

ECTF Minutes

9-27-17

Keokuk

This meeting of the ECTF was called to order at 9:35am by chair, Cyndi Mason with the following present: Cyndi Mason, Ginger Knisley, Carolyn Baker, Missy Park, La Phanthouvong, Kathy Osipowicz, and Sarah Tweedy

The agenda was approved with no changes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted as written

Administrative Update – Ginger shared that there is no immediate news of cuts to the current year budget, however there is some unrest in Des Moines regarding the closing of the books for the state and there could still be some adjustments to the current year budget. She also shared that there is no funding currently being provided for Head Start transportation in Lee County but all other programs are operating as usual. Missy shared she has a higher than usual number of families enrolled in Head Start this year. Sarah shared that the WAGE\$ program has been a real boost to her employees.

Marketing/PA – Missy still plans to do PSAs at the radio station but was not on the schedule for it in this past quarter.

Review ECTF Mission Statement – Cyndi handed out the current and proposed mission statements and Ginger explained her desire to have it in common language, short and concise, and include reference to the ECTF being the advisory body of the Children First board. There was a **motion** by Sarah and a second by Carolyn to adopt the new mission statement of “The ECTF advises the Children First board in order to improve outcomes for young children and their families in Lee and Van Buren Counties”. All voted aye. The ECTF members will begin review of the ECTF goals at the next meeting.

Provider Forum discussion – Cyndi shared that she will facilitate three forums again this year with the first one being next week on October 4th with Rachael providing education and resources on oral health. While last year’s forums were well attended there has not been a great deal of response to the first one this year. Some suggestions include reaching out to individual staff members rather than just directors, having a drawing for a big prize at the end of the year with chances earned by attendance throughout the year, and Ginger hosting informal chat type forums the same day each month to start getting it on everyone’s regular schedule and build a sense of community.

Oral Health – Education and resources on oral health will be given at the Provider Forum October 4th.

Child Care and Preschool – Sarah stated she is considering opening a third building as there is such great need for child care. She has at least 20 children on a waiting list and regularly rearranges staffing to accommodate new families. Missy confirmed she has families in her program working on a goal of employment and their biggest barrier is lack of child care. There was a much discussion of the needs of

young families and their additional needs of soft skills such as scheduling and keeping appointments and honoring time commitments etc. On the preschool side of things Central Lee is full in the morning but not in the afternoon. Cheryl emailed that she still only has 5 children on scholarship. Sarah is giving the scholarship information to families of three year olds in their October newsletter.

Family Support – La reported on her new program and shared a brochure on it. Missy stated she has opening in the HOPES program.

Mental Health – n/a

Other programs – It was discussed that child care providers and family support workers could benefit from resource cards or directories such as how and where to make referrals for various typical family needs. The expanded mandatory reporting training done by Mississippi Valley was discussed and it was agreed that it needs to be brought in either as part of a forum or as a stand -alone training. It needs to be introduced and promoted using statistics specific to our county so providers can get a sense of what families are facing now - perhaps even tie it to ACEs or Connections Matter materials.

The next meeting of the ECTF will be held on October 25th at 9:30am at the Fort Colony Diner.

gk