

Early Childhood Task Force retreat notes

3-13-19, Donnellson

In attendance: Ginger Knisley – Children First, Chad Reckling – DHS/Children First Board, Liz Fairchild – Sieda/Head Start, Morgan Small – Sieda/Head Start, Missy Park – LCHD/HOPES, Jodi Norton – CCR&R, Cyndi Mason – LCHD/CCNC, Patty Ahland – VBPAT, Cheryl Flaatten – Community Action of Southeast Iowa/PWP, Carolyn Baker – Children First Board, Rachael Patterson-Rahn – LCHD/I-Smile, Arin Jones – ISU Extension/CPPC

10:13 am Welcome, Introductions and housekeeping

Minutes of the January meeting accepted as written

Discussion of **Roles/Responsibilities** took place and it was decided to leave them as is

ECTF membership was reviewed – Cyndi will email La as she has not attended this fiscal year, she will remove Christine as she was attending as a substitute for Jamie, WAGES staff will remain on at their request, and the address for all LCHD employees will be updated.

Meeting calendar was reviewed and Ginger will remove the watermark “Draft”. Ginger reminded that the items listed on each month are just reminders of typical annual tasks and not set in stone.

Member updates of new/emerging trends:

Rachael shared there is proposed legislation that would take schools out of the equation for dental, vision and lead screenings. She also shared dentists are starting to use silver diamine and it has good uses especially in the back teeth of young children and end of life patients. The Burlington CHC dental clinic has implemented a new priority system of accepting patients that will make it quite difficult to get on as a new patient with them.

Cyndi shared there is a new study that concludes the MMR vaccination does not cause autism. She said there is a senator, perhaps from California, that has called for the removal of anti – vaccine propaganda from major social media sites.

General trends seen in child care include inconsistencies in Safe Sleep practices, use of amber teething necklaces, and weighted blanket use. All of these are health and safety concerns and are being addressed as they arise.

Cheryl provided an update on the EC Summit (flyer in packets). She also shared that the new centers in Ft Madison and Keokuk are both having her sponsor them in the CACFP program. She shared she has been asked to sit on the advisory committee for the state level Preschool Development Grant (PDG). Liz shared that Head Start is doing data sharing with ISU as a part of the PDG.

It was noted that Keokuk Community Child Care has hired a director but is not ready to open yet. When the center opens, they will start with 35 slots and it is unclear if they will serve infants or not.

Morgan shared that the name of the new school district will be Van Buren Community School District and the elementary schools will be named Douds Center and Harmony Center.

Jodi shared she has requested basic rules and regulations trainings for local providers.

Provider Appreciation planning: The date has been set for May 15th, there will be pizza and cake, games and resources as well as a one hour training from Cheryl on curb appeal and professionalism for child care providers.

Lunch break....15 minutes

Regional Community Plan review: Ginger provided the pages from the regional EC Community Plan with the four goals of the plan. Along with this, the work of the EC Advisory was on the Blue Wall for visual prompts on the work.

Goal 1: Promote professional quality child care business.

- Cheryl sees difficulty in getting providers excited about participating in efforts outside their site
- Jodi sees need for assistance with items such as fire extinguishers for startup providers (Ginger shared that Children First generally has a fund for addressing needs like this as advised by area consultants.
- Idea of using senior volunteers as substitutes supervised by existing staff
- Chamber memberships may or may not be helpful – costly and broken up by individual communities, would be good for an agency to be able to share information thorough their membership. NAEYC/IAEYC memberships may be more helpful
- Discussion of a mentor program for intensive support of child care providers wanting to start a business, in danger of failing at a business, centers with a new director, etc.
- Discussion of substitute system took place. Homes seem to have a loose network. Centers are just starting to network on this. Much needs to be learned about what is and is not required, liability issues, the portability of background checks etc.

Goal 3: Enhance safe and healthy environments for young children

- There is a need for community playgrounds – updated, clean, inviting for families
- There seems to be a need for lead poisoning prevention work and nurse case management around this
- One stop shops would be a dream come true
- Block parties could be supported by CPPC

Privilege Walk

Ginger conducted a 34 statement privilege walk with those in attendance and asked for feedback in preparation for doing this exercise with child care providers at the EC Summit. Some things to note:

There may be a need for resources for the “staff” of the summit to have available should anyone need assistance as a result of the exercise.

It was discussed that we could create take home self-care packets for participants including notebooks from Arin, perhaps local mental health resources, etc.

Additionally it was thought a training for providers in the future, perhaps at one of our local forums, about their ACE score and self-care moving forward would be beneficial.

gk