

**Arkansas Early Childhood Commission**  
**October 21, 2014**  
**10:00am**  
**Minutes**

Members Present: Jackie Govan, Marsha Masters, Dr. Matthew Nix, Amy Denton, Evelyn Bass, Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price, Dr. Chad Rogers, Kaye Murry, Ava Coleman, Dr. Glenda Ezell, Michelle Barnes, Rhonda Ahrent, Kelley Smith, Dr. Jill Fussel (Via Conference Line), Jody Veit-Edrington, Gene Roebuck

Members Absent: Nickie Hammontree, Diane Green, Shirley Pulliam, Debbie Tacket, Barbara Warren, Patricia Lucas, Marylene Tate

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**I. Call to Order**

Jackie Govan called the AECC Conference Call to order on October 21, 2014 at 10:07 a.m. A quorum of members were present. Jackie read the AECC's Mission statement and shared a quote by Claudius Ptolemy to set the stage for the meeting.

**II. Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2014**

Jackie Govan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2014 meeting. A motion was made by Jody Veit-Edrington and seconded by Rhonda Ahrent. The motion carried.

Before moving to old business, Jackie asked new commissioner Gene Roebuck to introduce his guests Senator John Cooper and Senator Cooper's wife. Senator Cooper is from Bono, Arkansas.

**III. Old Business.**

1. AECC By-Laws:

Jackie Govan reviewed the AECC's By-Laws reminding commissioners of their roles and responsibilities towards attendance. She also shared information on all previous correspondence received and conference calls.

2. Standing Committees:

There were no reports from the Finance Committee, Appeal Panel, or the . Better Beginnings Appeal Selection. Jackie did share information in the absence of Chair Nickie Hammontree and open the floor for nominees who would be interested in running for office. Marsha Masters nominated Jody Veit-Edrington as chair and Jody Vet-Edrington nominated Amy Denton as

co-chair. Information will be shared with the nomination chair in order to prepare her slate of officers for the next AECC meeting.

3. Better Beginnings/QRIS:

Vickie Matthews provided a report showing continued growth for Better Beginnings sites. Vickie also provided a document showing how many **Better Beginnings** facilities are in each county. Centers are encouraged to move up levels to increase quality care.

4. ECE PD Registry Update:

Paige Cox presented an updated on the revisions to the professional development registry. TAPP is still currently utilized by providers until the revised system is ready. Paige Cox also shared information on the 1<sup>st</sup> professional development steering committee meeting on September 16, 2014. Next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2014. Jackie Govan would like to see the commissioners involved in these meetings. Jackie Govan requested commissioners to email Paige Cox if interested.

5. Statewide Fatherhood Initiative:

Ivory Daniels presented on the statewide Fatherhood Initiative. Ivory Daniels provided documents with information regarding the initiative. Ivory Daniels stated that he was delighted to be a part of this initiative and wants to help reverse the trend by educating fathers. He provided the mission statement and researched facts (nutrition, emotional confidence, high self-esteem, violence, brain development, heightened school readiness, expressing feelings, strong foundation skills) directly related to the initiative. Ivory Daniels provided information about the activities for the Arkansas Rally on November 1, 2014 at the Arkansas State Capitol. He also provided information regarding the t-shirts that can be purchased for the rally. Ivory Daniels provided the initiative survey and stated that over 400 need assessment surveys have been submitted to the HSSCO for analysis.

6. Early Head Start/Head Start Update

Jackie provided an updates on the EHS/Head Start programs in Arkansas. She shared that Head Start would be celebrating 50 years of empowering children and families in 2015. She invited all commissioners to attend the AHSA's State Institute on March 17-20, 2015. Dr. Becky Bailey is scheduled to be one of the guest speakers for the institute. The institute will be held in Hot Springs, AR at the Arlington Hotel.

Jackie also shared that the Designation Renewal list would be out soon identifying EHS/Head Start programs that will be up for re-competition.

7. Kellogg Grant

Tonya provided an update on the Kellogg Foundation funding received by Arkansas. The grant is a one million dollar grant focusing on three areas:

- (1) Creating a statewide family engagement framework,
- (2) Combining the Early Learning Standards into one continuum document for children birth to five, and
- (3) Researching and recommending an appropriate Kindergarten Entry Assessment.

The grant will also allow us to hire a statewide Parent Coordinator.

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

1. Saving Saratoga Schools

Jackie Govan received a letter from the superintendent of Saratoga School District wanting the commission to know how long the children will be on the bus if they have to commute to another school. School closed due to low enrollment numbers. The commissioners discussed and shared information regarding the school district. Gene Roebuck agreed to get information on enrollment in that area.

2. Recognition of the 2014 Outstanding Early Childhood Professionals:

Paige Cox introduced the four Arkansas Early Childhood Professionals and read their biography summary. Paula White was in attendance and spoke to the commission stating that she loves her job and working with children.

3. Arkansas Preschool Development-Expansion Grant

Tonya shared an update on the submission of the Preschool Development Expansion grant. AR is writing for \$15 million which will allow the state to serve more 4 year olds at or below 200% FPL. Many partners have been involved. The announcement will be made in December.

4. USDA Food, Nutrition, & Feeding Program:

Dr. William Lackey presented guidelines for the USDA Food, Nutrition, and Feeding Program and asked for approval. The motion was made by Diane Green and seconded by Dr. Chadwick Rogers. The motion carried.

**V. Summary/Announcements**

Jackie Govan opened the floor for commissioners to share upcoming events, announcements, or other information that would benefit the members.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

**VI. Request for Adjournment**

Jackie Govan asked for a motion to adjourn. Jody Veit-Edrington made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Matthew Nix seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:21a.m.