

Early Childhood Task Force

Meeting minutes

Keosauqua, 5/21/19

This meeting of the ECTF was held at the community services building in Keosauqua at noon with the following present:

Cyndi Mason-Chair, CCNC, Ginger Knisley – Children First, Kathy Osipowicz – CPS technician, Missy Park – LCHD HOPES, Cheryl Flaatten – Community Action of SE IA, Melissa Daugherty – VBCH VBPAT, Dawn Cazin - Community Action of SE IA Head Start, Sarah Tweedy – Raisen Em Up owner

Introductions took place around the table

The **agenda** for today's meeting was accepted as written

The **minutes** from the previous meeting were accepted as written

Ginger provided a written **administrative update** including updates on funding, parent council efforts, and board membership vacancies. There was a discussion of proposed benchmarks for family support programs in the state and there is concern around restricting to 0-3 years of age, new parents, and prenatal. In this area it is found that families are in need of support during the transition time to public school and even the first few years of public schooling. It is felt that more, not less, collaboration at all levels is needed.

Input for the upcoming board retreat, such as emerging needs or trends, was requested by Ginger. Sarah shared that the CCNC service is of great value to providers and she also feels the dental program is very beneficial. Cheryl shared she has had approximately 3 calls for preschool scholarships. There was a discussion around the CPR courses being provided in the community, aside from the classes the CCNC is teaching. It is being reported that community based programs are costing \$50 to \$80 per person and the time spent and quality of education is poor. Cyndi shared that in order for the LCHD to continue courses through the CCNC new equipment needs to be purchased due to new regulations. Cheryl also shared it is unknown at this time what the offerings will be for the new mandatory reporter training. It will be standardized across all sectors and offered online but she does not know what the system will be for any in person trainings.

Oral Health – Melissa shared the new dentist in Keosauqua is very community minded and has been working with VBPAT. New child care centers in Lee County have been contacted about participating in the dental daycare program.

Mental Health – PCAI has provided marketing materials for children's mental health efforts through the Children's Mental Health and Well-being Collaborative of which Lee and Van Buren are both members

Family Support – It was shared that Boys Town is providing train the trainer events for parenting curriculum for different age groups. Cheryl shared that it appears PAT programs now have to go through

PAT credentialing in addition to the state family support credential, more investigation is needed on this topic. Family Support programs are still struggling to get parents participating at a rate of 2 visits per month per family. Melissa shared that IPTV brought a trailer of supplies to the group parent meeting and set up learning stations for the families. This was a free service for parent education.

Preschool/Child Care – Cyndi gave an oral report on the provider appreciation event that had 41 providers in attendance who received nutrition education and resources to take home in addition to a meal and games. Sarah shared she has a lot of families signed up for preschool this fall and many families go to Central Lee in the morning and then to Sarah's in the afternoon. Keokuk Community now has an infant room and a one year old room open. Discussion and brainstorming took place around a HOPES family needing care for 4 children under the age of 5.

Other business – Cheryl shared the EC Summit evaluations were very good and the only complaint was that the audio was not good in the afternoon in the gym and some did not get the point of the poverty simulation. Cheryl also shared that the goal setting and mini grant program she administered this year did not see as much participation. She thinks partly this was due to requiring them to attend a workshop and partly because she required they tie their goals to the literacy and language section of the IELS.

The next meeting of the ECTF will be Wednesday, June 26th at 9:30 am at the Palm's in Fort Madison.

gk