

ECTF Chair Cyndi Mason opened the meeting at 9:57am with the following present: Cyndi Mason, Ginger Knisley, Rachael Patterson-Rahn, Jamie Beskow, Missy Park, Elizabeth Thomas, Morgan Small, Julie Meir, Cheryl Flaatten, Leah Godar, Carolyn Baker, Jessie Johnson, and Sarah Tweedy

Introductions took place for the benefit of a new member and Cheryl shared the provider flyer for the upcoming EC Summit

Minutes from the last regular ECTF meeting were reviewed and there was a **motion** by Jamie with a second by Cheryl to accept the minutes as written. All voted aye.

ECTF Mission, Goals, Roles and Responsibilities were reviewed briefly and it was decided to place these items on the ECTF agendas in future months to be worked on one at a time. Missy noted she is willing to take meeting notes any time Ginger has to fill in as Chair in Cyndi's absence.

ECTF member listing was reviewed and it was noted that no representative of the WAGE\$ program (Dara) was listed. Cyndi will research and make corrections.

The general makeup of the yearly meeting calendar was reviewed and it was agreed to continue as we currently are scheduled. It was noted that Provider Appreciation is actually in May, not April.

Under Administrative Update, Ginger had nothing new to add.

Member Updates for new or emerging projects or issues:

- Julie reported the NAPSAC and ECERS 3 trainings in Burlington are being well attended
- Morgan reported that VBCH, Sieda and VB Schools are in talks to collaborate to provide Head Start at three sites next year and that under the new standards all Head Start programs will be full day by 2021. She explained that of seven counties served, Sieda only has 4 stand alone sites, the rest are partner sites. Rachael noted that an increase in the number of Head Start sites would cause an increase to the dental program as well.
- Elizabeth shared that the Harmony site is now a QRS3 and VB is in the process of the same designation.
- Missy has an accreditation visit coming up for HOPES. She notes that a lot of the HOPES families are working which is good but can make it more difficult to schedule home visits.
- Jamie reports having two new care coordinators for First 5 and that it is looking very promising for the Homestead program for autism to be offering services to southeast Iowa out of Burlington by this fall. Hope Haven is looking at transportation options to support Homestead's efforts.
- Rachael reported the CHC dental clinic is open in Keokuk with one dentist and should grow to three dentists once they are in their permanent site which they plan to build. LCHD is in the process of switching to a new data system that should offer more interactive abilities. LCHD is still struggling to secure a dental assistant for their sealant program.
- Sarah has QRS certification for both of her Donnellson sites. She reports Central Lee is still moving forward with plans to have 80 SVPP slots this fall and is encouraging families to seek wrap around care through Sarah but she has a limited number of slots available for that. She also says there is still a need to serve those who are age eligible but not yet ready for Kindergarten.
- Cyndi reports all immunization audits are completed and she is now working on injury prevention checklists with providers with follow up using the Caring for our Children Standards. She has visited a few newly registered providers as well. The February provider forum was well attended and the 21 providers there had an enjoyable evening of networking and training.
- Jessie reported VBPAT had their credentialing visit and had just two minor items to work on. VBPAT has had a lot of new referrals and the new educator is working well with some families now agreeing to two visits per month.
- Cheryl said the forum evaluations were good overall but some commented the need to have training on being respectful of the presenter. New CACFP regulations are coming up and training for that has not yet happened but Cheryl is offering assistance to programs on the topic. Currently she has Partnering with Providers participants writing goals.

Provider Appreciation Planning:

Cyndi shared that the May 10th Provider Forum will include Provider Appreciation and a meal will be catered by Hy-Vee, attendees will play Family Feud, and Cheryl will provide a short training. It was discussed that a good topic would be outdoor activities and safety reminders and helpful tips related to outdoor play.

Guiding Board Priorities through Magic Wand/Perfect World Scenario discussion took place including emerging trends and possible barriers for young families:

- Sarah stressed the importance of child care being viewed as a career instead of just babysitting. Low wages and lack of opportunity for advancement hinder the recruitment of new providers and center staff. CC providers need to have a process by which to be licensed as teachers and be compensated accordingly. With new regulations, new employees at CC centers require 30-50 hours of training just to get started and then make minimum wage. Currently the field of CC is viewed as a pass through to “real teaching jobs”.
- Julie shared that there is a critically low number of infant care slots in the area.
- Missy reports young families are utilizing friends and family network care quite a bit due to the shortage of child care slots and infant slots in particular. Pros and cons of this were discussed such as an abundance of nurturing and stability but concern for lack of structured activities and possibility of too much screen time along with the concern of damaging the natural grandparent/ child relationship.
- Transportation for half day programs is still a concern. Families have been known to select a preschool program based on their transportation needs rather than the merits of the program. One idea mentioned was to encourage employers to support a shared carpool situation.
- There was some discussion of the minimum wage debate and the fact that a small increase in pay could make families ineligible for CCA and also could increase the cost of services.
- Sarah expressed there is a need for free, family friendly activities across the area. Much discussion took place on whether there is a need for more activities or a need to better advertise the activities already taking place and/or survey parents to determine why they are not attending the events already taking place. Families are very busy and perhaps not interested in leaving home once they are home from work for the evening. There is also some concern that free activities are viewed as low-income events and that could discourage some from participating. It was mentioned that the spring seems to be a busy time and perhaps activities need to be spread throughout the year. Another idea was to have activities for adults to participate in while providing child care for them.
- There is some concern for the impact should Planned Parenthood no longer be funded such as increased STDs, teen pregnancy, etc. Some young people will not seek services through the family doctor due to their parents being notified.
- Jessie shared that VBPAT would like to see increased funds for outside trainings, funding for a lactation/resource/well baby nurse, funds for transportation needs of families and staff, and funds for supplies to be used to make toys and show families how to make toys. From this it was thought that a good training topic for providers and parent educators alike would be home made toy training.
- There is still a need for reliable care for sick children and protective child care for crisis situations
- Huge lack of foster care in the area
- All children should be in good homes
- Concern for the reunification process when drugs are involved. Parents seem to be getting their children returned to them too easily after testing positive for the presence of illegal drugs.

Jamie provided an introductory presentation on Conflict Resolution and explained the curriculum available which includes 12 modules and can be taught as a series or as individual sessions in as little as 50 minutes. To complete the series, workbooks should be purchased at the rate of approximately \$20 each. Discussion took place on the various audiences who could benefit from this including CC providers, parent educators, school personnel, etc. Jamie shared that many agencies in our area have staffed trained in giving this training including LCHD, Young House, LSI, and ISU Extension.

This meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15pm.