

Early Childhood Task Force minutes 5-19-20

This meeting was held via zoom with the following present:

Ginger Knisley, Cyndi Mason, Missy Park, Rachael Patterson-Rahn, Jodi Norton, Chad Reckling, Kathy Osipowicz, Amy Hayes, Morgan Small, Melissa Daugherty, Arin Jones, and Jolene Dilks

The **agenda** and the previous meeting **minutes** were accepted by consent as written

Ginger gave an administrative update including updates on legislation, meetings and board membership. Cyndi asked what happened with Provider Appreciation and Ginger said there was no in-person celebration however providers were referred to the CCR&R virtual event and promotions were done through social media. It is hoped that the 1st Tuesday Forums will resume in August and can be used for a welcome back/celebration of sorts.

Mental Health – Ginger reported that there were a number of tele-health options available.

Family Support – Missy shared her staff are continuing with virtual visits but have ordered supplies from Oriental Trading in anticipation of starting outdoor “porch” visits with families where craft supplies will be offered for the families to do projects while being observed by masked, socially distant workers. Groups will be offered via zoom with one featuring Tiffany Siefkin presenting on stress management. Missy ordered 7 phones from IDPH for the families in need of them in order to do virtual visits and they are expected today. Melissa reports VBPAT is still doing visits virtually and they do not have a timeline for returning to in-person visits. They have been posting videos of activities for their group participants to view and complete and message back that they have completed them. They hope to soon promote activities in parks. They did not order any of the phones for families as they have not had families presenting with a need. Cheryl ordered phones for her PAT families in Des Moines County and they are expected to arrive today.

Oral Health – Rachael reported that as of May 8th dentists are allowed to reopen with restrictions and increased use of PPE. Availability of PPE is still an issue and some dentists have chosen to not fully open yet. I-Smile direct services are still not allowed and they have been given no timeline as to when that will resume.

Child Care/Preschool –

Morgan reports Sieda Head Start has been sending out virtual learning opportunities as well as activity packages to families. Home visits were completed virtually. A big concern is how to complete and gather required paperwork such as birth certificates in order to start back up in August. Currently Douds has 13 registered for the fall and Harmony has 12.

Jodi shared the virtual provider appreciation event went well and providers seemed to enjoy being able to put faces to the names of DHS workers in Des Moines they have communicated with in the past. Rejuvenation grants have started coming in and most providers seem to be participating in at least one of the grant programs. CCR&R has been doing virtual visits and all other activities are on hold.

Chad has been checking in with providers, making sure they are getting emails, guiding them regarding processes for sanitation etc. At this time DHS is only doing complaint visits and new provider pre-inspections in person.

Amy is continuing to share information as it comes to her and fielding a lot of questions. She is also using the time to make sure her provider files are up to date and agreements are in place.

Jolene is slowly adding students back in to the daily attendance with more parents going back to work next week. Normal enrollment was over 80 and they have had as few as 20 but are now back to about 40. They are starting to bring laid off staff back. Parents have been cooperative and understanding. The center staff is doing a lot of cleaning, sanitizing and plating food for the children.

Cheryl reported that when she delivered the no contact, infrared thermometers to all currently open providers they seemed to be doing well for the most part. Ft Madison Y has one of the centers in Donnellson operating and is participating in the CACFP program. Little Scholars in West Point has the lead teacher retiring and will not be opening again in the fall. They will either sell the business or sell the equipment if someone doesn't come forward wanting to continue the preschool. Cheryl is seeing a lot of fund loss with providers and has been pushing the grant opportunities through DHS.

Kathy stated everything is on hold in regards to car seats. She has used the time to do online training opportunities and that has been valuable. She has had no seat requests during this time.

Arin shared that CAPC is paying for baby safety items and since a family fair day may not happen she is open to suggestions on how to distribute those. She also reported the tentative budget for CPPC which Lee County is a part of is 30% below current year funding.

The next meeting of the ECTF is tentatively scheduled for the regular meeting day and time of Wednesday, June 24th at 9:30 am although Ginger said if there is not remarkably new information to share she may cancel it.

gk