

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission Meeting
October 16, 2018
10:00am
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Deborah (Debbie) Mayes, Ryan Clayborn, Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price, Jody Veit-Edrington, Kim Whitman, Lindsey Jones

Members Absent: Dr. Kathy Collins, Senator Will Bond

I. Call to Order

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price called the AECC Commissioners' Meeting to order on October 16, 2018 at 10:07 a.m. Kathy read the AECC's mission statement.

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 2018 meeting. A motion was made by Lindsey Jones and seconded by Deborah (Debbie) Mayes. The motion carried.

III. Old Business

1. DCCECE Commissioner Report:

Tonya Williams provided a written report of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission goals. Tonya stated the division would continue to update the commission on the goals with a written report at each meeting. Tonya shared information about the current Preschool Development Grant (PDG) serving 4-year-old children, which will end after this school year. Tonya stated that the division continues to work with programs to focus on sustainability and transition.

The new iteration of the Preschool Development Grant is a state system grant and Arkansas will be focusing on Trauma Informed Care/ACE training for early childhood professionals. DCCECE is currently working with several state partners to complete the grant application for the Preschool Development Grant due November 6, 2018. The PDG B-5 grant targets comprehensive statewide birth through age 5 needs assessment, strategic planning, parental choice and knowledge about mixed delivery systems, and the sharing of best practices prior to the implementation of any quality initiatives that states, and territories identify in a strategic plan developed based on what is learned from their needs assessment.

2. DCCECE Staff Updates:

Beverly Wright introduced Sheronda Vaughn, a new licensing supervisor. Sheronda will be supervising a licensing team in Pulaski County and the Western part of the state toward

Sebastian County.

Tonya Williams introduced Audrey Freshwater, the new Pre-K Manager and Behavior Help Manager. Audrey moved from Tennessee where she was the Williamson County CASA Program Director. She has taught trainings on both local and national level on the importance of understanding trauma in children and has been trained in ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences). Audrey is an Arkansas native.

3. Better Beginnings 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. David shared information pertaining to Goal 1, which provides the infant and toddler capacities by quality level and participation by license type.

Beverly also shared information about the division's current work, focusing on the next levels of Better Beginnings. The focus is currently on adding levels 4, 5 and 6 and updating levels 1, 2 and 3. The goal is to have several options for the higher levels to give the program the flexibility to achieve a higher level based on what is best for each program's size and location.

4. HSSCO/AHSA Updates:

Jackie Govan provided a handout with the Head Start Collaboration 2016 Annual Report. The report combines information from all states in the United States. The report is centered around five priority areas:

- Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnerships
- Data Collection Regarding Early Childhood Programs and Child Outcomes
- Expansion and Access of High Quality Workforce and Career Development Opportunities for Staff
- Collaboration with State Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS)
- Ensuring Continuity between Head Start and Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (KEA)

Jackie also provided a handout with the Professional Development Equity Model with the following levels:

- Public Awareness
- Early Childhood Education Workforce
- Family and Community Connection
- Professionalism and Leadership
- Collaboration and Program Management

Jackie introduced Susan Gaon and Blake Stanberry with Lakeshore. Susan provided information about the services offered beyond items available in the catalogs. Susan shared information on the special education assessment published by Lakeshore.

5. Home Visiting:

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price provided a handout with the AC/AHVN Arkansas Home Visiting Network Current Enrollment and the additional updates below:

- Arkansas Children's/AHVN funds currently provide technical assistance and monitoring for home visiting in 73 of the 75 counties.
- State and federal capacity requirements are 85%.
- SafeCare is being rolled out statewide by region and is still in the startup/implementation phase. The program expects to serve 1,390 families per year when fully staffed and trained statewide.
- Family Connects is currently in the startup phase and is an evidence based universal home visiting program that visits all new moms in the first few weeks after giving birth. The program will be offered in Union County and is financed through private donation. The program will follow a new Parent as Teachers (PAT) program as well.
- AHVN is in the startup contacting phase with a Bi-Lingual provider to provide SafeCare services at the Arkansas Children's South West Little Rock Clinic.
- AHVN is currently working with DHS to discuss funding for home visiting to support pregnant/new mom teens that are in foster care.
- AHVN is currently meeting with the new Fatherhood Initiative grantees to discuss planning/implementing/funding special home visiting group meetings planned just for fathers.
- AHVN submitted a grant proposal to Delta Dental to strengthen early oral health education in our home visiting programs.

6. AECC Chair Selection:

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price requested nominations for the chair selection from the nominating committee (Dr. Kathy Collins and Kim Whitman). Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price was nominated to serve a 2nd year as AECC chair. A motion to approve Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price as chair for a 2nd year was made by Kim Whitman and seconded by Jody Veit-Edrington. The motion passed. Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price will continue to serve as chair until July 1, 2019.

7. AECC Nominating Committee Selection:

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price requested nominations/volunteers for the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission nominating committee. Jody Veit-Edrington and Lindsey Jones volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. A motion to approve Jody Veit-Edrington and Lindsey Jones for the nominating committee was made by Kim Whitman and seconded by Deborah (Debbie) Mays. The motion passed. Jody Veit-Edrington and Lindsey Jones will serve on the nominating committee until January 1, 2019.

IV. New Business

1. Preschool Development Grant (PDG):

Tonya Williams shared information about the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) during the

commissioner report discussion.

V. Announcements/Action Items

Announcement: The Arkansas Home Visiting (AHVN) annual conference is November 5-6, 2018. The conference is currently at full capacity and maintaining a waiting list.

Announcement: The School Readiness Summit is November 12, 2018.

Announcement: The Early Head Start Child Care Partnership meeting on October 25, 2018.

Announcement: Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA) will now be the administrator of TEACH.

Announcement: DCCECE has hired Cathy Liles, part time, to focus on providing professional development/trainings to the education population about supporting children with disabilities. The training will include information on the laws, referrals, next steps, etc.

Announcement: DCCECE is in the process of creating a funding opportunity (appx. 1M) for a public/private partnership to expand quality in early childhood education. This partnership will review the data for Pre-K services and focusing on quality and will have a big focus on infants and toddlers.

VI. Adjournment

Dr. Kathy Pillow-Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Jody Veit-Edrington made a motion to adjourn. Kim Whitman seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 15, 2019. The location is 700 Main Street, Conference Room A & B.