group should have particularly in terms of innovative strategies or approaches that are going on with either within or outside of the federal government.

A third strategy is something that we're calling for lack of a better word, listening calls. And this is where states are asked to present where they are or some of the innovative approaches they're using to build an early childhood or early learning and developmental system which fully recognizes each of the six components.

There is no one state that has it all together. But I think the focus of the calls has been to basically to listen to states that have an approach to share and just in terms of one state's opinion can inform and share it with the group. To date two states have presented, one was Oregon a couple of weeks ago and most recently this week we also heard from Pennsylvania.

I do not believe there will be a high number of listening calls but I'm pretty sure there will be some in the near future. And essentially I would urge you if indeed your state is approached to do a listening call, to also be a part of this particularly in terms of the early childhood comprehensive systems approach to children, inner school, healthy and ready to learn.

Okay. (Dina) or Frances I think I should stop there.

Frances Marshman: Would you be able to elaborate on how a state is invited to participate on the listening calls?

Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn: At this time I really am not particularly since there's only been one or two.

And I think whatever decisions were made were made at a level above the study groups. I talked about the study groups; what I should have also mentioned in terms of organization is that this effort is led by a steering committee.

The steering committee is composed of 14 members, two from each of the six study groups, and in addition Dr. Joan Lombardi and Dr. Jacqueline Jones from the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education.

So although I can't comment on the exact process, I believe it's basically related to the steering committee and leadership.

Frances Marshman: Okay, okay. I'd like to remind our grantees that -- and I'm sorry I didn't say this at the beginning of the call -- that we did send both through the list serve and through the JSI TA coordinators all the additional materials that you'll need to refer to during this call.

And if you haven't clicked on this already, the document that outlines in even greater detail that Dr. Stubbs-Wynn has provided right now was attached in the emails that we sent out. And it's entitled the "Early Learning and Development Interdepartmental Initiative". And it's 22 pages long. So you can certainly go back and look at that, you know, when you have a chance and read up.

And would you -- my thought is to go ahead and let Joe present on the Early Learning Challenge Grants and then we can open up the lines for questions. So Joe, I know that you also sent some information out today on the list serve regarding these Challenge Grants. So I'd like to remind grantees that there were emails that came through from Joe. Would you like to go ahead and talk about those please? Thank you, Phyllis.

Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn: Thank you.

Frances Marshman: Hi Joe, are you there?

Joseph Zogby: Yes, I'm here; can you hear me now?

Frances Marshman: Hi. Yes, you're sounding good.

Joseph Zogby: Okay. Phyllis gave you a pretty good outline of what's going on here with respect to the Challenge Grants. The study groups, I just want to make a couple of comments that have more to do with our relationship and perhaps some thinking that we have to do with regard to these Challenge Grants.

One is that it's for school readiness and it's slanted toward children that are in early learning programs. It does not make accommodation nor does it state an intent to deal with children who are not in early care or early education. Now we need to think about this because the literature has shown clearly that from birth on and especially that first year that the foundations of social-emotional development are dramatically affected.

We've got to reach those children and the Challenge Grants do not at this point. That's not even their intent. Although they expect children to pick up when they get to early learning situations though whether it's early Head Start or whether it's going to be preschool. But that can start as late as 3 years or maybe even later than 3 years and we will have missed a tremendous amount of important time in the brain development.

So we've got to keep that in mind that what the Challenge Grants are doing is not a one-on-one correspondence with our early childhood systems building activities

that, you know, we're doing together. So we have to maintain a strong program of our own. Although it's going to be very helpful to the Challenge Grants if they go through which they probably will.

But even if they don't, that our program -- and I'm not saying just ECCS but I mean what the state teams have put together -- is a wonderful and effective foundation that even the recommendations from the study groups could be implemented. But aside from that important part; looking in the other direction, if they are implemented and they probably will and then we'll be working with the state advisory councils.

They're going to be a lot of people around us and we're going to have tremendous opportunity to be connecting and getting leverage to both help them and to help where we're going. And, you know, serving children in a much broader picture overall from both the Challenge Grant side as well as the state team side.

Also I do not believe that every state is going to get a grant. You have the written material in front of you. And the first one that I sent is the one that was passed onto the Senate. And that was a little chopped off at the end when I got it off of Thomas. So I sent you the older one that made reference to looking from that point on so that you could see what the remainder was.

But anyway -- I'm beginning to lose my train of thought there -- not every state is going to get one. They're going to be large grants. But for those states that don't get one, our program is going to be highly valuable in terms of implementing the recommendations and providing a program in those states. So that maybe in the future if funds become available for these large grants, for additional ones, that there will be a foundation there.

I don't think there's anything else to say. My major concern is how we relate and how we continue our work. Frances, did you want me to open for questions or do you want to save that for...

Frances Marshman: I actually have a question and, then yes, we can open the lines for questions. So what you're saying is that the funding for the Early Challenge Grants has not been approved by both the House and the Senate yet? So you're asking grantees to be on deck in order to work, look forward to working where the recipients of those grants fund once it gets approved and the applications are applied, you know.

Joseph Zogby: Well they should anticipate. However, the Early Learning Council or Early Learning Advisory Council, that's going through. And the governors are expected to have their applications in by I believe August 31 of 2010. And, you know, all this stuff is connected together.

Frances Marshman: Right.

Joseph Zogby: And we're certainly going to be required to work with the Early Learning Councils, you know, regardless of what the nature of our relationship is in a particular state.

Frances Marshman: So what you're calling the Early Learning Challenge Grants are not out there with a due date for people to apply for yet?

Joseph Zogby: Not yet but we're speculating that they may get approved, I mean the legislation and the appropriation. And Phyllis correct me if I'm wrong but the talk has been possibly November and December. And if that hits; we're all going to be writing the application guidance by January.

So and I don't know how much time they're going to give the states to write these things up. They're going to be very large as you know and complicated. So they may give them a couple of months. So I can't say exactly when the awards will be made.

Frances Marshman: Okay. I think we could open the lines up if any grantees have questions, Operator. So again, your reminder to our callers is to in order to place a question and to get in a line and asking questions, is it star 1, (Phillip), is that right?

Operator: Yes, ma'am, that's correct and at this time if you would like to ask a question, please press star then the number 1 on your telephone keypad.

Frances Marshman: So we'll just have to wait while people get in the queue. And then I'm correct (Phillip) that you'll go ahead and announce the first question when there's someone in the queue?

Operator: Yes ma'am. And we actually have a question from the line of (Martha Hyatt) from Little Rock.

Frances Marshman: Thank you.

(Martha Hyatt): Thanks. Can you hear me?

Frances Marshman: Yes, you sound great.

(Martha Hyatt): Oh okay. Well thank you because I never know whether I have my mute button off or on so I just wanted to be sure. Okay. Just for clarification purposes because there are so many grant opportunities floating out there whether they're actually, you know, available at this point in time or will be available, are we talking here about three potential grant opportunities?

First is the Early Learning Council which yes, is out there. If I understand correctly, each state will get a specific amount. So that's already being worked on.

Joseph Zogby: Yes.

(Martha Hyatt): The second pot would be the Early Learning Challenge Grants and that has not necessarily been approved although there's been lot of information out about it. We should be watching for those and try to be as involved as possible.

And then the third potential opportunity is what Phyllis mentioned at the \$8 billion level if I wrote it down correctly that has gone through the House and it's sitting in the Senate that will be coming out even later. Now is that correct?

Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn: That's correct.

Joseph Zogby: But that's the home visiting.

(Martha Hyatt): The \$8 billion is the home visiting?

Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn: No, no the \$8 billion is the Early - ELD - Early Learning and Development Initiative. And that's the information that was sent out to you earlier that's that 20-some page document with the six components.

(Martha Hyatt): Yes, I have that and thank you very much and that's great. I mean I really, you know, applaud you all for your efforts and especially for the joint initiative with HHS and Education because that comes from a public health background. So that's obviously real positive and I'll be watching for that.

But again, I just want to be sure because like I said there's so many things floating around out there because we understand USDA is going to have some additional money for the Challenge Adult Food program. So keeping all these things straight is a little bit challenging especially when we're trying really hard to get and keep ECCS-connected to all of them.

So I just want to be sure we're talking about three distinct, different, pots of money here, with different timeframes, etc., etc., right?

Joseph Zogby: Well you have the Council's and that's out there and that's to your governor.

(Martha Hyatt): Yes.

Joseph Zogby: You have the Challenge Grants and actually there are two categories under here. And you can see it in the writing. One is the states that are really well advanced and they're going to be used like as models. And then there's the states that are going to be in kind of a learning or an apprentice mode but they're far enough along that they have something to come in with and grow.

(Martha Hyatt): Right. But also...

Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn: So think what you just described in terms of the potential grants to be available is the ELD, the Early Learning and Developmental initiative.

(Martha Hyatt): .. Okay and I may be the only one that's getting a little bit confused. But I have the information on the Early Learning Challenge Grants that Joe you sent. But my understanding is that money is not available yet...

Joseph Zogby: No.

(Martha Hyatt): ...nor has an RSP or RFA been released for that money.

Joseph Zogby: No.

(Martha Hyatt): Okay. And then the third piece would be the part that Phyllis talked about that has been through the House to the Senate but nothing has been released about that obviously.

Joseph Zogby: No, I think we're talking about the same program there. Phyllis is that correct?

Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn: No I think it is three distinct programs.

Joseph Zogby: Well did you bring up the home visiting program? I thought you did.

Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn: No I did not.

Joseph Zogby: Oh okay. Well under the Challenge Grants, there are two types of grants correct?

Frances Marshman: Joe, we would actually look to you for clarification on that. But it sounds like (Martha) maybe we could sort of move on to the next caller with her or his question. But I think you're absolutely right. There's a potentially, you know, an \$8 billion pot of money per that Early Learning and Development Interdepartmental Initiative which is outlined in the documents that Phyllis referred to during her talk.

It's sounding like there are possibly going to be two sets of Early Learning Challenge Grants. And in a moment, (Dina Green) and the funding that is affiliated or connected to that kind of work.

I'd like to go onto the next question just because I want to try and stick to the agenda if that's okay with you.

Joseph Zogby: I just want to add this one thing quickly. There is a home visiting program and that's under healthcare reform. And that's going -- if healthcare reform goes through -- that will get funded this year and it will be through the state as it appears so far.

That if it comes through the Senate it's going to go to MCH but we have to work closely with ACF on it.

Frances Marshman: Administration for Children and Families.

Joseph Zogby: Yes it's going to start I think with \$100 million this year and next year. But, okay, let's get the next question.

Operator: You have no further questions at this time.

Frances Marshman: Okay why don't we go onto (Dina Green)'s presentation and certainly maybe (Martha)'s question can be addressed a little bit more in what (Dina) has to say and certainly (Martha) if you remain confused please get back in the queue.

So (Dina) are you ready to go?

(Dina Green): Yes I am. Can everyone hear me?

Frances Marshman: Thank you. Yes, you sound great.

(Dina Green): Hello everyone and first I'm talking mainly about what we've heard from you. And everybody probably knows by now of course that we have been working on a

chart that would show what our grantees, what kind of relationships I should say our grantees have with the Early Learning Councils. And also we thought we'd also add a column for people to talk a little bit about their collaboration and partnerships with other federal entities or other state and local, other childhood activities in their states.

And I'd like to thank all of you who did participate in this kind of in-house survey and that's all we can call it now. It's an in-house document; it's not something that's considered science yet. But it gave us a general idea about what's going on.

And listening to - if you've been listening carefully to what (Martha) said along with what Joe and Phyllis talked about, you'll see that what we've been talking about for the past five years or so has been essentially the need to and the value of partnerships and collaborations. That's what we've been doing; that's what we're known for and that's what we need to continue to do.

And given the fact that there is these new initiatives that are being funded, it's become even more important if I can even say that because I know all of you have been doing excellent work with your programs. And we don't want you to lose that momentum by getting overwhelmed or not knowing where to go with your particular program.

The first thing we need to say is that you need not feel that you're in competition with these new initiatives. That's one of the concerns I'm sure many of you had as the Early Learning Council's developed. You know, what does this mean in terms of what we're doing here? And we want you to think of it as ECCS being an initiator and a collaborator and that this is not -- the Early Learning Councils -- are not intended or any of these other programs that we're talking about to replace or duplicate what you're doing.

But it's most important that you get out and continue to get out and talk to and network with people that are if it's not your program that's the recipient of those funds, that you make sure that people are aware of what your program is. Because I'm sure there in some states because looking at the chart, we've seen that many states have had different experiences in terms of how they've been able to network, collaborate, or integrate their activities along with these new activities.

You need to let folks know what the work is that you're doing and to really make sure that health has a place at the table. That is one of the things that we've been able to uncover as Joe mentioned with the Challenge Grants that health may not be a part of some of the thinking that maybe the designers of some of the new initiatives might have. And the work that you're doing fits right in line with what's needed to make that comprehensive picture.

So I went over this chart and what I tried to do was summarize what you sent to me thus far. I'll also ask that people delete or toss out the original charts that I sent to you including the one that I emailed yesterday because I found when I was tallying up the charts today that there are three states that are missing. And that was definitely an oversight. It was not intended.

So I have a new chart with all of the 52 grantees on them with what the responses were. In summarizing the chart, I used five descriptors to categorize what people said, responded to, on the chart. And what I found was that three of our ECCS programs are categorized as designated. And what that means is that the ECCS and the Early Learning Council functions as a combined or the ECCS program has been designated as the Early Learning Council's.

So we have three states, three ECCS programs left for that now either have been integrated totally into the work of the Early Learning Council or they themselves

have been designated as the Early Learning Council. Another descriptor I used, "Has A Strong Relationship".

And what that means is that the ECCS is a voting member of the Council, ECCS and the Early Learning Council share state plans and implementations; that ECCS provides staff support to the Council or ECCS is an advisor to the Early Learning Council or the Early Learning Council is an advisor to ECCS. And we have 24 states that are in that category.

One of the things that we talked about last year when we were developing our new guidance was that we really wanted our ECCS grantees to think less of their program as just ECCS and more as a state team now. Since 2007 we have been trying to promote and encourage you to see your program as a part of a state team and not just a separate program.

So with this relationship that I've talked about here in terms of having a strong relationship with the Council, I think that's a good place for us to be, you know, as a collaborator and a partner in the state with resources, or providers, or systems that are supporting the whole concept of early childhood systems development.

The next category I have is "Under Development" and we have nine grantees that consider themselves to be still under development in their state with the Early Learning Council. And that means mostly that some activity has occurred but a formal body has not been designated and ECCS may be involved in the planning activity.

The next category was "Unknown" and we have five unknowns. Excuse me. And what that means is that the people that reported to me they describe their Early Learning Council's perspective but they didn't say if they were involved in the planning or if they themselves had been designated to serve on the Council.

For those, I'm sure everybody knows what the legislation says and that as a seat for health or mental health and I'm not sure if health being ACCS has been designated as that person or the mental health person was designated and the respondents didn't say one way or the other. So I'm not sure what's going on with those five states. And the last one was "No Response". And I have 11 grantees who didn't respond to me at all and didn't tell me what was going on.

So this chart is a fluid chart in that it certainly should and can be updated as more things happen in your state and we'll be looking forward to getting that. But in the meantime, I'll just end with this same word that I started with is that remember that you are not a competitor with all of these new initiatives but you are a potential collaborator.

And you really need to make sure that the other folks in your state if they're not a part of your team that you make them a part of your state team and do all that you can. And we are here to help and so are the TA folks. To help you get that kind of recognition or involvement.

We are planning to have a Webinar on December 10, 2009 at 3:00 o'clock pm where we have somebody from the National Governors Association. Her name is (Rachel Demma) and she's going to do a full presentation on the Early Learning Council. So you'll have an opportunity to ask more questions then.

Again, if you have some comments or some questions, or want to talk to someone and have help in how to make your Early Learning Councils more a part of what you're doing; please call either your practice officer or your TA coordinator.

Frances Marshman: Thanks a lot (Dina). We have time for questions now. So again, if people do have questions, in order to get in a question and answer line, press on your phone star 1. And...

Joseph Zogby: Frances while they're doing that, I found on the legislation the two types of grants under the Challenge Grants. One is the Quality -- it's on the first page, under 402 Programs Authorized -- A, Quality Pathway Grants which are the main grants. And then B is the Development Grants being made available to carry out the program in accordance with the standard requirements that are given here on a competitive basis to states that demonstrate a commitment to establishing a system of early learning that will include the components described under 403(c)(3), which is the next page: one, eligible to be awarded a grant, or two, are not awarded such a grant after they've already applied.

So I think that that maybe a lesser amount of money but it's a second type of grant. And I guess it hasn't been fleshed out farther.

Frances Marshman: Oh that's great Joe. But again, to (Martha) in Little Rock's question, these are the details are still being fleshed out and these are not grant applications that can be written as of yet?

Joseph Zogby: Not at this time, no.

Frances Marshman: Operator, (Phillip) are there any questions in the queue?

Operator: You have a question from the line of (J. Anderson).

(Jamie Anderson): Hi this is (Jamie) from New Jersey. My question is when you get news of these grants coming through, are you at the federal level brought in sort of after the fact or at the beginning? Because what I'm finding is and maybe in other states it might

be a bit different is for instance, on this grant for the ELC, it wasn't clearly delineated that "x" should have any involvement. It says health or mental health.

And I think what happens is that by the time it gets to the states, depending on the state infrastructure, that might or might not be helpful. For instance, in New Jersey in this example, I have mental health in three different departments. And health is not the key player in mental health. So here when the ELC structure was put in place, health is not even really even brought to the table because it's not even seen as the clearly direct foundation for it because it's structured as health or mental health.

And I just didn't know if - these initiatives are so wonderful but then when they're further down to us, I'm being asked to be at the table for the groundwork because they need health data. They need this, they need that. But as they move forward, "x" is not clearly delineated in the package. It was clearly delineated as a recommendation through the NGA but not as a clear recommendation through the ELC Grant itself.

Frances Marshman: (Jamie), why don't we let someone pick up...

(Jamie Anderson): Okay.

Frances Marshman: ...and try to answer that question okay?

(Dina Green): Okay, I will answer it. I was thinking that we might get something from Phyllis. But let me just say that yes, we have been involved in a cursory sort of fashion I'll say in that since we started a federal partners workgroup, we've been working, we had been working closely with our partners as they developed their guidances and we developed our guidances.

And one of the things that came out of the federal partners' workgroup was that the person from Head Start for example, did recommend that ECCS be included. However when the legislation came down; it came down -- this is the way I remember it; Joe you can correct me if I'm wrong -- it came down as health or mental health.

And I think there shouldn't be a division. They should probably be health and mental health. But again I think that's one of the reasons why I said earlier that you have to be visible. You have to -- you, meaning the ECCS coordinators -- you have to let people know that don't know the kind of work that you're capable of and the kind of work that ECCS has done in your state.

I think that will determine who in the final analysis will be the person sitting on the Council.

Joseph Zogby: (Dina) I would second that. I was invited to go to a meeting that the National Governors Association had when they brought in the people from the states,, the people that they thought were going to be working on writing the grants. And the presentation that they gave, Dr. (Senecoff) spoke for an hour and a half on brain development.

And he made it very, very clear that the cognitive development, the synapses and that section of the brain that affect the cognitive development overlaps with and is intertwined with the set, the part of the brain that controls the social-emotional; that you cannot develop one without the other. And he also made a big point of the fact that that first year is the most critical.

So those people were presented with the importance of the brain development and the kind of work that we're doing with the state teams. So there's at least that

leverage to build on and make a case of the importance of the state team. And that it plays a vital role in the enabling of that Council.

Frances Marshman: I'm thinking we should go for a - do we have another question in the queue Operator?

Operator: Yes, we have a question on the line from (Kate Roper) from Boston.

Frances Marshman: Thank you. Hi (Kate).

(Kate Roper): Hello. My question is about the Early Learning Challenge Grants and is there any new knowledge about how the funding is being distributed between the Quality Pathways and the Developmental? My understanding is that the majority of the funding would be going to the Quality Pathways and I'm curious if that seems to be holding?

Joseph Zogby: I do believe that's true from my understanding of what I've read of the legislation. But I don't think what's written here really goes into that. But the first level are the Quality Pathway Grants and then the Development Grants are something to offer the opportunity to people that still have a lot to offer but did not win out in the competition for the Quality Pathway Grants.

(Kate Roper): Because my understanding was there are some people who aren't eligible for the Quality Pathways Grants due to not having for instance, their QRIS already implemented or having (unintelligible) guidelines, which are both issues for my state, and wouldn't be eligible for the Quality Pathways might be eligible for the Developmental level.

Joseph Zogby: That...

Frances Marshman: I think we should take another question. I don't think that there is a clear answer to (Kate)'s question at this point, right Joe?

Joseph Zogby: ...Yes.

Frances Marshman: Is there another question in the line (Phillip)?

Operator: There are no questions at this time.

Frances Marshman: Okay so we can certainly come back to some of these funding questions. But in order to keep to the agenda, I'd like to hand over this next chunk of time to you, Joe. And my understanding is you have colleagues from the Grants Management Office sitting with you and you all are going to give grantees a little bit of an update on performance reporting and budget?

Joseph Zogby: Yes.

Frances Marshman: Thank you (Dina), for your presentation by the way.

Joseph Zogby: (Karen) is here, (Karen Sworn).

Frances Marshman: Hi (Karen).

(Karen Sworn): Hi. (David) called you. He was trying to hook into the conference call and he couldn't.

Frances Marshman: I'm sorry, are you talking to me? If someone needs a call-in number, I can give it to you.

(Karen Sworn): I just gave her the page. I'm sorry. My name is (Karen) and I'm the Grants Management Specialist for a lot of you all. I know recently we've had a lot of problems. I want to talk about the FSRs that I've got 14 states that are overdue with them.

And right now everybody should be aware and know that paper submission of the FSRs are no longer acceptable except for maybe, you know, our territories. Or if you are having - I've talked to a couple of you all recently because you all are having issues with the FSRs, this one here that is late now had to be a two-part FSR.

It has to be the interim which was from 9-1-2007 to 8-31-08. You need to do that one first. You needed to do that one first. Then you needed to take those figures and add in the money that you got for 9-1-08 to 5-31-09. And everybody - what the problem is I see in like I did with Rhode Island the other day, the problem is that they didn't break down their figures right. And that's probably what is an issue.

I found an issue with a couple of people because they did not break down their figures. It has to be cumulative now. Everything has to be cumulative. So the figures are not brought down. If you're still having problems, I just got one from Delaware the other day, I mean this needs to be put into EHB or shoot me an email that you really had problems with this.

And I'll give it to our contractor because I talked to her yesterday. I ran into her in the hallway yesterday and she said if you all are really having - if a state is really, really having issues to send me the paper copy and they will try to straighten it out.

Also too everybody, I want to make them aware that if you go into the PMS, there is a new - it's regarding the new way of you all getting your money and reporting.

The 272 is going to be no longer usable. The new form is called the FFR which is your Federal Finance Report. This is going to -- excuse me, I'm sorry.

There are training dates and I pulled it off the Website. So grant recipient training dates was October 15. The next one is November 19 from 9:00 am to Noon Eastern Standard Time. Then the next one after that is not until February. But there are a list of training dates that please everybody, try to set in time so you all will know and get the training on this.

It's a three-hour long class so make sure you have allotted enough time. And the person that you have any questions for, her names is Janet Fowler. And her email address is Janet dot f-o-w-l-e-r at PSCHHS dot gov. Do I need to repeat that, anybody?

Frances Marshman: That would be great if you could repeat it please.

(Karen Sworn): Okay it's Janet, j-a-n-e-t dot f-o-w-l-e-r at PSC dot HHS dot gov.

Frances Marshman: And (Karen) this is Frances Marshman at JSI. She is the person that knows the training schedule?

(Karen Sworn): Yes, she's going to be the training - that's who you are going to have to register to register for the training classes. That's the person...

Frances Marshman: And the training class again is a three-hour class to introduce people to the Federal Financial Report?

(Karen Sworn): ...Right.

Frances Marshman: And how to complete that new form?

(Karen Sworn): Yes, how to complete that new form. And she - yes, she is the one because they are holding training classes here at a Rockville - on the Pike at a Rockville office. But that's only going to be convenient to DC, or Pennsylvania if they want to come down or Virginia if they want to come up. But everybody else, you know you probably would need to call her, email her to see if you can get a spot in for a class.

Frances Marshman: Are you aware of her establishing any kind of Webinar training or conference call training?

(Karen Sworn): That's what I'm pretty much sure that for everybody else, all the grantees that are not local; it will probably be a Webinar training but they didn't have that on their Website. So that's why I am giving you her email address so that, you know, you might email her and ask her because they will probably set up some Webinar training. That class might even be Webinar too but just that, you know, for us local folks, we can, you know, actually be there.

Frances Marshman: Okay. And again, to be super clear, beginning in January of 2010, grantees will have to complete this new form, this Federal Financial Report in order to receive federal funds?

(Karen Sworn): Right. So from now until January, it's up on a trial basis, getting you acclimated to it. But as of 2010, yes this is going to be a new function.

Frances Marshman: Okay thank you.

(Karen Sworn): And it's because the notice says the Federal Financial Report, FFR or standard Form 425 will consolidate and replace the SF 269 and the PSC 272, cash transactions report with a single report. The Office of Management and Budget is

requiring that federal agencies transition to the FFR beginning with the Fiscal Year 2010 reports and for the quarter ending 12-31-2009.

So it's already probably in the process of, you know, the trial and error basis. But, you know, I'm pretty much sure they need to do some training out there because see that one will get me too. Also too, I have some grantees if you have not submitted your budget for the \$105,000 that you just got; you're late because you know it was 30 days due and that was due the end of July. I still have a couple of states.

Woman: These are the revised budgets, aren't they (Karen)?

(Karen Sworn): Yes, these are the revised budgets that you were supposed to - these were all conditions on everybody's notice of grant award. And also too I ask if you all do any address, or personnel, or email address changes, that you state thus. Please submit - shoot me or (Mary Royale) a email, whichever one of us is your grantee. If not, I'm the lead. You can always shoot them always to me so that we can keep your folders and stuff updated and, you know, you'll get your notice of grant awards on time and whatever else.

And my also suggestion too is with the new way of doing the FSR, if you do a carryover request, you might want to think about shooting us an email because sometimes we miss it or we, you know, somehow we're missing it. That's why we're having this confusion with doing carryover requests with a lot of different programs because all of this is new. The system will not let us know that a carryover request was requested.

When we're going through our checklist to approve your FSRs, some of us sometimes miss it. And if you happen to just shoot us an email and say, okay, you

know, when I submitted my FSR back in August I asked for a carryover request, what happened?

Frances Marshman: So (Karen) just to clarify on that carryover request, you're saying that in addition to making their, grantees making their requests with their project officers, that you would also like to receive an email telling you that they made a request for carrying over funds?

(Karen Sworn): Well the project officer or me. It's the same thing. I'm saying when they do it - because when they're filling out their FSRs, there's a spot -- I'm sorry -- and a question that asks whether they want to ask for a carryover request now or submit it within 30 days. Because they have...

Frances Marshman: Okay, and you just want to make sure that you're in the loop in addition to the project officer?

(Karen Sworn): Right.

Woman: Now let's clarify that. You're saying that they should check on the FSR that they plan to do this?

(Karen Sworn): Yes. They should put on the FSR, when that question comes up, say yes. But also too, I'm just saying that once you said yes, then, you know, just to make sure that it's acknowledged by us and we don't shoot pass it when we're checking the FSR out, to just shoot me a reminder email. Okay, I did request a carryover request so to go back into the FSR and make sure that we catch your, you know, we catch your carryover request.

Woman: Well (Karen) can I ask a question then in terms of that. I see that they should indicate on the FSR that they plan to request a carryover. Then when they send the

request to you instead of just sending an email saying I made a carryover request is would you like the actual carryover request then?

(Karen Sworn): Yes, that would be nice. I can do it then, yes.

Woman: The procedure is to send the carryover request to (Karen) with a cc to your project officer.

(Karen Sworn): Right, that's what the normal procedure is, yes. Because with the way the electronically way that the FSR is done now doesn't tell either one of us that you asked for it.

Woman: Are you finished because I wanted to add something to what you just said too in terms of FSRs that I think you mentioned this before but because we've had so many questions or issues around the performance reports and the FSRs, I just wanted to repeat something that you may have said earlier. And that people who did send in paper copies of the FSRs must also submit an electronic copy into the Electronic Handbook. A lot of people did not do that.

And although the performance reporting window for last years' performance report is closed, the performance reporting has nothing to do with your ability to access the Electronic Handbook to put in your FSR information.

(Karen Sworn): Right, those are two different functions. I understand from (Dina) and Joe that they've closed that at the moment, working out some glitches. But that has nothing to do with the FSR function. And if...

Woman: Frances, are you done with your remarks? Should we open up the line for people to ask questions?

Frances Marshman: Sure.

Woman: No I wanted to add something too about the performance report that we were just talking about; the reporting window is still closed for last year's report. But grantees were recently granted permission or extensions on the reports that were currently due on I think it was September 29.

First people got an extension until October 14. And a few days ago those people were then given another extension until October 30. And we're really encouraging you to please, please do your best to complete the reports by the due date because we've already gotten two extensions. And I think there are only three states that still have not completed that function. That's it.

(Karen Sworn): And like I said, I have 14 states that need to do their FSRs. Everybody else has down theirs. Among the 14, I know a couple of them have done it in the last couple of days so my 14 is probably well down to about 12 or 10 right now.

Frances Marshman: Operator, could you just remind our callers how to get in the queue for a question and answer?

Operator: And once again, if you would like to ask a question, please press star then the number 1 on your telephone keypad.

(Dina Green): I also will add in terms of FSRs, we said this on a conference call we had about six months ago to let everybody know that we need those FSRs to determine what unobligated balances we have. And I think Dr. (Heppel) made a comment that possibly if we got enough unobligated balances, people who were funded at the \$105 level may be able to be funded at the \$140,000 level.

But we can't make those kinds of decisions or determinations until we receive all of the FSRs. So it's really crucial that people complete those reports.

Joseph Zogby: It's a good point (Dina).

Frances Marshman: Operator, are there any questioners on the line?

Operator: Yes, this is a question coming from the line of (Penny Hatcher) from St. Paul.

(Penny Hatcher): Thank you for all that important and valuable information.

Frances Marshman: Hi (Penny).

(Penny Hatcher): Could you guys please resend us the email address for Janet Fowler because the one you gave over the phone does not work. We get kicked back on it. It's inaccurate.

(Karen Sworn): Well then I'll have to research that one because that's what's on the PMS Website. That's where I was reading that from. I will...

(Penny Hatcher): Thank you.

(Dina Green): You can send it to me (Karen) and I'll post it to the list serve.

(Karen Sworn): Okay.

(Penny Hatcher): Thank you.

Operator: And you have a question or comment coming from the line of (Kate Roper) from Boston.

(Kate Roper): Hello. I just wanted to and I think my question just got answered but just to clarify -- so we were informed by Joe back in September that there might be additional carryover approved. But we haven't been given that word yet until you get all the FSRs, is that correct?

Joseph Zogby: Yes.

Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn: That's right correct (Kay), (Kate).

(Kate Roper): And so at that point you will give us another email or something to let us know that we can apply for that?

Joseph Zogby: Yes.

Phyllis Stubbs-Wynn: Yes.

Frances Marshman: Thanks (Kate). Operator are there any other questions?

Operator: Yes, you have a question from the line of (Elaine Aqclava) from Mangala, Guam.

(Elaine Aqclava): Hi good morning.

Woman: Hi (Elaine).

Frances Marshman: Hello from Guam.

(Elaine Aqclava): Hi. I wanted to just be - performance report, you know, that you had mentioned that was for last year. You'll let us know when they'll reopen that on EHB?

(Dina Green): Yes. And it should be - I spoke to (Mary Hogue) yesterday and she told me it may be as long as but no longer than the next couple of weeks. So just watch the list serve and I'll let folks know when the window is open again.

(Elaine Aqclava): Great, thank you.

(Dina Green): You're welcome. What time is it there? She's gone.

Frances Marshman: Oh (Dina), I think you might have lost her. Are you still there (Elaine)?

(Elaine Aqclava): Yes I am.

(Dina Green): What time of day is it, I was asking?

(Elaine Aqclava): Oh it's 6:10 in the morning.

(Dina Green): Good morning.

Joseph Zogby: Tomorrow.

Frances Marshman: You're an intrepid ECCS grantee. Thank you for being on this call (Elaine).  
Are there other questioners in line operator?

Operator: Yes we have a question from the line of (Shirley Pitts) from Anchorage.

(Shirley Pitts): Actually my question just got answered, thank you.

Woman: (Unintelligible).

Woman: Good morning.

Frances Marshman: I guess we have a question for you. We want to know what time it is in Anchorage.

Woman: (Shirley)?

Frances Marshman: I guess we've lost, yes, we may have lost her.

Operator: Ms. (Pitts), would you please hit star 1 again please?

Frances Marshman: It's okay operator, we can go to the next call, thank you.

Operator: Okay, you have (Peter Conway) from Rockville.

(Peter Conway): I'm surprised that no one's asked this question, (Karen) can you make clear that the new FFR is different than the SSR that it's not replacing it?

(Karen Sworn): No, it's not replacing the - what it's going to replace - what my understanding what it's going to replace is your PSC forms. You know, the quarterly report forms that you have to do to them and how you get your money.

(Peter Conway): Okay. I just want to clarify that for everyone.

(Karen Sworn): It's going to replace your cash transaction reports.

(Peter Conway): So it's a form that's utilized working with PMS?

(Karen Sworn): Right.

(Peter Conway): Okay.

Frances Marshman: Thank you for that question. Are there other questions operator?

(Dina Green): Well I'm going back to (Pete)'s question, this is (Dina). (Karen) now, the form that you were talking about; were you talking -- with Pete -- were you talking about the new FSR form or SSR form?

(Karen Sworn): No the FFR form.

(Dina Green): Okay. And what you said with (Pete), now you're saying that grantees will not have to complete that and we'll be doing that or did you say again that grantees will have to complete this new form?

(Karen Sworn): This is the new grantee form. It's going to replace their cash transaction reports so how they get their money and they report what they spend.

(Dina Green): Right. I thought that was what you said earlier, okay.

Operator: And you have a question...

Frances Marshman: Are there other questions in the queue operator?

Operator: You have a question or comment from the line of (Bob Frowley) from New York City.

Frances Marshman: Hi (Bob).

(Bob Frowley): Hi, how are you. (Karen), I wonder if you could provide - could email us the announcement of the transition to the FFR training that you talked about on the Website?

(Karen Sworn): Yes, I'm going to give all this to (Dina) so she can do it to the list serve which is faster. Okay. She'll probably be sending you an email Monday or Tuesday.

(Bob Frowley): Okay. And it's 4:13 in New York State.

(Dina Green): Hi (Bob), okay great.

Frances Marshman: Life is good I hope. Thank you. Any other questions (Phillip)?

Operator: You have a question or comment from the line of (Cheryl Massett-Marks) from Bismarck.

(Cheryl Massett-Marks): Hi I was just wondering if there's a way for our project officers, if we're one of the states that still has anything outstanding, if we could be contacted to let us know? I just feel like I'm kind of confused and I've not been with the ECCS program all that long. I'm kind of confused on your Website. So if we are one of the states that has something outstanding, can we please get an email or a phone call?

Woman: What state are you...

Joseph Zogby: North Dakota.

Woman: Oh, North Dakota, okay.

(Cheryl Massett-Marks): Thank you.

Woman: And I would also suggest that you contact your TA provider. Because one of the things that we did last year was provide an orientation for new ECCS coordinators

but since you came in after that happened that your TA coordinator could update you on what's going on in terms of programmatic stuff that you may not be familiar with.

(Cheryl Massett-Marks): Okay, thank you.

Woman: You're welcome. Do you know who that person is?

Frances Marshman: It's a - we can certainly - hi (Cheryl), this is Frances Marshman at JSI. I understand that your TA coordinator is (Megan Hiltner) in Denver. Are there any other questions operator?

Operator: Yes, you have a question or comment from the line of (Melissa Quartz) from Columbus.

Frances Marshman: I'm sorry, hi (Melissa), where are you from?

(Melissa Quartz): Columbus, Ohio the same time zone, sorry, nothing exotic.

Frances Marshman: No, that's okay, welcome. How are you?

(Melissa Quartz): Good thanks, just a quick question. When we submitted our FSRs back in the summer, we indicated what the unobligated balance was but didn't specifically request carryover funds. Do we need to submit a revised FSR at this point saying we're requesting carryover?

(Karen Sworn): Since Joe and them have asked, you know, any state that submitted their and had carryover requests and you haven't heard anything about it then I would suggest that you, either (Dina) or Joe, whichever one is your project officer, you need to submit to them maybe a copy of the FSR and request of carryover. Because

ultimately I cannot - I don't approve the carryovers. If you sent it to me without sending it to them; I have to send it to them for their approval before granting that request.

So if you haven't heard anything and you had some carryover, unobligated balance, then I suggest that you submit it to them to see what they're going to do, okay.

(Melissa Quartz): Okay, thank you.

(Karen Sworn): Yes.

Frances Marshman: I'm thinking we can take one more question operator. Are there any others in the queue?

Operator: Yes, you have a question or comment from the line of (Andrea Wilkes) from Indianapolis.

(Andrea Wilkes): Hi everyone, this question is for Joe. Joe, you mentioned that you attended a conference where Dr. (Senecoff) spoke and it was to address the possible writers of the Early Learning Grants. And I wondered if there was anyway that we could find out what state representation, specifically who was representing each state? Would we be able to find that out?

Joseph Zogby: Yes. I have a handout that I got at the meeting that had the representation at least, you know, the people that sent their names in that they were coming and it does say what state they're from. I think there were some people that didn't show up that were on the list and it's possible that some that didn't send their names might have come in.

But the general picture is there, yes.

(Andrea Wilkes): So you can go ahead and send that out?

Joseph Zogby: I can, yes.

(Andrea Wilkes): Thank you.

Frances Marshman: Operator, I'm actually the last speaker and I find I don't need that much time.  
So if there are other questions in the queue, how many are there left?

Operator: There are two at this time.

Frances Marshman: Why don't we go ahead and take those, please.

Operator: Okay, you have a question or comment from the line of (Jamie Anderson) from Trenton.

(Jamie Anderson): Hi, this is (Jamie) again.

Frances Marshman: Hi (Jamie).

(Jamie Anderson): Hi. I don't know if other states should set up this way but we're clearly delineated in two fashions; 1) who does program work and the other, who does fiscal work. And I understand it could be the same thing is set up in terms of the electronically. How it's set up to put the information in.

For instance, I was given permission to put all kind of program information in but I can't get to any of the fiscal reports. So I would just follow up on asking how someone previously asked about the fiscal reports. There's a disconnect in terms

of me getting any information back. And if you could just maybe, someone either myself or the state, other states are in the same position. I know that I was told things got sent in.

But then it's very difficult for me to follow up with where is the status. And when you're saying we're missing stuff, I'm wondering, oh, am I one of those states that's missing? And additionally like I had thought they had sent in the FSR but at that point it was paper.

Then we sent in for carryover funds but I haven't heard anything about carryover funds. And then I'm even wondering, wow I wonder if they even got our stuff on the carryover funds. So I'm just finding...

Frances Marshman: Let's see if we can get someone to answer your question, okay?

(Jamie Anderson): Okay.

(Karen Sworn): This is (Karen). Usually a lot of times states have their fiscal people listen in on these conversations when we're having these discussions. A lot of states, usually the project officer has some contact with their fiscal people; some states don't, I'm understanding seeing that now.

And the only thing that I can suggest is maybe trying to get some communication between both offices because like you said, now you're in the dark and you don't know. There might be stuff out there that you late or haven't - you have no knowledge of.

(Jamie Anderson): All right, so in the future though I can ask my fiscal; I can try to get someone from fiscal to sit in on these calls with me and that would be fully appropriate and acceptable for what you guys say?

(Karen Sworn): Yes.

(Jamie Anderson): Okay, all right.

(Karen Sworn): Excuse me, especially if we are going to discuss anything fiscal.

(Jamie Anderson): Okay.

(Karen Sworn): If you know that grants is going to be in on the conversation, then yes, I would suggest you bring your fiscal people, a fiscal person with you.

(Jamie Anderson): Okay.

(Karen Sworn): Because see, they might have questions that I can answer. A lot of times I get conversations and communications from fiscal people. And to me I go, okay but we just discussed all that a couple of days ago. But, yes, it would be nice in the future that you do.

(Jamie Anderson): Excuse me -- but what you're talking about, this too would be potentially something that fiscal might already know about because this is going to be federal-wide moving forward in terms of the grants, right, like all the FFRs have to be electronic, all the things that you're saying is not just for (unintelligible); it's for everybody, correct?

(Karen Sworn): Right. And see and then too, a lot of states have multiple grants.

(Jamie Anderson): Right.

(Karen Sworn): They are doing this so that they don't have to deal with multiple forms.

(Jamie Anderson): All right. So this might actually be old news to them anyway. That they already know what's all electronic?

(Karen Sworn): Yes, this here, this FFR is for a state to put all their federal grants on.

(Jamie Anderson): Okay.

(Karen Sworn): PSC can, you know, keep a combination, keep a fast track of everything, all at once.

(Jamie Anderson): Okay.

(Karen Sworn): Get 50 million different forms.

(Jamie Anderson): Thank you.

(Karen Sworn): Yes.

Frances Marshman: I think, operator you mentioned that there's one more question?

Operator: Yes and it is a follow-up from (Martha Hyatt) in Little Rock.

(Martha Hyatt): Okay and it's 3:22 here; we can all update on the time and it's raining. So we've had a lot of rain. We're kind of tired of it. Okay, good to get right to the chase because kind of like the previous caller, you know, in Arkansas we have an unusual arrangement in that the grant actually goes to the Health Department. They subcontract with us.

We work very closely with the Health Department and we talk with them. I'm in Human Services. But sometimes, you know, despite all good efforts things do happen. So just bottom line, I'd just like to know if Arkansas is one of the 14 states; if you have our FSR or if we are one of those 14 states; that is my first question.

My second question is I'm confused about carryover versus unobligated balance because we had no carryover so we didn't have anything to ask for. But for some reason and we may be confused, we understood that potentially from carryover or unobligated balances which I don't know if that's semantics or what, that that's possibly how other - I mean how states could be restored to the \$140,000 level. Because in effect...

Frances Marshman: (Martha), let's let (Karen) answer your two questions, okay. I'm mindful of the time. So (Martha)'s asking to be called out if she's one of the 14 grantees.

(Karen Sworn): Oh, she's not, so that, no you're not one.

(Martha Hyatt): Okay well thanks, we're good. That's good.

Frances Marshman: And the other (Karen), is probably one of these questions that you...

(Karen Sworn): The other question, the unobligated balance and carryover is the same thing.

(Martha Hyatt): Okay, okay. So we potentially, after you all look at it, that all would be considered and potentially the restoration to \$140,000?

(Dina Green): Potentially. Let me add that and I'd probably say (Pete) would be the best person to answer this question that -- (Pete) or Joe -- that they're the same thing but

they're not. Because just having an unobligated balance does not automatically guarantee that you will get a carryover. That's the first thing that's different.

In this particular case there is a possibility that if there's enough unobligated balance monies in our funds at the end of everybody turning in the FSR, even if you didn't have an unobligated balance, we could possibly, I'm putting quotations around all of these words, fund you up to the \$140,000.

Joseph Zogby: With a supplemental award.

(Dina Green): A supplemental award. That's something yet...

Joseph Zogby: A possibility. We're looking into it to maintain the integrity of the program.

(Dina Green): Exactly.

Frances Marshman: Okay, thank you. I think will end this what we had on the agenda as a housekeeping session. And I'm just going to talk for a little bit about technical assistance for all of you grantees and then we can open up the call one more time for any final questions from all of you.

Again, as I introduced myself at the beginning of the call, my name is Frances Marshman and I work at John Snow Inc. here in Boston. It's an international public health consulting company.

I know I've met you over the list serve or introduced myself numerous times but I did call out my colleagues sitting here with me in Boston, (Orlich Kennedy) who's providing support to the project, Jackie Nolan who's a TA coordinator along with (Miriam Hernandez-Jennings) who's normally in our Boston office with us. I forgot to say hello to her earlier.

(Megan Hiltner)'s in our Denver office and (Julie Powers) is in our Atlanta Office. And this is our first what we hope will be a regular, ongoing series of either conference calls or Webinars to provide all of you with information that you have actually told us you want, and that we've had a good time reporting back to (Dina) and Joe the overlap of themes, and topics, and areas of interest among you grantees nationwide.

So we're in the process of sort of teasing out how the schedule is going to go and what it's going to look like. But first and foremost, we do hope to hold regular, every three to six months calls, with you and your fellow grantees and your maternal and health group project officers. So that we can address the kind of issues and questions, and provide you from your project officers with updates on all that's going on in ECCS world.

The second is that we have heard from many of you that you're interested in having regionally-based calls where you (sic) the opportunity to talk amongst and with each other, whether that's every quarter or twice a year. Sort of both providing yourself, the grantees in a region with support as well as maybe you'll agree on a certain topic, or area, or subject that you'd like to get a speaker to come in. And the key coordinator for your region will organize that person to come and present to you.

We're also, as (Dina) mentioned, hoping to have on a regular basis, larger scale conference calls or Webinars that are devoted to topics of really universal interest and that will allow us to invite other really childhood partners and collaborators across the nation.

And the first one that's on the books ,and please mark your calendars and we will remind you in the next couple of weeks as well, is the call that (Dina) mentioned

that will be held on Thursday, December 10, from 3:00 to 4:30 Eastern Standard Time.

To hear from a representative of the National Governors Association as well as a couple of grantees and maybe another speaker and talk about in greater detail about the Early Childhood Learning Councils. So this is by no means to discourage you from calling or emailing your respective JSI TA coordinator if you have a question or concern. If there's any sort of fallout or confusion, or good ideas that come from listening to this call, please be in touch with us. We are enjoying immensely getting to know you.

We're also enjoying getting to know what ECCS is about and all of its many accomplishments. And I wanted to draw your attention to one of the two attachments that was sent out under separate cover by your TA coordinator. And it's entitled "ECCS News Fall 2009".

It shows up and it was a PDF attachment and it's a newsletter. But please do not understand this to be a regular, ongoing product of our TA project with all of you grantees. Rather, this is just supposed to serve as a sneak preview -- many thanks to our colleague Jackie Nolan who put it together -- of what we are hoping to have on a regular basis on the redesigned ECCS Website.

That is under construction now. We had a talk yesterday with (Dina) about the steps that need to be followed in order to make the new, you know, redesigned ECCS Website go live. But it will - it includes categories such as the four that are in part of this ten-page newsletter: finding opportunities, upcoming events, valuable resources, don't forget, and other items, a connection to the portal for example, and a connection to interesting articles, best practices, archives, meeting materials, etc.

So this is just to give you a sense of the kinds of things to look forward to on the ECCS Website. And you'll notice that many of the information was actually culled from the multiple list serves that all of us receive from (Dina) and Joe. I think that's all I have to say for now except that at the risk of being too much in your life and over communicating with all of you, you will rest up. Look forward to getting one more email from me this week that will include an electronic survey that has all of six questions on it.

I think it will take you five minutes at the most just to type in your answers. And those are a little bit of a quick reaction to this call today as well as a couple of questions related to what you'd like us to cover in future conference calls and Webinars.

So thank you again so much for RSVPing, for making the effort to be on the call, asking such good questions, phoning in from all over the place. And I think what I'd like to say to the operator, (Phillip) could you just open the lines for one more round of questions or comments? It's 4:31 and I think we can go for a couple of more minutes if anyone has any final remarks or questions.

(Dina Green): I have a final remark, Frances. This is (Dina). In regards to the regional call that in case everybody didn't remember that we are encouraging you to invite all of your state team members and partners to participate on those calls.

Frances Marshman: Thanks (Dina).

Joseph Zogby: I have a little update here on the amounts of the awards for the Challenge Grants and specifically the Quality Pathways Grants which are the upper level grants. In (unintelligible) through 2012, it's 65% of the available funds, and 2013, no greater than 85% of the available funds. And then there's some small tabs that would reduce that from the \$1 billion a year and that is just a small amount of about 2%

for evaluation and administration, and 3% for some additional activities. And then 0.25% set aside for tribal school readiness.

And then all the requirements for the Quality Pathway Grants are listed toward the end of the first package that I sent you. And they're too numerous to read over the phone here. But standards are definitely one of the requirements.

Frances Marshman: Thank you Joe. Operator, are there any questions or comments?

Operator: Yes, you have a question or comment from the line of (Peter Conway) from Rockville.

(Peter Conway): Hi. There was a question asked earlier that I sort of wanted to clarify and maybe (Karen) you can help out here also. You had asked is there anyway you could be notified if there was something outstanding with respect to their grants. And I just remind anyone especially new people to the ECCS Grant that they need to register with that grant in the Electronic Handbook where they need to be registered by the AO, is that who it is called, (Karen), the Authorized...

(Karen Sworn): The Authorized Official, yes.

(Peter Conway): Exactly. So they need to be enrolled by that person if they're not already. So they can access the Handbook and their grants and know what's outstanding and what's due.

Secondly, I guess with the advent of the Electronic FSRs (Karen), do you know if those officials also need to register with each grant to be able to receive communications and/or send electronic FSRs? I've never gone to look at a particular grant to know if in fact business office officials are now listed in the Handbook for each grant.

(Karen Sworn): I don't know about the business official. But I know your file - if the business official is the person who handles the financial or the one who signs off on all the financial, the FSRs and stuff, yes, that would be the person, that person does need to be registered into the Electronic Handbook.

(Peter Conway): Well I wonder about that question with respect to your outstanding 10 or 12 states, if they're registered in the Handbook, if it's on the Electronic FSR.

(Karen Sworn): Right so...

(Peter Conway): We'll check them; we're following up on it.

(Karen Sworn): ...But that's something that's too, they need to register so that they can get the emails or the updates if they're late...

(Peter Conway): Right.

(Karen Sworn): ...You know, or if it's something that's coming due. Because I know they sent out emails, notices if your performance is due, when your performance is due. They probably send out emails stating that, you know, that your FSRs are due or they'll send it out and tell you it's late.

(Peter Conway): Okay. We're following up on those remaining ten or so.

(Karen Sworn): Yes, I'm going to well I'm going to let (Dina) know which ones. I'm going to run another report on Monday; tell her which ones are still late. And she has a couple that she knows that are giving her paper copies but they've got to put them in the and she knows which ones of hers that she needs to let know that they need to...

(Peter Conway): Right.

(Karen Sworn): ...submit it into...

(Dina Green): The Electronic Handbook.

(Karen Sworn): ...the Electronic Handbook.

(Peter Conway): Okay good. That was all.

Frances Marshman: Thank you.

(Peter Conway): Thank you.

Operator: And your final question or comment comes from the line of (Andrea Wilkes) from Indianapolis, Indiana.

(Andrea Wilkes): Hi, I have a kind of a future question. Do you guys know what the dates and location would be for the next annual meeting?

Joseph Zogby: Yes, not the exact date. It will be in Washington if we can get the space. If not, Baltimore. It will be, we're pushing for July of 2010. And I might as well tell you upfront that the scope of it is going to be much larger because it's going to be determined very much by this larger process that Phyllis had described that's associated with the Challenge Grants and the State Advisory Councils.

So it could be as many as a thousand people instead of what we had last time. So we're not there yet. The planning group is dealing with some of the changes that are going on now. But definitely we're shooting for July.

Frances Marshman: And certainly as soon as we have that data (Andrea), we'll make that widely known.

(Andrea Wilkes): Thanks guy.

Frances Marshman: Thank you all so much, (Dina), Phyllis, Joe, are there any other comments you want to make before we close?

(Dina Green): No.

Joseph Zogby: No.

Frances Marshman: Thank you (Karen) and (Pete) for your contributions as well. And thank you grantees for being on the call today. Everybody keep in touch with each other. Take care.

Woman: Thank you.

Operator: And this concludes today's call.

Frances Marshman: Bye-bye.

Joseph Zogby: Bye now.

Operator: This concludes today's teleconference. You may now disconnect.

END