

Early Childhood Task Force minutes 1-27-2021, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

This meeting was held via zoom with the following present:

Ginger Knisley, Missy Park, Carolyn Baker, Jolene Dilks, Malia Love, Morgan Small, Melissa Daugherty, Arin Jones, Jamie Beskow, Amy Hayes, Sarah Leckband

The agenda and previous meeting minutes were accepted as written with a motion from Carolyn and a second from Melissa

Ginger gave an **administrative update** including family support, fiscal, legislative, Community Resilience Project, IWF projects, and board membership updates. With the addition of Melissa Mahon and Dr. Amanda Gerber in Van Buren County, the Children First board now has 11 members with room for 3 more. The greatest need at this point is a consumer representative which would be a parent of a child age 0 to 5. The 2021 ECTF calendar was discussed and it was agreed that Ginger should plan a spring retreat for in person attendance with the option to zoom in sometime in March to be scheduled according to responses to a member poll.

Combined meeting planning: Ginger shared that she thought the last several combined meetings have gone well and the board enjoys the opportunity to have conversations with and learn from ECTF members. Jamie offered that she can give an update on the Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Board work. Jolene suggested that it is helpful to have the board members pose questions to the ECTF members prior to the meeting so the ECTF members can be prepared to some extent.

Oral Health: Missy shared that the dental program is still providing services and in the final stages of hiring a dental assistant.

Mental Health: Jamie shared the SEIL Asset Mapping is coming along nicely and will be a great resource. Ginger suggested a link to it can be included in the new EC website being developed. Jamie also shared the child psychiatrist at CHC only sees CHC patients and this has been quite a topic of conversation in the region. In other news she shared the Burlington Pediatrics is joining with CHC and also has nurse Mental Health practitioners. Early Access is still providing services, mainly virtual, and AEA is doing evaluations as well.

Family Support: Missy shared that the Iowa Family Support credential is available for testing now and all current FSW's must complete it by 12/31/2021 in order to maintain MIECHV or ECI funding. If a person fails it they can retake it but must wait 6 months to do so. The cost is \$150 and is being proctored. The pre assessments are free and available anytime through the institute. She also shared the Clinton/Jackson area partnered with several entities to do a virtual community baby shower and it resulted in only 2 program referrals. She saw this as minimal benefit for the amount of work that went into it. Arin shared she is gathering information on this with Amerigroup currently and will report back.

Melissa shared referrals were not going well for some time but that VB PAT has had five new referrals from various different sources in the last few weeks and now have only about 3 openings in their program. Melissa is currently working on a PAT credential.

Child Care/Preschool: Jolene announced The Learning Tree has earned a QRS4 and had enough points for QRS5 but passed on the on-site visit for now. She also shared they are losing their preschool teacher after 12 years at their site at the end of this school year so they are planning now how to move forward. They also are looking for a few part time employees as they have had staff turnover at a higher rate recently. They had one family leave the program due to fundamental differences over COVID policies and are working hard to increase communication with all remaining families. They are seeing a growing need for non- traditional hours of operation mainly due to Scott's shift work.

Morgan shared there are 14 children at Douds and 12 at Harmony out of a potential 16 at each site. She said this is common within our area and really nationwide. Staff turnover has been a new and real issue this year and she has done a lot of subbing in the classrooms. All children are required to wear masks and parents and visitors are not allowed in the classrooms. She reports the children are doing well overall. Talks will begin with the school district in February about enrollment for the new school year.

Malia shared CCR&R is still not doing in person services unless it is to drop off supplies to providers. Overall she thinks providers are doing well. The 2nd session of Child Care Ready is wrapping up and that will add 4 new home providers in Lee County. Child Net 3.0 is full through May and is going well.

Other programs/business: Ginger shared there are two individuals who requested to be added to the ECTF list, Paula Vandervelde who is the Community Relations Specialist for CCR&R and Sarah Leckband who is the CAP Coordinator for RVAP.

The next ECTF meeting will be in combination with the Children First board on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 1:00 pm via zoom.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

gk