

Early Childhood Task Force (ECTF) minutes 6/22/22

This meeting took place via zoom at 1:30 pm

Present: Ginger Knisley, Missy Park, Amy Hayes, Jolene Dilks, Melissa Daugherty, Malia Love, Rachael Patterson-Rahn, Kathy Osipowicz, Breanna Kramer-Riesberg, and Tessa Schroeder

Administrative Update

Ginger shared update information on board membership, ARPA funds, child care market studies, and meeting calendar

Child Care/Preschool

Ginger shared there is an exciting meeting planned for tomorrow evening and turned it over to Breanna to fill in the details, Breanna shared the meeting will be Thursday evening at 5:00 pm at Lee County Economic Development and there will be business leaders and child care providers in attendance to discuss possible partnerships. IWF will be attending to present some possible scenarios as well as current child care data. We expect this initial introductory meeting may lead to future 1 on 1 meetings as businesses decide about applying for the business partnership grants recently released by the governor's office.

Rachael, Breanna, and Jolene are going to share business contact information to mutually benefit various efforts currently underway.

Jolene shared she has hired 3 new staff and currently has approximately 32 children on the waitlist.

Great River hospital Ft Madison – Jolene has heard they are reducing the number served from 90 down to 32. Amy shared they are no longer constructing a new building for child care but remodeling the administrative offices for this purpose.

HTC West Point is accepting applications for 3 and 4 year old child care starting in the fall.

Amy reported she has done one of the new Health and Safety checklists under the IQ4K system and it is very different but she thinks it will be good. It is much more provider driven than QRS but she is able to give tips for improvement.

Dental

Rachael reported the MCAH applications have been submitted with an expected award date of August 17. They are currently working across the region at wording for consent forms so they can get them out to schools and early childhood sites prior to registration/open house events. Rachael also speculated that increased rates of children on Medicaid as well as the ability to bill Hawk-I has impacted the ability to draw down ECI funds. Rachael attended the provider forum this month and shared the importance of the program as well as the funding implications of good or poor consent rates. Amy will assist Rachael in reaching out to various sites.

Mental Health

Ginger reported the EC-PBIS program is in the process of being approved by all four area ECI boards to enter into a joint contract with ISU Extension to get the program moving forward with local consultants.

Tessa shared the RFP for 1st Five was rescinded and all sites were issued contract extensions through December 2022. They are now waiting for the RFP to be released again. She also shared that SEIL children's behavioral health committee is working on bringing more trainings, possible Frank Kross to the area.

Family Support

Missy says recruiting for HOPES is up and down. They may have 5 new families but then 2 or 3 drop. Some are moving out of the area and some are getting full time jobs and do not have the time or desire to add an appointment in the evening. She is still getting referrals from the Ft Madison Hospital and also had one for VBPAT that she passed on. WIC is currently a big referral source.

Other issues

Kathy assisted with car seat safety checks at the Burlington Safety Town and they had 11 seats checked as they were in a better position this year where families had to drive and walk right by them.

Kid's day at the Lee County Fair is Friday, July 8th 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Van Buren Safe and Healthy Kids Fair is Tuesday, July 26th either 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm or 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Ginger will seek clarification on this.

The next ECTF meeting will be in person with the Children First board at Donnellson Community Room August 22 at 1:00 pm. There will likely not be a zoom option.

gk