

**Arkansas Early Childhood Commission**  
**January 17, 2017**  
**10:00am**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Amy Denton, Evelyn Bass, Debbie Mays, Dr. Charisse Childers (proxy-Kathy Turner), Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price, Dr. Matthew Nix, Jody Veit-Edrington, Jackie Govan, Kim Whitman, Michelle Barnes (telephone), Ryan Clayborn (telephone), Shirley Pulliam, Talicia Richardson (telephone), Stacy Smith (proxy-Cindy Hogue)

Members Absent: Ava Coleman, Debbie Tacket, Dr. Kathy Collins, Gene Roebuck, Senator Caldwell

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## **I. Call to Order**

Jody Veit-Edrington called the AECC Commissioners' Meeting to order on January 17, 2017 at 10:12 a.m. Amy Denton read the AECC's mission statement. Jody requested that all guests introduce themselves to the commissioners. Sara Norwood called role for the commissioners.

## **II. Approval of Minutes from October 2016**

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Kathy Pillow-Price and seconded by Shirley Pulliam. The motion carried.

## **III. Old Business**

### **1. Elect Commission Chair:**

Amy Denton and Talicia Richardson are the two commissioners on the nominating committee. Amy Denton presenting that the nominating committee chose Jody Veit-Edrington for their chair nomination. Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to approve the chair selection as Jody Veit-Edrington for the next two years. A motion was made by Shirley Pulliam and seconded by Debbie Mays. The motion carried.

### **2. DCCECE Commissioner Report/2017 DCCECE Goals:**

Tonya Williams provided a written report of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission goals. Tonya provided the DCCECE 2017 Goals to the commissioners, in a draft form. Tonya stated that the goals will be in draft form until the division is able to add specific metrics to measuring the success of the goals.

ACTION ITEM: Sara Norwood will provide the DCCECE 2017 Goals final version when available. The final DCCECE 2017 Goals document will provide details as it relates to each of the commission goals.

### **3. Legislative Package:**

Tonya Williams stated that DCCECE would provide the commissioners with any legislation that affects DCCECE or the commission.

4. DCCECE Staff Updates:

Arlene Rose introduced Micah Schmidt, a program manager in the family support unit.

Arlene provided the following update on the Expulsion and Suspension efforts: Since launch of the BehaviorHelp Response system on July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, a total of 160 referrals for assistance have been received. Efforts are ongoing to expand collaborations and coordination with providers and partners on the response system. In December, the Division submitted an application with The Center of Excellence Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation to receive technical assistance over a 3-year period to help further engage mental health consultants on the prevention of expulsion and suspension in early childhood settings. Decisions on which states will be selected for technical assistance will be made no later than January 31, 2017.

Arlene shared information on the new DHS positions that are currently being advertised and encouraged commissioners to ask qualified applicants to apply. The positions include the following:

- Position #22161853, C119, Arkansas Better Chance, Research and Statistics Supervisor
- Position #22098887, C117, Licensing, DHS Program Coordinator
- Position #22165524, C125, Health and Nutrition Unit, Asst. Director, Operations and Program Support
- Position #22109916, C117, Director's Office, DHS Program Coordinator

5. 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 Compliances Plans. There are only 187 (9.75 %) current alternative compliances 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 1918 (90.25%) 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.

6. Professional Development Registry Update:

Paige Cox stated that the Arkansas Professional Development Registry (PDR) is scheduled to launch in January 2017. The Professional Development Registry (PDR) and the Traveling Arkansas Professional Pathways (TAPP) will both be used for the first 6 months. There will

be a data transfer from the Traveling Arkansas Professional Pathways (TAPP) to the Professional Development Registry (PDR) but it is encouraged that contractors, trainers and trainees sign up to the new registry as soon as it is available. July 1, 2017 Traveling Arkansas Professional Pathways (TAPP) will close.

ACTION ITEM: Sara Norwood will provide the commissioners with a link to the Professional Development Registry (PDR) when available for registration.

7. Arkansas Better Chance Update:

Mary Kaye McKinney provided an update on the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program. The Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program has revised the Renewal Grant Application for distribution by January 18 via the Child Outcomes Planning and Assessment (COPA) website. The application will be due by the February 17<sup>th</sup> to allow for review and approval of the updated details. Requests to renew applications will be presented to the AR Department of Education State Board no later than April. A competitive application will be released in the event there are any slots for reallocation. Governor Hutchinson held an education press conference on December 8, 2016 and placed an additional \$3 million in Pre-K funding for 2018-2019. The focus is to improve the quality (teacher quality, innovation and training) in the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program, for current programs.

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

Jackie Govan provided the following updates:

- Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) - The Head Start State Collaboration Office is working with Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) to compile assessment data on our Head Start programs. Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) is a reliable and valid assessment that measures the knowledge, skills and behaviors most predictive of school readiness (social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and math) (handout). These are six areas of the 9 domains of development in the new Child Development Early Learning Standards (CDELS). Jackie started with eight Head Start programs and now has expanded to 12. The next report will provide scores for gender and race.
- New Head Start Program Performance Standards- Jackie Govan shared information about revised Head Start Performance standards.
- Delaying Compliance Date on Background Checks- In the Federal Register, the Office of Head Start released a notice that will delay the compliance date for background check procedures, which was originally described in the Head Start Program Performance Standards final rule that was published in the Federal Register on September 6, 2016. The new effective date of September 30, 2017 aligns with background check requirement deadlines for systems in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014, 20 U.S.C 1434 et seq., 20. It also will afford programs more time to implement systems in accordance with these requirements.
- Head Start Monitoring Protocols- The Office of Head Start (OHS) is using monitoring protocols to gather data during review events. These instruments are used to gather information to assess core performance areas of Head Start and Early Head Start grantees. Reviews are held for the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), Early

Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP), and Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance (ERSEA). The Office of Head Start uses the information to determine program strengths, concerns, areas of noncompliance, and deficiencies. The 2017 Head Start Monitoring protocol has been revised to align with the new Head Start Program Performance Standards.

- 2017 Arkansas Head Start Association (AHSA)/Region 6 Association's 5-State Institute- (handout) Scheduled for August 27-31 at the Marriott Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas.

#### 9. Equity Leaders Action Network ELAN Project Update:

Jackie Govan provided an update on the Equity Leaders Action Network (ELAN) project. The Equity Advisory Council is working diligently to complete the statewide equity survey and teacher self-assessment. These will be sent out in March to parents, teachers, administrators, and parents to complete. The advisory committee will also be reviewing equity policies in the early childhood areas. It will be followed by statewide equity cafes in five locations across the state to go deeper and identify what racial and equity issues programs are faced with across the state. A proposal will be sent to the Kellogg Foundation to pay for this work across the state. Jackie will be presenting to the joint committee on Education in May or April of 2017 to provide awareness of the project and again next year to share the findings from the surveys, cafes, and self-assessment. At this time, if there are equity issues that call for policy changes, those recommendations will be made in 2018.

The Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Conference sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation has declared Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> as a day of Racial Healing. It is an effort to advance racial healing in communities across the country to create an environment where all children can thrive. The desired outcome is to focus on transformation in American and in Arkansas. It will provide a collective commitment and a long-term determination to embrace a new narrative for the state/nation, a belief in our common humanity.

Jackie Govan provided a handout with information on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) part B and preventing racial discrimination in special education programs.

#### 10. Arkansas Fatherhood initiative Update:

Jackie Govan provided an update on the Arkansas Fatherhood Initiative. The team is currently working on a statewide Fatherhood Mentoring Program whereby the team will go to high schools to mentor fathers who have children in early childhood (birth to 8). The team is working with Sidney Moncrief and his team. Moncrief is pulling mentors together in each region of the state (Blytheville (Mississippi County), Pine Bluff (Jefferson County), Helena/W. Helena (Phillips County), Texarkana (Miller County), and Waldron (Scott County). Training will be conducted for the mentors on a research-based early childhood fatherhood curriculum. The team plans to begin in the spring of 2017.

#### 11. School Readiness Teams:

Jackie Govan informed the commission that another grant from the Kellogg Foundation has been received to work with our school readiness teams in Arkansas and to put

money on the local levels to assist with involving parents, conducting collaborative activities to improve transitional alignment, and to continue with the networking and working with other agencies. A meeting with local team members was held November 8, 2016 to collaborate and make plans to work in their local communities on school readiness, transition, and data systems. The summit provides teams with state resources (family engagement, Child Development Early Learning Standards, and KRIC) they could use in their local communities.

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

1. Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist:

Deniece Honeycutt and Dee Cox presented the Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist for teachers and parents (handout) to the commissioners. Dee Cox stated that the checklists were aligned with the new Child Development Early Learning Standards.

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to approve the Kindergarten Readiness Indicator Checklist for teachers and parents. A motion was made by Jackie Govan and seconded by Shirley Pulliam. The motion carried.

#### **V. Summary/Announcements**

- **ACTION ITEM:** Sara Norwood will provide the DCCECE 2017 Goals final version when available. The final DCCECE 2017 Goals document will provide details as it relates to each of the commission goals.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Sara Norwood will provide the commissioners with a link to the Professional Development Registry (PDR) when available for registration.

#### **VI. Announcements**

Jackie Govan provided the following announcements:

- Cross Sectional Study of Early Childhood Education on Food Insecurity- <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/iA67pzAsT5BEPWySrMtR/full>
- National Head Start Association Winter Leadership Institute- Washington D.C. on January 23-26, 2017.
- Arkansas Mission of Mercy (ARMOM)- Dental care located in Jonesboro at Arkansas State University Convocation Center on April 27-29, 2017.
- Family Credential Trainers- Located in Madison, Wisconsin at Pyle Center on July 31-August 4, 2017.
- National Birth to 5 Leadership Institute- Located in Chicago, Illinois at the McCormick Place Convention Center on April 6-7, 2017.
- National Head Start Association 2017 Annual Conference Expo- Located in Chicago, Illinois at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on April 7-10, 2017.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Annual International Fatherhood Conference- Information TBA

Debbie Mays provided the following announcement:

- Kids Count Day- January 31, 2017 at the Arkansas Capitol, Rally at 8:30am.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Jody Veit-Edrington asked for a motion to adjourn. Kathy Pillow-Price made a motion to adjourn. Jackie Govan seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

## **VII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 18, 2017. The location is 700 Main Street, Conference Room A & B.