

**Recorded Minutes  
of the  
Arkansas Early Childhood Commission Meeting  
October 17, 2006**

**Commissioner Member:**

Members Present:

Debbie Malone, Chair, Janice Dancer, Dr. Bruce Cohen, Karen Massey, Dr. Jaon Harper, Karen Marshall, Dr. Paul Human, Jerry Hudlow, Barbara Gilkey, Brian Faulkner, Jody Veit-Edrington, Suellen Ward

Members Absent: Laura Sparks, Dr. Doretha Davis, Dee Cox, Hallie Sanford, Dr. Richard Nugent

**I. Call to Order**

The October 2006, meeting of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission was called to order by Debbie Malone, Chair of the commission. A quorum was noted. Mission statement was read by Chair.

**II. Approval of Minutes, October 17, 2006**

Motion made by Karen Massey and seconded by Barbara Gilkey to accept the minutes.

**III. Director's Report**

Tonya Russell introduced the new members on commission, Dr. Richard Nugent and Dee Cox. She also mentioned a research opportunity for NIEER to research effectiveness of state Pre-K for at risk students. She encouraged input and evaluation on this topic as by commissioners.

**IV. Old Business**

A. Follow Up

1. Family Support Unit Update

Voucher application timeline (see handout). ESS- Serving over 5,000 children and there are currently 600 on the waiting list at this time. Ivory stated that the Family Support Unit policy is being revised and drafted.

2. AECPCDC Evaluation update

Donna Alliston gave an update the AECPCDC evaluation. Programs totaling over 400 individual classrooms have agreed to allow evaluation visits to be made using the Arnett Caregiver Interaction Scale, the Environmental Rating Scale and if a center based program the PAS (Program Administration Scale). Karen Marshall asked how Arnett is going to be used. Tonya Russell replied that right now it's being used for research and

evaluation. Donna Alliston stated that the full evaluation report is due to come out September 2007.

## **V. Informational Items**

### **A. New Staff Introduction**

Doug William, Licensing supervisor introduced Kara Mohart as a new licensing specialist. Monica Barfield Licensing unit introduced Kevin Nicholson as the Document Examiner II for licensing clerical unit. Paula Lazenby ABC Unit introduced Jamala Wade as the new contract officer for Program Development.

### **B. Program Support- Kathy Stegall**

Kathy Stegall reported that the Arkansas Out-of-School Network (AOSN) has developed strategic plan for the next two years – see handout. Guaranteed loan fund council will be reviewing this Friday. The Guarantee Loan Annual report will be presented to the AR Legislative Council on Friday. There are currently three actives loans and no defaults occurred with in the past 12 months.

Debbie Malone addressed insurance for small businesses. DHHS is implementing a pilot program offering insurance to small businesses. Initially they will start with 15,000 and will try to offer up to 80,000. The DHHS is implementing a pilot program offering insurance to small businesses is between 2 to 500 employees.

### **C. Arkansas Better Chance – Jamie Morrison/ Paul Lazenby**

Copy of rules and regulations – see handout. A video teleconference was held on October 7 200 to 250 people attended. Paul Lazenby discussed policy clarification and the raising the standards that are now in place. 5.5 are required for the environmental rating scales. Any program between 5.0 and 5.5 are able to continue without review. Paul stated that the goal is to make sure all consultants are reliable. There are currently 8 that have been certified. To score reliable you have to follow a person that is reliable and score 85% over three visits to be certified.

### **D. SNP Update- Curtis Curry**

Over 850,000 meals were served over the summer months. Two Hundred sites during summer –hand out shows funding June was the high month. SNP staff conducted over 150 compliances and currently has one full training day per month.

Debbie Malone asked Curtis to explain how a new center can come under the umbrella of old centers. Curtis explained in the past in order for a program to come under USDA they had to be a daycare for six months. He explains that presently the centers can be under sponsorship for one year.

Tonya Russell asked what the responsibility of being a sponsor is. Curtis replied, they have to provide oversight, must attend responsibility training, and they must be reviewed three times a year. They must also have 50% of free and reduced meals to qualify.

Karen Marshall asked Curtis to share information about the online application. Curtis explained they received money to go online with their application. They have been set up with NG to set up an online application. The application will be ready in February 2007. Dr. Bruce Cohen asked if there was a list of the sites. Curtis replied not at the present time.

#### **E. Licensing Update David Griffin**

There has been a delay in the selection process for new Appeal Panel members because of the high number of applicants. The measures taken in the e-coli outbreak in Crawford County were discussed. The licensing unit worked with the Division of Health to resolve the matter. The facility voluntarily closed for six days and training was provided for facility and staff members. The Licensing unit talked with parents to ensure their children did not have any symptoms upon returning. Tim Lampe mentioned that the process on the tablets has been slow because the installation of security system called Syber Angel.

#### **F. Finance Report- Sam Lamey**

DCCECE request \$1.6 million to replace the beer tax which ends June 30, 2007. DCCECE has submitted this as addition GR (General Revenue) request. Tonya Russell stated the GR Request will be a replacement of beer tax funding. There will be no new revenue and no new programs. Budget was discussed for Division of Early Childhood Education – see handout

#### **G. Compliance market rate survey- Tim Lampe**

Update on revised State Medium Income and the impact on Family Support program. An update on Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education information technology strategic plan for SFY's 2008/2009 was given. Childcare voucher County Cap rates were discussed along with the client minimum wage analysis- see handout

#### **H. Early Childhood Health- Martha Hiatt**

Implementation of the Early Childhood Initiative is proceeding as planned. Two new coordinators were introduced, David Cook and Kristie Williams. The Childcare Health Coordinators met with ABC staff to help create linkages and promote collaboration at both the state and community level. - see handout.

#### **VI. Other Business**

VII. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2007. Motion to adjourn  
Suellen Ward and seconded by