

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission
October 18, 2016
10:00am
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Amy Denton, Evelyn Bass, Debbie Mays, Dr. Charisse Childers (proxy-Marna Harris), Dr. Kathy Collins, Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price (proxy-Sarah Coleman), Dr. Matthew Nix, Jody Veit-Edrington, Kim Whitman (proxy- Rashele Wade), Michelle Barnes (telephone), Ryan Clayborn, Shirley Pulliam (telephone), Talicia Richardson, Stacy Smith

Members Absent: Ava Coleman, Debbie Tacket, Jackie Govan, Gene Roebuck, Senator Caldwell

I. Call to Order

Jody Veit-Edrington called the AECC Commissioners' Meeting to order on October 18, 2016 at 10:05 a.m. Debbie Mays read the AECC's mission statement and Arkansas Early Childhood Commission goals.

II. Approval of Minutes from July 2016

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Talicia Richardson and seconded by Dr. Kathy Collins. The motion carried.

III. Old Business

1. Nominating Committee:

Jody Veit-Edrington requested members of the commission to be a part of the nominating committee to nominate a new chair at the January 2017 meeting. Amy Denton and Talicia Richardson volunteered to be on the nominating committee.

2. DCCECE Commissioner Report:

Tonya Williams provided a written report of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission goals. Tonya announced that Arkansas was one of three states chosen (TN and OR) by the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation to work on high quality Pre-K. The first meeting was held August 7th and 8th. Forward AR, AR Advocates for Children and Families, and the AR Association of Education Administrators are partners on the initiative. The first national meeting will be held in Chicago in December. Jody Veit-Edrington will attend, representing the AECC.

Tonya Williams announced that Arkansas was selected as a grantee for a Team Nutrition training grant. Arkansas will be collaborating with UAMS to implement Team Nutrition-We Inspire Smart Eating to provide face-to-face and online training for 750 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsors and 375 early childcare educators in rural and high poverty areas of Arkansas.

Tonya Williams announced that the Kellogg Foundation awarded Arkansas \$250,000. This phases will focus on supporting local school readiness teams, implementing the early learning standards and family engagement efforts.

3. Finance (Guaranteed Loan Program):

Laura Webb presented provided handouts with details on the DCCECE Guaranteed Loan program. DCCECE administers a fund established to support the development and expansion of child care facilities in the state. With these funds the state of Arkansas acts as a guarantor for child care providers who otherwise would not qualify for the loan at the provider's selected lending institution.

Laura Webb requested volunteers to be members of the finance committee. The finance committee will review the Guaranteed Loan applications and make decisions, with the help of Laura Webb, to approve or deny applications. Dr. Kathy Collins, Amy Denton and Evelyn Bass volunteered to be members of the finance committee.

4. DCCECE Staff Updates:

Arlene Rose introduced Wendy Pascoe, a member of the program and professional development unit. Wendy has extensive experience in child care and early childhood education working overseas and in the states. She is also serving as a BehaviorHelp support specialist. Arlene also shared information about the new program manager in the family support unit, Micah Schmidt. Micah will supervise five program coordinators statewide to ensure that DCCECE is meeting activities outlined in the Child Care Development Fund state plan.

Arlene shared information on the new DHS program manager positions that are currently being advertised and encouraged commissioners to ask qualified applicants to apply.

5. Expulsion and Suspension Update:

Arlene Rose provided an update on the BehaviorHelp Response System. The presentation consisted of data collected from July 1, 2016 (launch) to October 11, 2016.

ACTION ITEM: Provide BehaviorHelp link on the front page of the DCCECE website.

6. Better Beginnings:

Beverly Wright presented a handout related to goal #1 and goal #4. The handout pertaining to goal 1 provides information on the infant and toddler capacities by quality level and participation by license type.

Beverly Wright presented documents pertaining to goal #4, which included maps of Arkansas showing the number of Better Beginnings facilities by level and by county. The goal is to increase by 10% each year, which the state has met.

7. CPR/First Aid Data:

Beverly Wright presented an update on the CPR/First Aid item. Licensing Specialists were instructed to discuss CPR/First Aid with each provider this trimester and begin monitoring for compliance. The providers were given until September 30th to be in compliance or to have an alternative compliance plan in place. Beverly provided a map showing how many providers are on an alternative compliance plan for the CPR/First Aid regulation. Currently there are about 10% of providers that have requested an alternative compliance, to meet this regulation.

8. CPR/First Aid Resources:

Paige Cox provided CPR/First Aid resources available to providers in the state. DCCECE recommends the American Heart Association and American Red Cross for training. DCCECE encourages providers to communicate with other providers in the area. Paige collected the following data on trainings provided in the state from the TAPP registry: 350 CPR/First Aid Trainings, across 33 counties. (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) Paige reminded the commissioners that not all trainings are required to be registered in the TAPP registry.

9. Health and Nutrition Program Update:

Tracey Shine provided an update for the Health and Nutrition program. The Health and Nutrition program has successfully completed two outreach initiatives through USDA funding under commission goals 5 & 6. One of the initiatives was a Partnership grant.

- Team Training Grant: The grant was for \$475,000.00. The grant is shared between DHS and UAMS for training and awareness to sponsors. The partnership training will empower attendees on the new meal pattern requirements for CACFP feeding programs and healthier meal options. DHS is also privy to resources at UAMS for various outreach tools; webinars, marketing, and training material.
- Farm to School: The Farm to School Initiative (event) was completed last week at DHS. Farm to school is a National event for NLSP programs. The outreach initiative was also a partnership with USDA. The National School Lunch program is a Health and Nutrition feeding program throughout public schools in Arkansas. The Farm to School event connected farmers, DHS, schools, and community resources to support agriculture and the origin of food through local farming (outside the packing). This partnership provides awareness on agriculture and healthier meal options for balanced meals through sampling, menu preparation, gardening, and field trips.

IV. New Business

1. Gates Foundation:

See details in Old Business, DCCECE Commissioner Report.

2. MIECHV (Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood) Home Visiting Reauthorization:

Sarah Coleman provided a Home Visiting (Strong children and families today, strong

economy tomorrow) toolkit. The toolkit provides talking points, frequently asked questions, MIECHV key facts and state data.

V. Summary/Announcements

- **ACTION ITEM**: Provide BehaviorHelp link on the front page of the DCCECE website.

Future Meeting Agenda Items:

- Elect Commission Chair
- Review goals for possible updates

VI. Adjournment

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to adjourn. Debbie Mays made a motion to adjourn. Talicia Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2016. The location is 700 Main Street, Conference Room A & B.