

DELAWARE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Notes

October 11, 2013

Kent-Farmington/Felton Rm. – DelDOT - Dover

Members in Attendance: Jocelyn Stewart, April Hill Addison, Heidi Beck, Cheryl Clendaniel, Harriet Dichter, Mary Kate Mouser, Kim Pridemore, Dan Curry, Carmen Gallagher

Others in Attendance: Doug Tynan, Janet Carter, Paula Holloway, Evelyn Keating, John Fisher-Klein, Ann Maloney, Mary Moor, Verna Thompson, Betty Gail Timm, Debbie Taylor, Kathy Wilson, Michelle Taylor, Shirley Roberts, Barbara McCaffery, Paulina Gyan, Monica Burnett, Freda Collins, Kristin Wilson, Jim Kane, Sue Mitchell, Gwen Sanders and Cora Fuzy

1. Welcome and Introductions were made by Jocelyn Stewart and Carmen Gallagher

2. Approval of Minutes
Minutes from September 13, 2013 meeting were approved.

3. Family Engagement

Doug Tynan – spoke about how “Family Engagement” is too broad and vague. He went through the power point on Parenting & Early Child Program Outcomes. He also spoke about a study on Head Start that shows the Head Start does not work, families that had a slot where asked to participate in the survey and the was no difference in behavior in a Head Start child versus a non-Head Start child.. Strong parenting is the best predictor for child outcomes. Success by Kindergarten must include good parenting skills.

Janet Carter – Family Support Coordination Council - This is a coalition of organizations that include family members, Child Inc., Nemours, Public Health, Prevention & Behavioral, DOE, Lake Forest, 211, DAPI, Prevention Child Abuse. Theirs is a strengthening families approach, it is evidence based on 5 protective factors. There is a focus on parent education. They also have a strong relationship with Help me Grow and the home visiting council. They are looking for a standard between all programs so parents are not getting mixed messages. There is a Birth to 18 approach, and they are seeing if there is more of a need for a Birth to 8 approach.

April Hill-Addison – Head Start – One of their core components is Family Engagement. The Parent, Family Engagement packet was handed out and it included some of the highlights of Head Start. It included the difference between involvement and engagement. There are family service workers at each Head Start location. Head Start is focused on outcomes: 1) Family Well-being 2) Parent-Child Relationships 3) Families as Lifelong Educators 4) Families as learners 5) Family Engagement in Transitions 6) Family Connections with Community and 7) Families as advocates.

Kristen Wilson – Child Development Watch – The children are entered into their system in one of three ways, either by established condition, developmental delay or clinical judgment. The families are referred within 3 days of being evaluated. The family is the core of the program and they are seen without disrupting their daily lives. They can be seen even at home or at the child development center. They educate families and empower the parents.

Paulina Gyan – Help Me Grow – set up in Feb 2012 it has an advisory committee set up with 4 work teams. Family and Community group is charged with promoting Help Me Grow. They have exposed over 200 providers and parents to Help Me Grow. They are having quarterly meetings partnered with OEL and Stars.

Shirley Roberts – DFS – Evidence based practice, OCCL and Child protective services are involved in their Family Engagement. They have received over 17,000 reports to the hotline. They started an outcomes matters committee in 2011. They noticed that they are good in Safety for children but not incorporating best practices. They had a 6 month assessment in which it was concluded that they there was a team decision that working with parents, working with teens aging out of foster care and engaging dads in the process are needed to focus on. They also wanted their staff to learn what family engagement really looked like so everyone was addressing it the same way.

Sue Mitchell - OEL – provided a handout on the 4 Goals that are needed in Family Engagement. They also looked at the Head Start framework.

Everyone agreed that a Framework needs to be in place to get everyone looking at a common thread. They also agreed to have Family Support Council go back and work on the alignment.

4. Early Childhood Dual Enrollment
Sue Mitchell explained how they are looking at getting a Dual enrollment for Early Childhood programs with local HS and Colleges. Some schools now have dual enrollment for general studies and are getting some pilot programs in the Technical Schools. These classes would be available to Juniors and Seniors. They would also have site visits for the 10th grade students so they get a look at the Early Childhood setting so they would know what it would be like.
5. Goal 1 Update
Tabled until next meeting
6. Office of Child Care Licensing Draft Regulations
Betty Gail Timm gave an update; the revision process is available online. She encouraged everyone to look at the draft and give feedback. A task force is being developed to go over the draft. The wording is simplified and definitions were expanded.
7. Open Forum
 - Kim – DAEYC – had over 1000 applications for CORE
 - Janet Carter – If anyone is interested in Family Supporting Council let her know.
 - John - DAYEC – thinking of having Early Childhood career board
 - Debbie Taylor – Drill Weekend Child Care for our Little Heroes, open house on Saturday, November 2nd from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Tender Loving Kare child Care and Learning Center, Peoples Plaza site in Newark, Delaware
 - Help Me Grow is having a diaper drive
9. Next Meeting will be November 1st, Herman Holloway Campus, Willard Springer Jr. Building Classroom 1 & 2, 203 Mitchell Lane, New Castle DE