

Early Childhood Task Force

Meeting minutes

Keokuk 12-18-19

This meeting of the ECTF was held at The Palm's in Ft Madison at 9:30 am with the following present:

Ginger Knisley – Children First, Missy Park – LCHD HOPES, Carolyn Baker – community member, Kathy Osipowicz – CPS technician, Jolene Dilks – Learning Tree, Jodi Norton – CCR&R, Amy Hayes – LCHD CCNC

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

There was a **motion** by Kathy and a second by Missy to accept the **minutes** from the previous meeting on 11/20/19 as written. All voted aye.

Ginger provided a written **administrative update** including updates on legislative efforts, PDG, area grants, and board membership vacancies. Two recommendations for an education representative for the board were Leeanne Humiston and Kathy Osipowicz, Ginger will follow up on those suggestions. Discussion took place regarding the need for parenting classes for school age children's families that is being addressed through the CAPC and Boys Town. Also discussed was the transitioning of children and their families from EC systems into the K-12 system and the need to improve communication.

Oral Health – not discussed

Mental Health – Ginger gave a brief update on the regions work around mental health. Discussion took place regarding the school crises around mental health and children's behaviors and the idea that this could be somewhat alleviated by getting better services to children at a younger age.

Family Support –Missy shared that PAT in Lee County has a few openings available. She also shared that she hosted a Santa visit with other family support programs at low rent housing in Burlington as a coordinated intake effort and it went so well she is now looking into planning an event at low rent housing in Ft Madison in the spring. She hopes to have this spring event be the planting of a community garden. Suggestions were provided for her to contact ISU Extension, Master Gardeners, and Gladys Movall for assistance with this project.

Preschool/Child Care –Jolene shared that The Learning Tree celebrated one year of being open recently. She reports there has been a lot of illness among the children. She also shared that she attended a training on policy and procedure in Coralville that was very valuable and discussion was had about the possibility of bringing that training to our area. There is now a facebook group of providers in Ft Madison sharing recipes and other tips and ideas.

Jodie shared a flyer for an open house CCR&R is hosting in Donnellson January 25th as part of their effort to draw un regulated providers into the registration process. She says many are not aware that their time spent as un registered providers counts toward experience credit to make them eligible for a

higher classification. Jodie also shared the training calendar and parent tear-off sheets. She reports that a recent NAPSACC training has funds attached to it so some area providers will be getting some additional funds.

Two of Jolene's teachers are leaving to open in home care sites. There will be new home providers soon in Ft Madison, Donnellson and Farmington.

Other business – Kathy reports an increase in referrals for infant seats. Many pregnant women are seeking car seats and Kathy is reminding them that they need to seek other resources and perhaps participate in Family Connections to earn one as our program has no funding stream for seats. She stresses to them that we are to be used as an educational resource, not a free car seat resource.

Amy reported she will be taking the training to be an instructor in CPR and First Aid next month. She is working on determining the system of when and how she will provide those trainings. She would like to shift the responsibility of tracking professional development back to the providers themselves. Jodi will share her list of providers and their QRS rating and dates with Amy and Ginger commented that we need to work at getting more providers participating in QRS.

One suggestion for providers to lighten their load is to access community volunteers to “rock the babies” and free staff up for other activities. All will brainstorm resources around volunteer organizations.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

The next meeting of the ECTF will be Thursday, January 22nd at Dr Getwell's at 9:30 am in Keokuk.

gk