

**Recorded Minutes
of the
Arkansas Early Childhood Commission Meeting
July 18, 2006**

Commissioner Member:

Members present:

Debbie Malone, Chair, Karen Marshall, Jerry Hudlow, Karen Massey, Barbara Gilkey, Joan Harper, Paul Human, Brian Faulkner, Bruce Cohen, Doretha Davis, LaCher Rockins, Hallie Sanford

Members Absent: Suellen Ward, Debra Davis, Laura Sparks, Jody Viet-Edrington

I. Call to Order

The July 2006, meeting of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission was called to order by Debbie Malone, Chair of the Commission. A quorum was noted. Mission statement was read by chair.

II. Approval of Minutes, April 18, 2006

Motion made by Karen Massey to approve minutes as received with the following changes: Additions to minutes made by Karen Marshall; stated the program committee would review all new policy changes. Motion seconded by Doretha Davis and carried.

III. Director's Report

Tim Lampe stated that Tonya Russell was unable to attend today's meeting due to conflict in schedule. She sent her apologies, recognizing the importance of this meeting.

IV. Old Business

A. Follow up

1. Family support unit update

Voucher Waiting lists by counties (see hand out)

Karen Marshall asked if the division found out if the TEA Clients were going to be paid during Christmas holiday. Clarification requested from Tonya on next meeting. Ivory Daniels replied that a final decision has not been made.

2. AECPCD Evaluation update

Donna Alliston gave an update on Arnett, presented handouts for April-June 2006 quarterly report from Keystone, the AECPCD evaluator.

V. Informational Items

A. New Staff Introduction

David Griffin, Licensing unit introduced Lisa Lindsey, Amanda Epperson and Candance Gonzales. Vicki Matthews introduced Ute Wesley as Quality Accreditation Review.

Curtis Curry SNP Unit introduced Judy Staton, Shundra Wilson, Kimberly Clay-Simmons and Deidra Bolden.
Jamie Morrison, ABC Unit introduced Shyreeta Hicks and Kelly Alexander.

B. Program Support

- Kathy Stegall presented follow-up information to show qualifications and locations for training and trainers (see hand out) Information from University of Arkansas will be mailed probably by August 10.
- Karen Massey addressed the lack of trainers in the southwest part of Arkansas. Kathy Stegall stated that although many training opportunities are available in southern Arkansas, there are not as many trainers or training sessions as in some other areas of the state. This is reflective of the number of programs in south Arkansas. Additional information will be provided.
- University of Arkansas at Little Rock provided a report from the licensed provider survey with a 30% response. Next week they will conduct focus groups with parents in two locations the northwest and southeast (see handout).
- Karen Marshall posed a question about the change in the number of people eligible per child care facility for CPR and First Aid scholarships and when will it revert back to previous allowance. If funds are available the change will occur in September. Marshall also wants to know how we address a child that has aged out when they are no longer qualified for vouchers. The Commission received a new report on after school programs in Arkansas prepared by Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and Arkansas Out of Network.
- Karen Marshall asked for clarification on “how you would address a child that has been aged out when they no longer qualify for voucher”? It was referred to Ivory Daniels.
- **Venture Grant**
The Division partnered with several groups (Child Care Connections, Invest Early and UALR Institute for Economic Advancement) to submit an application for a Venture Grant for planning, the major project purposes include:
 1. Identify technological, business and financial development for early care and education providers.
 2. Design a business cooperative to fill gap. Awards should be announced in September.

C. Arkansas Better Chance – Jamie Morrison/ Paul Lazenby

- Discussion of budget training, coordinator training and funding approved for programs across the state. Training will contain updated rules and procedures for the 06-07 year.
Ex. Teachers must have a B.S. degree in a classroom to meet national standards. Eighty percent of the teacher has B.S. degree. On July 31, 2006, at three o'clock there will be a public hearing regarding rules changes concerning the requirement for non school based programs to have staff with degrees. Dr. Debby Cryer one on the authors of the ECERS will be present a video training on ECRS in October.

D. Comprehensive System update- Martha Reeder

Discussed over view of what each work group will be working on over the next one to three years which includes the implementation dates of each project. The ORS workgroup has drafted a quality rating plan. Two specialists from National Child Care Information Center and met with the ORS group and reviewed the proposal. We are waiting on approval of the Comprehensive Plan from the federal government, when approved information will be put on the state web site sometime during August 2006.

E. SNP Update-Curtis Curry

June -August are the highest months of participation of the summer food program. Work continues with the Department of Correction to reinstate them on the Special Nutrition Program.

F. Licensing Update- David Griffin

Yearly cycle of taking application for appeal panel, a ten member group with alternates is in progress. The group meets monthly to review licensing actions. There are six opening for the review panel. A committee of the Commission's will meet following today's meeting to consider the recommendations.

G. Finance Report- Sam Lamey

Implementation of the Kid Care Software System has reduced our monthly expenditures for network service for processing time has been realized in Cost Saving efficiencies with no reduction in the number of childcare served. Our biennium budget will remain at the same basic level with a small percentage requisitioned for anticipated growth in SNP. (See Handout)

H. Compliance market rate survey- Tim Lampe

The survey importance was so the providers could be reimbursed for services rendered on the Voucher program. County cap rates were established, rates dissected and divided into licensing types, age of children and types of care, like part-time/fulltime. If a provider is charging less than cap rate the provider is paid at a lesser rate. If the provider is

charging more than cap rate, then only the highest cap is paid. (See Handout) Center cap rates are higher than family homes. Providers need to figure out what it cost to provide care for a child county cap rate increased.

I. Early Childhood Health – Martha Hiatt

Martha gave a report on The Clear Indoor Act goes in effect July 21, 2006. Early Childhood Health Initiative Schedule for implementation January 07. This initiative will focus on nutrition, physical activity and mental health. Sites selected are Paris, Batesville, North Little Rock, Redwood, Monticello and Hope. Nutrition and physical activity self assessment will be used and will use DECA for mental health screening, currently working to hire two county health coordinators.

VI. Other business

- Commissioner’s terms of expiration:
Bruce Cohen, Debra Davis, Barbara Gilkey, Jerry Hudlow, LaCher Rockins, Laura Sparks, Susan Underwood, Suellen Ward
Dorethea Davis- has been reappointed.
- Debbie Malone, Chair –requested that all public comments will be taken under other business.

VII. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2006. Meeting adjourned.