

**Arkansas Early Childhood Commission**  
**May 19, 2015**  
**10:00am**  
**Minutes**

Members Present: Evelyn Bass, Amy Denton, Glenda Ezell, Jackie Govan, Diane Green, Marsha Masters, Kaye Murry, Matthew Nix, Kathy Pillow-Price, Shirley Pulliam (by phone), Gene Roebuck, Chadwick Rogers, Kelley Smith, Jody Veit-Edrington, Barbara Warren

Members Absent: Rhonda Ahrent, Michelle Barnes, Ava Coleman, Jill Fussell, Nickie Hammontree, Patricia Lucas, Deb Tackett,

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**I. Call to Order**

Jackie Govan called the AECC Commissioners' Meeting to order on May 19, 2015 at 10:07 a.m. A quorum (of members) was present. Jackie read the AECC's Mission statement and shared some positive quotes to set the stage for the meeting.

**II. Approval of Minutes from January 2015**

Jackie Govan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2015 meeting. A motion was made by Kathy Pillow-Price and seconded by Diane Green. The motion carried.

**III. Old Business.**

*1. Appeal Review Panel:*

David Griffin and Jennifer Williams provided an overview discussing the Appeal Review Panel and the due diligence of the adverse action process. Jennifer distributed copies of Carolyn Robinson's application (see attachment) to serve on the Appeal Review Panel. A motion to accept and approve the application was made by Gene Roebuck and seconded by Glenda Ezell. The motion carried. David agreed to create list a of panel members by District.

*2. Better Beginnings/QRIS:*

Jaclyn Cole distributed a series of maps that displayed Better Beginnings sites. Jaclyn stated that 1,052 facilities are participating in Better Beginnings, and of those facilities, fifty-four percent are at level three. Vickie Mathews stated it is very rare for a level three facility to revert (back) to level one. Jaclyn mentioned that 600 (forty percent) of the participating Better Beginnings facilities are ABC or Headstart facilities. Jaclyn also discussed

several barriers that keep facilities from participating in Better Beginnings. Then, she mentioned that technical assistance and various grants can help alleviate some of those barriers. Tonya also discussed the participation of and differences between faith-based facilities, state-funded facilities, etc.

3. *ECE PD Registry:*

Arlene Rose provided an update on the registry. She stated the registry name has been changed. (Name?) It has not been completely updated and efforts are still underway to completely update it. User testing and technical assistance are to occur on a monthly basis, so that the rollout will be seamless. Arlene stated that a phone app for the registry is/will be available for both Android and Apple users.

4. *Statewide Fatherhood Initiative:*

Jackie Govan provided an update on the initiative. She stated that the statewide training is in progress. Three have been conducted, and there are two more remaining. Sidney Moncrief continues to participate as lead for the trainings. Some topics include financial management and engaging children at a young age. She also stated that they are searching for more judges to get involved in the fatherhood mentoring program. They are working with Judge Warren who is assisting by finding more judges who are willing to participate. The committee is working with local barbershops as well to increase participation and involvement for the initiative.

5. *Early Head Start/Head Start/Kellogg Foundation:*

Jackie Govan mentioned information regarding Train-the-Trainer Program. Save the Children Program was mentioned also, including some of its sites which include two head start and early head start in Russellville and Eastern Arkansas. These two programs are home based visiting programs. Jackie also discussed how many headstart programs are converting and receiving funds for expansion.

Then, Jackie Govan discussed the Child Development Early Learning Standard (0-2, 3-5/Birth to 5 years old). The committee worked on age beaks. A webinar will be conducted on June 11<sup>th</sup> to review changes to the standard. A guide for family engagement will be created. In fact, the committee met this past Friday to develop toolkits for early childhood education centers across the state. The committee is working with Paige Cox to complete this task.

The Pre-kindergarten Assessment Group conducted a survey for teachers and administrators (making recommendations to the State Board of Education). There was discussion about reviewing the kindergarten readiness assessment thoroughly, including national expertise and public comments. Jackie Govan mentioned that there is a need to ensure professional development, so that individuals will know how to use the data.

## **IV. New Business**

1. *EHS/HS Grant:*

Tonya Williams – Early Child Care Partnership Initiative; AR – three new grantees (Jonesboro, Hot Springs, and UAPB/Jefferson County and Southern AR);

2. *DCCECE Staff Updates:*

Arlene Rose introduced Brandy Ishmon as the new Infant and Toddler Specialist.

3. *NEER Report – Press Release:*

5<sup>th</sup> – serving three year olds

12<sup>th</sup> – serving four year olds

13<sup>th</sup> – state spending for pre-k

21<sup>st</sup> – overall

Meet 9/10 standards; do not meet the teacher requirements

4. *Licensing:*

Discussed liability insurance

Licensing is soft launching the new regulations on June 1, 2015

Discussed the School Time Booklet

David Griffin gave updates and explained changes (four types of licensing facilities – including registered homes) which were reviewed and approved in order to move forward with promulgation. A motion to accept and approve the changes was made by Jody Veit-Edrington and seconded by Gene Roebuck.

5. *ABC/ABC Summer/HQPP*

Mary Kay McKinney provided an update on the ABC Program. The ABC application will be on the website soon. A memo will be distributed to the Commissioners through the Licensing Unit and Headstart. The ABC staff has been working diligently with ASU regarding the ABC Summer Service Program which is funded by CCDF. There are 25,000 slots to fund for children. Trainings have been conducted. Letters have been sent to the recipients and non-recipients of the HQPP Grant. A list of approved sites should be sent to Commissioners present at the last meeting.

## **V. Summary/Announcements**

Jackie Govan announced that this is her last meeting as Chair of the AECC. She provided words of wisdom before she relinquishes her role. Jody Veit-Edrington will take the role beginning in July.

Kathy Pillow-Price announced that her home visiting program has been reauthorized until 2017. She stated there are six new expansion sites, expansion of three faith based programs, and 180 families to be served. She also mentioned that she is getting prepared for a federal fiscal visit in June and that this is her last meeting as a Commissioner. Then, she mentioned how vital it is to appoint

someone with home visiting knowledge which is key to receiving federal money.

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Kellogg Foundation Meeting for Battle Creek Grant Recipients/aligning with state systems/ reps will be in town in June/visit with Joan-better system with local programs

Arlene Rose will send out an email to the Commissioners informing them of the two new vacant positions for the ABC Program. The positions are a Research and Statistics Supervisor and a Program Eligibility Analyst.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Jackie asked for a motion to adjourn. Gene Roebuck made a motion to adjourn. Barbara Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.

### **Next Meeting**

*The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 21, 2015, at DHS-Donaghey Plaza South; Conference Room B. The location is 700 Main Street; Little Rock, AR 72203.*

