

This meeting of the ECTF was called to order at 10:30am by chair, Cyndi Mason with the following present: Ginger Knisley, Chad Reckling, Cheryl Flaatten, Julie Meir, Kathy Osipowicz, Missy Park, and Melissa Daugherty. Sarah Tweedy and Tasha Beghtol entered at approximately 11:30am.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed but it was noted that the minutes that were emailed were from December rather than January. Ginger will email the January minutes out and they will be accepted at the next meeting.

It was agreed that work is completed on guiding documents of the ECTF and Cyndi will enter review of those documents throughout the year as was done this past year.

Review of member listing took place. It was noted that Janet Phelps could be deleted, Cyndi will email Arin Jones to ascertain her interest in remaining on the member list, and Ginger shared that WAGE\$ staff would like to remain even though they will not be applying for funds in the next FY. In regards to recruiting new members, it was agreed that new members are welcome but advertising or active recruiting is not necessary.

The structure of the calendar was reviewed and it was agreed that Dr Getwell's needs to be added as the Keokuk location, and Cyndi will add discussion of the calendar to the October or November meeting agenda.

Administrative Update – Ginger shared a written Administrative update including budget, Summit and Community Planning updates. A great deal of discussion took place regarding the Regional Parent Council efforts and how to recruit members or get the desired input in other ways. Some ideas included: rotating around the counties to existing parent group meetings that are already happening and have a few minutes on their agenda to gain input from families; conduct a survey of some kind through family support programs– even a quick postcard size (Missy will work on a template example); consider the days of the week, time of day and location of meeting – perhaps a major city would be better so they can shop etc on the same day; recruit for members at the EC Summit, Day of the Child, and family day at the county fairs. Ginger also asked ECTF members to consider who should be at the table for the next IWF state tour regarding child care. Missy and Cheryl both volunteered and Cheryl said she would visit with her neighbor who is at the Economic Development Group about it. Chad also expressed concern for the survival of a house bill that was introduced to regulate firearms at child care centers and in vehicles transporting child care children. It is not know if it made it through the funnel or may have been attached to a separate bill.

After a break for lunch, Ginger turned the meeting over to Tasha for some community planning work

Tasha introduced herself to those not familiar with her and gave a brief overview and history of the regional community planning work that she and Ginger have been working on over time. She explained that this is a more regional plan and it will be more community focused rather than ECI specific.

In this process some guiding principles have presented:

- 1) Nutrition, physical activity and obesity are common to the health department CHNA/HIPs in the area but there does not appear to be community wide data available at the county level for childhood obesity so this is on our radar but not actively pursued at the moment
- 2) Continuity of Resources – Collaboration, Connecting the dots, are people successfully accessing resources...
- 3) Cultural Competence – we are seeing changing demographics and have some unique pockets emerging within our region (DSM and Lee Counties)

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- 4) Sense of Community – there is a desire/need to reduce isolation, ensure connections, etc.

What main themes or issues have bubbled up?

- 1) Child Care – we have lost in the number of providers but we have gained in the number of child care slots available (on record), we have increased regulations which is good and bad, there is a need to define quality child care – what constitutes quality? – What seems to be a common answer category to this question across all groups is Child Care STAFF. Either the staff education, level of engagement, retention rates of staff, training etc. We want to promote the professional status of child care and we want to promote EC as economic development. The small group answer to this is: *Increase the global belief that child care providers are professionals through regular P/T conferences, teaching parents about milestones and ages and stages, TEACH for staff and NAEYC Power of the Profession concepts such as child care providers having business cards they can give out.*
- 2) Mental Health - ????? This is confusing, fragmented, accessibility issues etc – we all know it is an issue but where do we start? The small group answer to this is: *Increase access to mental health services regardless of the client's age. Every major city in our area will have Mental Health/Crisis center available (need to define major city, need to define available). Partner with community health, SEIL groups, maybe create a loan forgiveness program as they did in the dental field to grant student loan forgiveness for mental health professionals who serve X number of years in underserved areas.*
- 3) Housing – people need safe, affordable, stable housing –(safe as in condition, but perhaps neighborhood as well) – there are cultural issues, tenants not taking care of properties and then landlords not caring to continue fixing them, lack of regulations on landlords, old housing stock, ADA accessibility, affordability when looking at add ons like utilities, snow removal, trash etc. The small group answer to this is: *Institute landlord requirements – inspections, safety plans, incentivize landlords to improve housing condition, incentivize tenants to keep up the condition and appearance of properties. Perhaps partner with economic development and schools to acquire houses and have building trades students provide the labor to rehabilitate them.*
- 4) Transportation – filters into all the other issues in some way. Child Care to preschool midday, doctor appointments both local and out of town, to employment...

What is not being talked about???

Child abuse and neglect – many children should be in protective child care so someone has eyes on them every day and the ability to report to someone in a timely fashion if they do not

DRUGS – children regularly reunited with offending parents/caregivers with a lack of safety planning for them

Parent Education – perhaps this is a guiding principle, woven into all areas

The next meeting of the ECTF will be held on Wednesday, April 25th, 2018 at 9:30am at Fort Colony Diner in Ft Madison. Ginger and Cheryl will both be absent for this meeting.