

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission
July 11, 2017
10:00am
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Amy Denton, Debbie Mays, Dr. Kathy Collins, Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price (Lecole White-proxy), Evelyn Bass, Jody Veit-Edrington, Kim Whitman, Michelle Barnes (via phone), Ryan Clayborn, Shirley Pulliam

Members Absent: Debbie Tacket, Dr. Charisse Childers, Dr. Matthew Nix, Jackie Govan, Lindsey Jones, Stacy Smith, Talicia Richardson

I. Call to Order

Jody Veit-Edrington called the AECC Commissioners' Meeting to order on July 11, 2017 at 10:10 a.m. Jody Veit-Edrington read the AECC's mission statement.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 2017

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2017 meeting. A motion was made by Evelyn Bass and seconded by Debbie Mays. The motion carried.

Commissioner Introduction: Lindsey Jones has been appointed by Senator Jane English to serve as the representative for Senate Committee on Education. Lindsey was unable to attend the meeting.

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 report at each meeting.

Tonya Williams shared that the division attended the Legislative Joint Peer Review (JPR) meeting on July 10, 2017 to review state laws and Child Care/Early Childhood Education licensing rules/regulations.

Division staff joined the Legislative Joint Peer Review (JPR) committee members on July 11, 2017 at 7:15am at Washington Magnet Elementary School, to help serve breakfast in the school cafeteria to low-income children who have qualified for the Summer Food Service Program.

2. Act 540 Update:

Tonya Williams provided a handout with the commissioners who will be holding positions based on Act 540 passed in the 2017 Legislative session. Tonya Williams thanked the commissioners for their service and encouraged non-commissioners to attend future meeting and provide knowledge and insight in the Early Childhood Education field.

3. DCCECE Staff Update:

Tonya Williams introduced Thomas “Tom” Sheppard (Assistant Director- Health and Nutrition) and Tiyanika “Ty” Keller (Administrator- Policy).

4. Better Beginnings/CPR and First Aid Data 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 Wright provided an update on CPR/First Aid Alternative Compliances Plans. Currently, approximately 5% of providers have alternative compliance plans (as compared to 10% in April 2017) 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 95% 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.

Beverly Wright encouraged the commissioners to visit the Better Beginnings (www.arbetterbeginnings.com) website because it has been updated with many resources for parents and providers.

Debbie Mays suggested using the Professional Development Registry (PDR) as a tool for providers to possible request CPR/First Aid training in their area.

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

Brandy Ishmon presented an update on the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grant. The DCCECE Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant Model includes the use of Community Hubs. These Hubs will partner directly with child care providers to assist them in increasing program quality through implementation of the Head Start Performance Standards. Three Head Start/Early Head Start programs were selected through a Request for Applications process to serve as Community Hubs. DCCECE will present grants with the following organizations for approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council Review Committee.

- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (20 slots)
- Northcentral Arkansas Development Council, Inc. (40 slots)
- Community Services Office, Inc. (108 slots)

IV. New Business

1. Summer Food Program Update:

Thomas “Tom” Sheppard provided an update on the Summer Food Services Program (SFSP).

SFSP Approved Applications	110
SFSP Approved Sites	528

2. AR Workforce Knowledge and Competencies for Early Childcare and Education Professionals (WKC):

Paige Cox, Deniece Honeycutt, and Marietta Baltz provided an update on the progress for the AR Workforce Knowledge and Competencies for Early Child Care and Education Professionals (WKC). The draft WKC was provided to the commissioners prior to the commission meeting via email. The presenters gave credit to Laura Johns, the facilitator with the National Office of Child Care for her assistance with this project.

The following information was provided:

- About the Revision Process
 - Members of Work Group
 - Timeline
 - Core Principles
 - To reflect current research on the knowledge and skills teachers and administrators need to support early learning and development
 - To align with NAEYC Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation
 - To align with Arkansas ELDS
 - Focus on teacher/administrator competencies needed to support children’s development and learning
 - Support maintenance of a culturally and linguistically diverse workforce
 - Ensure vertical and horizontal progression of skills and knowledge
- Document Organization
 - Eight Key Content Areas Organized by Competencies
 - Three Levels (Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced)
 - Organized
 - Alignment to Early Learning and Development Standards
 - Commitment to Equity
 - Administrative Competencies NAEYC Program Administrator Definition and Competencies -
 - School Age Competencies - Core Knowledge and Competencies for Afterschool and Youth Development Professionals.
- Next Steps
 - Approval Process
 - Graphic Design
 - Promotion, Dissemination/Communication Plan, Professional Development

V. Summary/Announcements

- **ACTION ITEM:** No action items

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to adjourn. Kim Whitman made a motion to adjourn. Shirley Pulliam seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 17, 2017. The location is 700 Main Street, Conference Room A & B.