

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission Meeting
January 15, 2019
10:00am
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Deborah (Debbie) Mayes, Ryan Clayborn, Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price, Jody Veit-Edrington, Kim Whitman, Sarah Langley, Lindsey Jones

Members Absent: Dr. Kathy Collins, Senator Will Bond

I. Call to Order

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price called the AECC Commissioners' Meeting to order on January 15, 2019 at 10:07 a.m. Kathy read the AECC's mission statement.

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2018 meeting. A motion was made by Deborah (Debbie) Mayes and seconded by Lindsey Jones. The motion carried.

III. Old Business

1. Welcome Sarah Langley:

Tonya Williams welcomed Sarah Langley to the commission. Sarah was designated by Representative Sonia Eubanks Barker. Sarah is a birth mother, adoptive mother, and an elementary teacher with a degree in Early Childhood Education. Representative Barker indicated that Sarah has worked through issues dealing in the realm of education from preschool as well as elementary and has full confidence that Sarah will take her passion for the development and education of children and put it to great use as a member of the commission.

2. DCCECE Commissioner Report:

Tonya Williams provided a written report of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission goals. Tonya stated the division would continue to update the commission on the goals with a written report at each meeting.

Tonya shared information about the 3.5-million-dollar grant (PDG B-5), awarded to Arkansas to work in trauma informed care. The first course of action for this grant is to update a needs assessment and update a strategic plan. Then the division will be focused on providing training to the field of early care and education. The training will include focus on what happens and what to do. Tonya knowledgeable Audrey Freshwater, who will be managing the PDG B-5 grant, as she has been doing this work in Tennessee for the past 10 year with Building Better Brains. Tonya commended Audrey and Rachel Machen for the work on the

grant application. Tonya also thanked Jamie Morrison Ward, Nikki Edge, Leanne Whiteside Mansell and Lorraine McKelvey for their work in the grant process.

Tonya provided information on the transformation and reorganization bill. At this time, the division has not been given any indication as to when the Arkansas Better Chance unit will move to the Department of Education. At this time, the division is waiting for instruction and will stand ready to work with the Department of Education. This transition will not require a law change because the agencies currently operate under a memorandum of understanding.

3. DCCECE Staff Updates:

Ashelyn Abney introduced Pam Burton, a program manager with the Quality Assurance unit. Pam has over 18 years of experience in research, analysis, management, compliance reviews and more. Pam previously worked with the Arkansas Department of Homeland Security. Pam has a degree in business management, master's in psychology and is working on her doctorate in business administration. Pam is a current foster parent. The division looks forward to working with Pam on processes and procedures.

4. Better Beginnings Update:

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. Beverly shared information pertaining to Goal 1, which provides the infant and toddler capacities by quality level and participation by license type.

Beverly also shared information about the division's current work, focusing on the next levels of Better Beginnings. The focus is currently on levels 4, 5 and 6 and a guide book has been developed. The guide book provides different component areas and guidance on the opportunities to collect points to achieve each higher level. The goal of this process is to create a well-rounded path and a variety of options.

Jody Veit-Edrington inquired about staff attending trainings in her school district that are not in the Professional Development Registry (PDR). The division is reviewing options for trainings that are not listed in the Professional Development Registry.

5. HSSCO/AHSA Updates:

Jackie Govan provided a handout with updates and announcements on the items below:

Arkansas Head Start Association (AHSA): Early Head Start-Head Start/Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership/Migrant Seasonal:

- Early Head Start/Head Start State Needs Assessment
- Family Engagement Self-Assessment
- Election of New Officers for Arkansas Head Start Association (AHSA) (April 2019)
- Preparing for the 2019 State Arkansas Head Start Association (AHSA) Institute

Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO):

- Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Continuation Grant Application
- Equity Leaders Action Network (ELAN)
- Fatherhood Mentoring Program – October 2018 through April 2019
- Arkansas Department of Education: Family and Community Engagement Framework Essentials & Toolkit

Head Start State Collaboration Annual Report – Due January 31, 2019:

- Arkansas Early Childhood Commission (AECC)
- Arkansas Better Beginnings/QRIS
- School Readiness & Transitions
- State Longitudinal Data System
- Professional Development Workforce/Registry
- Building State Systems (PDG Grant & Others)
- Collaboration w/Higher Education & Other Agencies
- Kindergarten Entry Assessment/Screening (KEA/KES)
- Arkansas Home Visiting Network (AHVN)
- Parent, Family, & Community Engagement (PFCE)

IV. New Business

1. Licensing Dashboard Presentation:

Tonya Williams shared information on the work being completed throughout the Department of Human Services (DHS) on dashboards. David Griffin's unit went first in the division. The dashboards were created to allow licensing staff and management to monitor progress in certain key areas at any time.

David Griffin and Kelli Hilburn presented the following Licensing Dashboards:

- Licensing Application Overview
- Pending Applications/Aging Applications
- Application Timeliness
- Monitoring Visits
- Licensing Complaints

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is working to release public facing dashboards on the website.

V. Announcements/Action Items

Announcement: Region VI Head Start Association Meeting – January 2019

Announcement: AR Advocates for Children & Family (AACF) Soup Sunday – February 24, 2019

Announcement: HSSCO & AETN Sponsoring: "Dads' Reading on the Carpet" Event-Feb. 16, 2019

Announcement: Infant & Toddler Conference in Tulsa, OK – April 10-12, 2019

Announcement: AHSa Institute in LR, AR Double Tree Hotel/Robinson Center – April 15-18, 2019

Announcement: NHSa Conference in San Antonio, Texas – April 29-May 3, 2019

Announcement: Arkansas Early Childhood Association - October 24-25, Little Rock Focus - Trauma Informed Care

Announcement: Deborah (Debbie) Mayes announced a bill that will possibly be introduced in the legislative session. The bill will focus on providing a tax credit to child care providers.

VI. Adjournment

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Jody Veit-Edrington made a motion to adjourn. Lindsey Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 16, 2019. The location is 700 Main Street, Conference Room A & B.