

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission

April 18, 2017

10:00am

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Amy Denton, Debbie Mays, Dr. Matthew Nix, Jody Veit-Edrington, Jackie Govan, Ryan Clayborn, Shirley Pulliam, Talicia Richardson, Stacy Smith

Members Absent: Charisse Childers, Kim Whitman, Michelle Barnes, Debbie Tacket, Dr. Kathy Collins, Senator Caldwell, Evelyn Bass, Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price

I. Call to Order

Jody Veit-Edrington called the AECC Commissioners' Meeting to order on April 18, 2017 at 10:10 a.m. Jody Veit-Edrington read the AECC's mission statement. Marna Calvert, a guest of Jackie Govan, was introduced from the Head Start Dallas Regional office.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 2017

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2017 meeting. A motion was made by Debbie Mays and seconded by Jackie Govan. The motion carried.

III. Old Business

1. DCCECE Commissioner Report:

Tonya Williams provided a written report of the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education 2017 goals. Tonya Williams stated the division would continue to update the commission on the goals with a written commissioner report at each meeting. Tonya Williams reviewed the goals with the commissioners.

2. DCCECE Staff Update:

Arlene Rose introduced Michael Watlington (Human Resources), Ashley Green (Finance, Professional Development, ABC), Cindy Engles (Preschool Development Grant Manager), Onika Luster (Licensing Supervisor), and Sharra Singleton-Litzey (Licensing Supervisor).

Arlene Rose announced that Thomas "Tom" Sheppard will be joining the DCCECE team as an Assistant Director in the Health and Nutrition unit. He will be introduced at the July meeting.

3. Better Beginnings/CPR and First Aid Data Update:

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.

Beverly Wright provided an update on CPR/First Aid Alternative Compliance Plans. Currently, approximately 10% of providers have alternative compliance plans for the CPR/First Aid regulations 300.306.5 and 300.307.5 from the Minimum Licensing Books for Child Care Centers and Out of School Time Facilities. There are approximately 90% of Child Care Centers and Out of School Time Facilities that meet the CPR/First Aid regulations 300.306.5 and 300.307.5 from the Minimum Licensing Books.

4. Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grant:

Brandy Ishmon presented an update on the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grant. DCCECE submitted an application for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership funds in August 2016. DCCECE received a Notice of Award from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for \$3,801,625.00.

DCCECE has released a Request for Application (RFA) to fund Head Start/Early Head Start agencies to establish Community Hubs. Through a partnership with DCCECE, the Community Hubs, which are the Head Start/Early Head Start Grantees, will partner directly with child care providers to:

- provide comprehensive services
- create, support, and monitor quality improvement plans to move providers to full implementation of Head Program Performance Standards within 18 months from the start of the grant award, and
- address the needs of families as outlined in the Head Start Program Performance Standards

5. Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership/Head Start:

Jackie Govan provided the following updates:

- New Head Start Program Performance Standards- Jackie Govan shared information about revised Head Start Performance standards. Jackie Govan provided a copy to DCCECE and the commission chair.
- 2017 Region VI Head Start Association Conference- Schedule for August 27-31, 2017 at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center.
- Equity Leaders Action Network (ELAN) Project Update- The Equity Advisory Council sent out statewide equity surveys and received the following results. Surveys include:
 - Parents- 921
 - Teachers- 262
 - Administrators- 67
 - Self-Assessment- 168

69 additional surveys will be added to the parent survey results after the cafes have been completed. The cafes have been facilitated throughout the state and will continue until the first of May. The ELAN advisory council will review the surveys and the notes from the Equity Cafes and provide recommendations to the Legislators. Jackie Govan stated a full report will be provided to the commissioners at the July meeting.

- School Readiness Summit- Scheduled for October 17, 2017. Meeting will include the same

attendees as last year, facilitated by funding from the Kellogg grant. Grant concludes October 31, 2017. Grantees will be able to get more funds to do local activities that are focused on school readiness, data analysis and transitional alignment.

IV. New Business

1. Legislative Update:

Tonya Williams provided a legislative update on the following Acts created in 2017.

- Act 540- Reduces and streamlines boards and commissions, specifically reduces AECC from 25 to 11 members
- Act 576- Allows DCCECE to promulgate rules
- Act 572- Background check requirements
- Act 365- State employee compensation plan

2. ABC Longitudinal Study (Act 49 Update):

Sarah Argue provided an update on the ABC Longitudinal Study (Act 49 Update). Items currently in progress:

- 2016 outcome Reports (Three ABC Cohorts, 2009, 2010, 2011)
- Return on Investment Analysis (Does not include cost of Special Education and other additional services)
- QuickLooks Updates (Updating Qualls results thorough 2016, District and Center Based)

V. Summary/Announcements

- **ACTION ITEM:** DCCECE will provide commission change details in regards to Act 540 after being informed by DHS Chief Counsel.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Provide Education Acts passed in 2017.

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to adjourn. Shirley Pulliam made a motion to adjourn. Jackie Govan seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 11, 2017. The location is 700 Main Street, Conference Room A & B.