

Early Childhood Task Force

Meeting minutes

Keokuk 11-20-19

This meeting of the ECTF was held at Dr Getwell's in Keokuk at 9:30 am with the following present:

Ginger Knisley – Children First, Missy Park – LCHD HOPES, Carolyn Baker – community member, Cyndi Mason – retired CCNC, Kathy Osipowicz – CPS technician, Sarah Tweedy – Raisin Em Up, Cheryl Flaatten – Community Action of Southeast Iowa, Chad Reckling – DHS, Jodi Norton – CCR&R, Jolene Dilks – Learning Tree, Melissa Daugherty – VBPAT, Rachael Patterson-Rahn – LCHD I-Smile

There was a **motion** by Jolene and a second from Carolyn to approve the **agenda** for today's meeting as written. All voted aye.

There was a **motion** by Cyndi and a second by Kathy to accept the **minutes** from the previous meeting on 10/23/19 as written. All voted aye.

Ginger provided a written **administrative update** including updates on legislative efforts, parent council efforts, and board membership vacancies. Family Support programs shared that MIECHV is not providing funds for the annual PCAI conference in 2020. The 12-3-19 1st Tuesday forum will feature Q&A with DHS staff. Chad says that as far as he knows Jill is going to attend. Chad will provide the checklists used in site visits. Jodi will be on hand to provide fingerprinting for those needing it. Cyndi recommended having copies of the DHS regulations and Caring for our Children on hand. Happiest Baby on the Block will not be eligible for DHS credit on 1-7-20. Ginger will poll providers on 12-3-19 if they want to move the May forum due to the PCAI conference. The date of the spring ECTF retreat was set for March 11th, 2020 in Donnellson.

Oral Health – Rachael shared it is competitive grant time for I-Smile and she is applying for the next 5 year period. She has been providing direct care while filling in for absent staff. Iowa has been pulled from the Silver Diamine study due to lack of eligible participants. LCHD has the supervision piece done in pursuing providing silver diamine at WIC with a parent present. Hopefully this will be in action in the next year. CHC at West Burlington has hired a third dentist and may be expanding further in the future. Buffalo Prairie has also expanded. Rachael also shared that baby orajel and teething tablets on the market have changed formulas so all old versions should be disposed of. She also shared that she does not recommend any of these products even with the new formulas.

Mental Health – Ginger shared a written report from Jamie on the progress of the children's mental health efforts in the region.

Family Support – Missy and Melissa met with other PAT supervisors across the state in Des Moines recently. The essential requirements were reviewed along with changes. Changes to the data systems for PAT have been difficult for many. Melissa also shared that her educators were able to attend the National PAT conference in St Louis this year and learned a lot. There is concern about a general lack of

communication from the National PAT office and designees. All programs are experiencing more and more families working, making it difficult to schedule visits.

Preschool/Child Care –

Cheryl reported the fall conference in Burlington went well. It was taught by Applebaum and attended by 168 providers with 70 of those being from Lee County and 0 from Van Buren County. It was very engaging and providers have already reported making changes to their environments as a result of the training.

Cyndi shared that she had met Amy Hayes, the new CCNC, who couldn't be at the ECTF meeting today due to training with a seasoned CCNC in the region. She believes Amy will be getting CPR certified. Jodi mentioned she has had providers asking about CPR certification. Cyndi also brought up the fact that some providers would soon need recertification for med administration and Jodi said she would follow up on that.

Sarah also has met Amy and told her she had big shoes to fill and shared a list of things Cyndi used to do that providers found helpful.

Ginger shared to Jodi that Amy would be arriving at 4:30 prior to the 1st Tuesday's forum and Jodi was welcome to join in that conversation.

Jolene shared their center is planning a feast day next week with preschoolers learning songs to sing at the event. She shared they have been having some issues with their waiting list. They have a few slots open in their 2 year old room but are otherwise full.

Sarah shared she had her first state electrical inspection in 30 years and has made the recommended changes. She hears a lot of concerns around child care and long term providers reporting being frightened of personal liability and considering quitting providing child care. Sarah would like to visit centers that will let her in and offering to be a sounding board for fears and concerns that they may not share with outsiders. Ginger asked that she share what she can without identifying anyone so as to move the system forward by addressing concerns and advocating for change while honoring the privacy of the providers. Sarah shared that not being able to use substitutes has really impacted centers. Homes are still allowed to use them but not centers. Discussion continued about the need for substitute pools like there are for nursing and k-12 education systems etc. Iowa code needs to be changed in order to make background checks portable. Either an agency needs to be able to house the background checks for a pool of substitutes or they need to be able to carry their file with them. Discussion also took place around the regulations for child care. There appears to be grey areas and room for interpretation. Providers do not know all the regulations and do not keep up on all the changes (which are not always communicated well). Jodi shared that regulations are not a part of a required training in order to provide care in Iowa. She and Tessa are working on re-working the CCR&R training on rules and regulations.

Other business – n/a

This meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

The next meeting of the ECTF will be Thursday, December 18th at 9:30 am in Ft Madison at the Palms.

gk