

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

Commission Members Present:

Members Present: Jerry Hudlow, Karen Marshall, Debbie Malone, Dr. Paul Human, LaCher Rockins, Barbara Gilkey, Dr. Joan Harper, Hallie Sanford, Susan Underwood, Karen Massey, Bruce Cohen, Debra Davis, Suellen Ward

Members Absent: Jody Veit-Edrington, Brian Faulkner, Laura Sparks

The quarterly meeting of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission was called to order by Tonya Russell, Director of the DCCECE in the absence of a chairperson.

Dr. Harper gave a report from the Nominating Committee which met via conference call on Friday, November 18, 2005. Dr. Harper agreed to serve as Committee Chairperson and called the meeting to order. A review of the results of the survey conducted to poll commissioners about their interest in serving as Commission Chairperson was given. Karen Massey then nominated Debbie Malone for the position and Hallie Sanford seconded the motion. Discussion of Debbie's experience in the field ensued and the Committee agreed to recommend her to the Board.

As the current statute does not include other officers, the Nominating Committee discussed utilizing past chairs in the event that the Chairperson is absent. The DCCECE will utilize a recorder and have staff assigned to take minutes. Dr. Harper agreed to serve as reviewer of the minutes.

Dr. Joan Harper made the motion to accept the Nominating Committee's report. It was seconded and carried.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved by Commission members.

Tonya Russell provided a written report to Commissioners. She discussed the early childhood work group recommendations (see attachment) to be shared with the Public Health, Welfare and Labor Interim Committee on Thursday, January 18. While the work initially began over Head Start concerns of losing federal dollars due to under-enrollment, early childhood staff from other types of programs are participating on the work group.

Two vacancies still exist on the commission-representation by Division of Health and legislative appointee by chair of House Education. Letters have been sent for appointments for these vacancies. Lee Vent was recognized for his ten years of service to the Early Childhood Commission.

Program Support/ ABC Update

Kathy Stegall provided an update AR Children's Week scheduled to kickoff on April 2, 2006 at the Clinton Library starting at 2:30pm. She also shared the Governor's Family Friendly luncheon information scheduled for April 10, 2006, 11:30am at the Peabody Hotel. Russ Harrington, CEO of Baptist Health, will be the speaker.

Paul Lazenby presented a power point update on Arkansas Better Chance that will be presented to the Interim Education Committee in February. Paul introduced Jamie Morrison, the new ABC Administrator.

Special Nutrition -No major changes.

Family Support -Ivory Daniels reported that staff is working on a streamlined application process to decrease the amount of time and paperwork for families and staff. He also indicated that Hurricane Victims are being transferred to the appropriate child care funding.

Licensing - David Griffin reported that all convictions can be shared with licensed and registered facilities not just prohibited offenses. Criminal hits (prohibited conviction) and child maltreatment hits will continue to be handled in the same manner.

Compliance- Tim Lampe reported on SNP Web- based system, initial design document completion for Web July 2007. The SNP Web-based for CACFP, SFSP and NSLP. Mr. Lampe also reported on childcare billing duplication payment plan; the purpose to recover approximately \$1,040,686 in child care duplicate payment made to 521 child care providers on July 11, 2005. Current status \$62,768.77 remains to be collected from 42 Providers.

Finance Report- Sam Lamey reported RRR requested was approved by legislative Council. All COIs and Non GR documents have been completed along with the OFM-1026 coding forms to move personnel to DCCECE cost center.

Health- Martha Hiatt- Report on new planning grant "Start Healthy and Stay Healthy" submitted to Gerber.

Announcement:

Meeting adjourned.