

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission
April 19, 2016
10:00am
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Amy Denton, Brenda Zedlitz, Debbie Mays, Dr. Charisse Childers (proxy-Kathi Turner), Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price, Dr. Matthew Nix, Gene Roebuck, Jackie Govan, Jody Veit-Edrington, Kim Whitman, Michelle Barnes, Ryan Clayborn, Shirley Pulliam, Stacy Smith, Talicia Richardson

Members Absent: Ava Coleman, Debbie Tacket, Evelyn Bass, Kaye Murry, Kelly Smith, Senator Caldwell

I. Call to Order

Jody Veit-Edrington called the AECC Commissioners’ Meeting to order on April 19, 2016 at 10:08 a.m. Jackie Govan read the AECC’s mission statement.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 2016

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price and seconded by Jackie Govan. The motion carried.

III. Old Business

1. Better Beginnings/QRIS Update (Goal #1, Goal #4):

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. There was a 1% increase in infant toddler care from last year to this year, in Level 3.

Better Beginning Growth and Expansion	2015	2016
Licensed Child Care Facilities	47%	71%
Licensed Child Care Family Homes	23%	48%
Registered Child Care Family Homes	15%	40%
Out of School Time	6%	21%

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. There are currently 11 Level 2 applications and 13 Level 3 applications that are in the approval process. Dr. Matthew Nix asked Beverly what the division thought the top barriers were for providers who were questioning to become a part of Better Beginnings. Beverly stated she thought cost and some of them are unfortunately, uninterested. The division makes it a priority to help providers understand why it is important and provide targeted technical assistance.

2. Proposed Revision for Minimum Licensing Requirements for All Ages:

David Griffin and Beverly Wright presented a proposed change in the wording for program requirements for all ages.

Existing Rule: Section 401.5- Staff shall plan to provide experiences that meet children's needs and stimulated learning in the following developmental areas: physical, social/emotional, creative/aesthetic, cognitive/intellectual and language, found in the *Arkansas Early Childhood Frameworks Handbook*.

Proposed Revision: Section 401.5- Staff shall plan to provide experiences that meet children's needs and stimulated learning in the following developmental areas: physical, social/emotional, creative/aesthetic, cognitive/intellectual and language, found in the Arkansas early learning standards.

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to approve the proposed wording changes to section 401.5. A motion was made by Shirley Pulliam and seconded by Stacy Smith. The motion carried.

3. CPR/First Aid Data

David Griffin presented background information for the CPR rule that became effective in January 2015, stating that 50% of the staff in a child care facility must be trained in CPR. David stated, the division had become aware there were parts of the state where the cost was too high or the availability of training was a challenge. DCCECE was asked by the Commissioners at the January 2016 meeting to gather data regard the cost and availability of CPR/First Aid training. The Licensing Unit conducted a survey with statewide licensed child care facilities regarding the cost and availability of CPR/First Aid training. 61% of the facilities that responded listed a cost of over \$10 per/person with the total cost, including time away from the job averaging \$93.40 per/person.

Representative Dan Sullivan presented his concerns as a legislator that the ever increasing cost of operation is negatively impacting child care, especially in rural areas. He requested that the Commission consider a compromise that would require fewer CPR trained staff combined with the use of a contingency plan listing additional trained staff who would be available if needed. Representative Sullivan stated he is also concerned with increased cost of operation related to the staff/child ratio changes.

Michelle Barnes stated her concern that 50% of staff trained in CPR should be maintained to ensure a minimum level of safety. Michelle offered her support and encouraged the Division to help identify and develop low cost options for CPR training through partnerships.

Brenda Zedlitz shared a situation that occurred in her child care facility where having staff 100% trained in CPR/First Aid was important in ensuring a quick response time. David Griffin requested that the Commission provide support to allow the division to use

alternative compliance requests in areas where cost and availability are issues. This would give these providers options while they are working to meet the requirement.

ACTION ITEM: David Griffin to begin the alternative compliance for facilities unable to meet the 50% of staff trained in CPR/First Aid.

ACTION ITEM: David Griffin to present the CPR/First Aid updates to the Commission on July 19, 2016.

4. *Equity Leaders Action Network (ELAN) Project Update/Kindergarten Entry Screener (KES)*

Jackie Govan presented on the Equity Leaders Action Network (ELAN) project. Jackie Govan and DCCECE are working with a set vision for a comprehensive, racially equitable, high-quality early childhood professional development system is one that ensures all children have an opportunity to develop and reach their full potential, without experiencing discrimination or bias. Jackie stated her project is due May 20, 2016 and she is working to complete the ELAN project proposal, complete analysis of data, and finalize the ELAN advisory council (need representation from AECC).

ACTION ITEM: Jackie Govan to provide the Commissioners with a copy of the final ELAN proposal at (or before) the meeting on July 19, 2016.

ACTION ITEM: Sara Norwood to send ELAN project proposal to Commissioners.

Jackie presented an update on the Kindergarten Entry Screener (KES). The KES committee has been working to develop recommendations to support the procurement of a new KES instrument to replace the QUALLS Early Learning Standards. Recommendations include the following:

- Alignment to the Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards Domains (CDELS) of Development (language development, emergent literacy, mathematical thinking, social emotional, physical and health, cognitive development). Applicants must show how the instrument aligns to six of the nine domains of development and learning from the CDELS. The applicant must show how the new instrument measures child development and learning for a child who is entering kindergarten, but is appropriate and also corresponds to the 60-month expectations in the CDELS.
- Longitudinal – It is important for the districts to continue to use the entry screener throughout the kindergarten to measure the child’s progress. By doing this, the state is promoting an important aspect of good early childhood pedagogy – the use of formative assessment data to individualize instruction for a child’s specific development needs. Therefore, the selected KES/vender must propose a kindergarten entry screener that can also be used throughout the kindergarten year as a formative assessment and as a means to measure a child’s progress.
- Sounds Measure Properties – The instrument must show that it has strong psychometric properties. The applicant must provide information on the construct validity. The instrument must have reliability with consistent results. The instrument must have generalizability (does the sample on which the psychometrics were derived resemble

Arkansas' population of children).

- The instrument must be culturally and linguistically appropriate. Arkansas' growing population of children who are dual language learners requires an instrument to be appropriate for children who may speak another language other than English at home.
- The instrument must provide strength-based reporting for parents, teachers, and administrators. The vender should be able to share how the new instrument produces accurate, timely, useful, and easy to understand reports that are strength-based and support school administrators, staff, and families in making decisions.

Jackie provided an update on the Request for Proposal process. Due to the time it takes to complete procurement, the process has changed from an RFP (Request for Proposal) to an IFB (Invitation to Bid), which is a shorter process. The State Department of Education (SDE) will be required to accept the lowest bidder. The venders will have to meet all of the specifications listed on the invitation to bid.

5. *Child Development Early Learning Standards (CDELS)*

Jackie Govan presented Arkansas' Revised Child Development and Early Learning Standards: Birth – 60 Months.

Jackie presented a PowerPoint presentation with the following objectives:

- To inform Arkansas Early Childhood Commissioners of the revisions of the state's Child Development and Early Learning Standards
- Answer initial questions about the new standards
- Seek approval for the revised Child Development and Early Learning Standards

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to approve the Child Development Early Learning Standards Document. A motion was made by Talicia Richardson and seconded by Shirley Pulliam. The motion carried.

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price commended Jackie Govan for her work and coordination on the CDELS.

6. *Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Executive Summary*

Tonya provided a document referencing the SREB recommendations and early childhood in Arkansas. The recommendations include: Program Quality, Teacher Quality, Accountability, Access, and Governance. Tonya provided details on what the state of Arkansas is currently doing in early childhood for each SREB recommendation.

Tonya recommended inviting a representative from SREB to a future meeting to discuss the executive summary. Tonya stated that she is very proud of Arkansas because we have many of these recommendations in place. There are a few areas that need more work, Tonya noted those in the document.

IV. New Business

1. Market Price Study:

Dr. Lorraine McKelvey presented the 2015 Arkansas Child Care Market Price Summary. This study reports the prices of child care across types of child care and age groups in Arkansas. Analysis was conducted by evaluators at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Research and Evaluation Division (RED) in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. The study provides information on the market prices for child care across child care submarkets; child age, program type, and geographic region. It also analyzes whether these prices fit well with the funding structure that the Arkansas Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) uses to reimburse child programs that serve children through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). The structure classifies two different rate sets based on urban and rural areas designated by USDA Economic Research Service.

2. Expulsion and Suspension Work Group:

Arlene provided an update on the Expulsions and Suspension Work Group. The first work group meeting was on January 7, 2015. The work group was established as a result of receiving the US Department of Education’s Policy Statement on Expulsions and Suspensions in Early Childhood Settings in December 2014, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Bill and the federal Office of Child Care’s Child Care and Development Fund Pre-Print.

Mandatory training for Child Care Development Fund providers will occur on the following dates:

May 3, 2016	1:00pm-3:00pm	Texarkana Public Library	600 West 3 rd Street
May 4, 2016	10am-12pm	Pine Bluff Public Library Little Theater	200 East 8 th Ave.
May 12, 2016	10:30am-12:30pm	Springdale Jones Center	922 East Emma Ave.
May 18, 2016	10:00am-12:00pm	Jonesboro Public Library	315 West Oak Ave.
June 14, 2016	10:30am-12:30pm	Little Rock’s CALS Ron Robinson Theater	100 River Market Ave.

3. Early Childhood Monitoring Work Group:

Jody recommended forming a committee to look at monitoring visits conducted by and though DCCECE and review if there is a way to streamline to reduce the number of visits.

The work group will focus on the coordination of all monitoring and how our resources can be used more efficiently.

Jody asked for volunteers or suggestions for members, hopefully from all areas of the State, who would be interested in being a member of the work group.

ACTION ITEMS: Email volunteers or suggestions for members to Sara Norwood.

4. Grant Support Letters:

Jody Veit-Edrington received a request from UAMS for a letter of support for the Commission for their Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact application. Jody read the letter to the Commission and requested a vote to provide the letter of support to UAMS.

Jody asked for a motion to approve the letter of support for UAMS. A motion was made by Gene Roebuck and seconded by Kathy Pillow-Price. The motion carried.

Jody requested a vote for approval of the Commission to allow the Chair of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission to provide letters on behalf of the commission. The letters would be sent to the Commissioners, prior to providing the final letter to requestor.

Jody asked for a motion to approve the Chair of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission to provide letters on behalf of the commission. A motion was made by Kathy Pillow-Price and seconded by Jackie Govan. The motion carried.

5. *USDA Proposed Rule Change (Child and Adult Care Food Program):*

Tonya Williams stated the USDA has released proposed rule changes for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) regulations. Institutions/Child Care Facilities that participate in the program are welcome to review the proposed changes and enter comments through May 31, 2016.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/03/29/2016-06801/child-nutrition-program-integrity>

V. Summary/Announcements

- **Action Item:** David Griffin to begin the alternative compliance for facilities unable to meet the 50% of staff trained in CPR/First Aid.
- **Action Item:** David Griffin to present the CPR/First Aid updates to the Commission on July 19, 2016.
- **Action Item:** Jackie Govan to provide the Commissioners with a copy of the final ELAN proposal at (or before) the meeting on July 19, 2016.
- **Action Item:** Sara Norwood to send ELAN project proposal to Commissioners
- **Action Item:** Email volunteers or suggestions for members to Sara Norwood.

Future Meeting Agenda Items:

- David Griffin to present the CPR/First Aid updates to the Commission on July 19, 2016.
- Jackie Govan to provide the Commissioners with a copy of the final ELAN proposal at (or before) the meeting on July 19, 2016.

VI. Adjournment

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to adjourn. Shirley Pullium made a motion to adjourn. Jackie Govan seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting

adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 19, 2016. The location is 700 Main Street, Conference Room A & B.