

Early Childhood Task Force

Meeting minutes

Ft Madison 6/26/19

This meeting of the ECTF was held at the Palm's in Ft Madison at 9:39 am with the following present:

Ginger Knisley – Children First, Missy Park – LCHD HOPES, Cheryl Flaatten – Community Action of SE IA, Melissa Daugherty – VBCH VBPAT, Carolyn Baker – community member, Jamie Beskow – LCHD 1<sup>st</sup> Five, Cyndi Mason – LCHD CCNC, Rachael Patterson-Rahn – LCHD I-Smile

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.

**Discussion of importance of local ECI boards and directors** – Ginger explained that Shanell is seeking input on what impact local boards and directors have on the communities. How do we measure it?

Jamie – There is a huge difference from one ECI area to the next in terms of networking, infrastructure building, coordination, - where ECI directors are more removed or “at their desk” rather than out in the community you don't see the same impact of programs on families and communities. Involved ECI Director = better outcomes all around.

Cyndi – boards wouldn't exist without the guidance of the directors. There would be a bigger risk of mismanagement of funds without the local oversight. Without community building there is no customization of the use of funds.

Rachael – Needs vary greatly from one community to the next and cookie cutter programming does not work.

Missy – Local board and directors can see needs as they are happening and have a better understanding of what will or will not work in the community far better than from the state level.

Cheryl – Networking and local brainstorming of ideas is critical. There is a need for local coordination, oversight, and parameters. Complacency can set in without involved local guidance.

**Plan for combined meeting with the board August 8, 9:30 am, Donnellson** - Jamie gave an update on the children's mental health workgroup and SEIL advisory group. Ginger expressed that the board likes the format of the past few meetings following a casual conversation rather than formal reporting. They are interested in ideas around mental health – what is already being done, what things may be able to be expanded or supported, what is needed. They are also interested in further input on the issue of how to justify the existence of local ECI boards and directors. Overall the conversation will focus on needs, trends, and ideas for solutions. Cheryl asked if the board felt anything was missing from the RFP process

and Ginger referred everyone to the retreat notes on the Children First website. Rachael shared she will not be able to attend the meeting August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Oral Health** – Rachael shared the silver diamine treatment will start being done at WIC later this summer. She also outlined staff changes in the dental programming. Currently IDPH is doing a surveillance of oral health looking at WIC enrolled children so Rachael and her staff are busy with data. Melissa shared Dr Norton is assisting in educating Nest families in Van Buren County and doing screenings at the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair.

**Mental Health** – Carolyn went to a NAMI meeting in Keokuk and said they are looking for members. They meet the last Monday of the month at the Keokuk hospital at 6:00 pm. Michelle Houghton is the coordinator for that.

**Family Support** – Melissa reported VBPAT had a family night in the park with 60 in attendance. Missy had nothing new to report. Cheryl had no new information on the accreditation requirements for PAT programs. Cyndi encouraged family support programs to reach out to the new CCNC once hired for parent education on health and safety topics.

**Preschool/Child Care** – Cyndi shared no new sites have opened but she has been visiting the newer ones and assisting them however needed. She shared that Susie Rettig is not yet registered but is working on it and working on the QRS application also. She shared KCCD center is licensed for 100 but locally restricted as they work their way up to that. They currently have about 23. Missy had a family with 4 children apply there and they were told they would have to wait for more staff to come on before all 4 children could be enrolled. Cheryl shared the Giving Tree and the Learning Tree are both participating in the CACFP program and she will be doing some administrative consulting with Giving Tree later this week.

**Other business** – Missy shared she gave out sunscreen at the last Family Connections meetings and taught summer safety.

Jamie shared 1<sup>st</sup> Five has increased their referral rate 14% (5% was required). She has multiple sites doing a good job using screening tools with children.

It was pondered if money could be used for a coordinator of mental health for early childhood, perhaps regionally. Also pondered if mental health consultation could be provided in the EC classrooms across the area on a fee per service basis.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am. This was Cyndi's last official meeting and she will schedule a "check out" meeting with Ginger before she is done August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The next meeting of the ECTF will be Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in Donnellson in combination with the Children First board.

gk