

ECTF Minutes

4-26-17

Ft Madison

This meeting of the ECTF was called to order at 9:36am by committee chair, Cyndi Mason with the following present:

Cyndi Mason, Ginger Knisley, Carolyn Baker, Janet Phelps, Cheryl Flaatten, Kathy Osipowicz, Jamie Beskow, and Rachael Patterson-Rahn

The agenda was approved with no changes

The minutes from the 3-15-17 ECTF retreat were reviewed and Cyndi noted there needed to be a correction to the effect of 30 providers attending the February forum rather than the 21 stated. All approved with changes noted.

Administrative Update – Ginger gave an oral update including funding status and Summit announcements. Ginger stated the board would do their best to make funding decisions for FY18 at their 5-18-17 retreat.

Child Abuse Prevention Month – Ginger and Cyndi updated the group on the activities that took place this month such as coloring sheets being distributed and signs being posted around the county. Cyndi also did a series of PSA's at the Keokuk radio station.

Provider Appreciation – The event will be the evening of May 10th at the Donnellson Community Center. All ECTF members are welcome and Cyndi asks for RSVP in order to have sufficient food on hand. She has 6 providers signed up so far. Cyndi has mailed and emailed the information to all providers in Lee and Van Buren Counties and Cheryl will put flyers in the provider folders at the Summit as a reminder. The plan is to have HyVee lasagna for the meal, a cake, Family Feud, prizes, and a presentation by Cheryl on outdoor play environments.

Summit reports – (covered under administrative update)

Marketing/PA – Cyndi shared the PSA's she did with the Keokuk radio station and the half sheet of information on quality care that she will be editing for distribution. She has to remove the CCR&R contact information as they have their own marketing materials.

Child Care and Preschool – Cyndi reports that current QRS rated sites are working on renewing. She also reports a preschool in Keokuk plans to close at the end of this school year and a child care center in Keokuk is planning a major expansion at a second location. She has had some others inquiring about licensing for existing buildings as well. Keokuk Catholic is considering opening a three year old classroom this fall. Cyndi also reports she is working on site more with providers now.

Mental Health – Jamie has been made aware of a grant opportunity for providers through the AAP but is waiting for permission from her superiors at the state to allow her to share it.

Family Support – Janet shared that the VB PAT has been re-credentialed for another five years. There was discussion on the family support competencies and the lack of information or communication on the process. There is concern that FS staff is given only two opportunities to pass the competencies before being considered ineligible for ECI funding. Ginger also shared that one of the intents behind the program is to recognize that experience and natural abilities are sometimes more valuable than a degree when working with families.

Oral Health – Rachael shared that in the grant proposal for I-Smile she had to address partnering with outside entities and growing partnerships. She plans to propose reaching out to Family Support programs for these enhanced partnerships.

Other programs – Kathy O reported on attending the CPS tech update in Altoona for car seat safety. She shared that there are a number of new technology resources available to assist techs and families regarding installing car seats.

There was discussion of the reduced number of child care slots available. Currently there are only 21 registered sites and 5 non-registered sites in Lee and Van Buren Counties combined. The new regulations seem to be having a negative impact on the number of providers. Cheryl also reports that there appears to be a disproportionately low number of QRS rated sites with CCA children.

Cheryl shared that she took a training on assessing the social/emotional aspects of EC environments and is excited to perhaps provide the service to area providers. Ginger suggested that perhaps CPPC could fund such a program.

There was a discussion on the ongoing issues with the CCR&R agency such as difficulty of registering for classes, using a midnight deadline, turning providers away when payment is not received by the deadline, etc. Ginger stated that she and Tasha would continue to work at the communication and relationship building process. She also shared that Director Palmer is looking to ECI Directors to push agencies to do the work they are contracted to do rather than sanctions coming down from the state level.

The next ECTF meeting is in Keosauqua on the Van Buren meeting day of May 16th at a location to be determined.

gk