

ECTF Minutes

1-24-18

Keokuk

This meeting of the ECTF was called to order at 9:40am by vice chair, Ginger Knisley with the following present: Ginger Knisley, Cheryl Flaatten, Julie Meir, Morgan Small, Kathy Osipowicz, Peggy Rader (Lee County Head Start), Sarah Tweedy, Missy Park, Jamie Beskow, Rachael Patterson-Rahn, and Melissa Daugherty.

The agenda was approved as written

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

Administrative Update – Ginger shared a written Administrative update including budget, Summit and Community Planning updates. Ginger asked for members to think about the topic of administrative and indirect costs and provide any input to her in the next week or two. The board will be working on developing a policy regarding these expenses prior to the release of the FY19 RFP. There was discussion on ways to re-energize and rebuild the regional parent council. Sarah offered that she would like to send one of her staff who also has young children of her own. It was agreed it may be most helpful to set a date for the next meeting and then Missy is willing to develop a colorful flyer to be distributed to ECTF members and area child care and preschool providers to explain and promote the Parent Council. Ginger also shared that she would be reaching out soon to schedule on site monitoring visits for all funded programs.

2018 ECTF calendar – Ginger asked for input on the PA/Marketing item on the calendar monthly. It was agreed that this item will be deleted from the calendar as a sufficient amount of practices are in place for this purpose and members will informally report as marketing and PA occurs throughout the year.

Review Goal – “Promote collaboration between early learning environments and school systems to enhance and encourage successful transitions” There was a great deal of discussion on this. It was agreed that it is a goal of the ECTF and there is a need to brainstorm how to re-engage the school districts and bring them to the table with private preschools in order for a sharing of expectations and needs in both directions so children can have successful transitions. Especially since the creation of the SVPP it appears as though districts are more “stand alone” and consider themselves as providing early childhood education internally, therefore reducing the motivation for collaboration. It was also noted that preschool teachers are contracted to teach and are not going to get paid for participating in an extra meeting. Peggy and Morgan report that Head Start has good engagement in both counties with the schools. Ginger suggested that Head Start may be the link and will explore this further.

Forum Schedule – Discussion took place on how to promote the March 7th forum on enhanced mandatory reporting in Donnellson. Some ideas were to promote it through the local chambers and interagency groups. Ginger will contact RVAP about being in attendance as well.

Mental Health – Jamie shared information about a new Mental Health Collaboration getting started for Van Buren, Jefferson and Wapello counties being facilitated by PCAI. Ginger and Jamie are both participating and will keep the group up to date on it. Jamie reported that there was not the sudden elimination of Integrated Health Home case management as anticipated but a transition is pending. Legislators were unaware of the plan to shift to MCOs for this service and are weighing in on the topic. Jamie also shared a listing of 1st Five lunch and learn webinars being offered at no charge. CHIP has been reauthorized for six years at the federal level so this is good news for Hawk-I.

Oral Health – Rachael reported that the CHC dental clinic in Keokuk is expected to open in April and there is a new dentist in Keosauqua who is public health minded. The dental situation in Ft Madison is still not favorable.

Family Support – Missy reports that the HOPES program is full for the first time in a while. All family support programs report a low rate of visits in the second quarter due to illness and holidays. There is also an issue of having some families who have years of participation being on a lower visit frequency which hurts the average. It was noted that healthy transitioning of families from family support is an important consideration and it would not be best practice to serve a family with twice monthly visits and then suddenly stop without transitioning through a time period of lower frequency of visits.

Child Care and Preschool – Julie reported that Chad is scheduled to do a pre-inspection soon with a new home provider in Keokuk and there are several openings at the second Rosie Posie site in Keokuk. Ft Madison has no new providers but one home provider is looking into opening a center. Donnellson area is in need of more providers as Sarah has a waitlist and is worried about where to put all the kids in the summer. She has considered opening a third building but worries about losing the personal touch and quality she has now. Cheryl is hosting the regional provider conference in Burlington this Saturday and they plan to offer sessions on Ethics and Protective Factors and then do classroom observations in the afternoon focused on engaging children. She has 120 signed up with 30 of those being from Lee/Van Buren. Sarah also shared that higher education and quality improvement is a part of the culture at her sites and she has 5 staff participating in the WAGE\$ program.

Other programs –Morgan reports that Head Start is gearing up for their two part federal review coming soon.

The next meeting of the ECTF will be held on February 15th at 9:30am in combination with the Children First board. Board members would like to spend some time in small groups and would like to hear both successes and challenges/obstacles for programs as well as the families they serve.

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