

**Arkansas Early Childhood Commission Meeting**  
**July 17, 2018**  
**10:00am**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

Members Absent: None

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**I. Call to Order**

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price called the AECC Commissioners' Meeting to order on July 17, 2018 at 10:05 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 April 17, 2018 meeting. A motion was made by Jody Veit-Edrington and seconded by Deborah (Debbie) Mayes. The motion carried.

**III. Old Business**

1. 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 on the 26 million dollars in funds added to the Child Care Development Block Grant, annually. The division has been working to clear the child care assistance waitlist.

Tonya Williams also provided details on future work, focusing on trainings and follow up after training. The following items were mentioned:

- Follow up with programs after training and providing continued support (coaching model).
- Focusing on the relationship aspect in the classroom.
- Support around curriculum and how it is implemented in programs.

Tonya Williams attended a conference for the Build/Hunt Initiative, focusing on infants and toddlers. The division will be reviewing how the staff are engaging families and providers who have infants and toddlers. Also, focusing on providing support and guidance for the providers who are not registered or licensed. Another focus is family engagement, home visiting can play a significant role. Dr. Kathy Pillow Price stated that HIPPY currently has a focus on coaching and new resources are available that could be helpful.

Action Item: Jackie Govan requested data on the number of infant and toddler children the division is serving.

Tonya Williams provided an update on the rules and regulations pasted in May for the changes made in the Developmental Disabilities Day Treatment and Child Health Management Services (CHMS) programs. Tonya asked if anyone would like to be part of a workgroup or serve as an expert witness on this topic, please notify Tonya. Melissa Stone (Director: DHS – Developmental Disability Services) is creating a community workgroup of providers that are representing Developmental Disabilities Day Treatment Programs and Child Health Management Services (CHMS) to work through this transition over the next year.

## 2. Better Beginnings Update:

David Griffin presented documents pertaining to Goal #4, which included maps of Arkansas showing the number of Better Beginnings facilities by level and by county. David shared information pertaining to Goal 1, which provides the infant and toddler capacities by quality level and participation by license type.

David also shared information about the division's current work, focusing on the next levels of Better Beginnings. The focus is on adding more requirements to level 1 and reviewing the option of level 4 and level 5.

Tonya brought attention to the following data on the maps:

- Newton County- all providers are level 3
- Several counties on the map are almost half level 3 providers
- Pulaski 79 of 329 are level 3 providers

## 3. Early Head Start Board Process:

Ted Beck provided details on the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission members being members on the Early Head Start Governing Board. The Early Head Start Governing Board meetings will occur right after the scheduled Arkansas Early Childhood Commission meetings.

## 4. HSSCO/AHSA Updates:

Jackie Govan provided a hand out with the following updates/information:

- Statewide T-shirt Design and Sale
- School Readiness in Arkansas
- Arkansas Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership
- Children and Adolescent Service Program (CASSP)
- Equity Leaders Action Network (LAN) Project
- Arkansas Early Childhood Commission
- Arkansas Home Visiting Network
- Arkansas Fatherhood Initiative
- Arkansas Better Beginnings
- Professional Development in Arkansas

- Family Engagement Guide and Framework
- Welcome the Children
- Addressing Homelessness
- Arkansas Court Team
- Arkansas K-2 Assessment
- Arkansas Oral Health Coalition
- HSSCO Reports
- HSSCO Meetings
- Arkansas Medicaid Benefits
- NHSA/AHSA
- Office of Head Start
- Region VI Head Start Association
- Region VI/Louisiana Institute
- Region VI Membership
- Region VI Website
- AHSA Class
- Arkansas Institute Activities
- AHSA Board Involvement
- State Health Advisory Network
- Head Start Fact Sheet

#### **IV. New Business**

##### 1. Data Workgroup:

Tonya Williams stated the idea of this work group started because of the enrollment discussion. Jody Veit-Edrington suggested that the Ounce group members be the members in the data work group. The commission members agreed.

#### **V. Announcements/Action Items**

Action Item- Provide infant and toddler data on the number of infant and toddler children served by DCCECE.

Action Items- Sara Norwood will send letters to request to new appointments for expired or vacant positions. Commissioners who have expired appointments will reapply online at Arkansas.gov.

Announcement: Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA) conference starts October 10, 2018.

Announcement: Arkansas Home Visiting (AHVN) annual conference is November 5-6, 2018.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Jody Veit-Edrington made a motion to adjourn. Kim Whitman seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

## **VII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 16, 2018. The location is 700 Main Street, Resource Center.