

Arkansas Head Start Association
Directors Class Meeting
November 15, 2017
1:00PM

Attendees: Barbie Baxter, Sandy Aguirre, Susan Templeton, Kisha Miller, Carol Amundson Lee, Michelle Furlow, Linda Inmon, Jackie Govan, Tonya Williams, Alison Caballero, Maria Ruvalcaba, Alicia Wilkie, Dorothy Jenkins, Pam Draper, Angela Ward, Amy Howard, Cheryl Denson, Sara Wilhite, James Heritage, and Deana Howell.

- I. Jackie Govan called the meeting to order. Initially there was no quorum. After the first guest speaker, attendance increased to support a quorum. The attendance sign-in sheet will serve as roll call. Amy Howard agreed to chair the meeting.
- II. The Consideration of the Agenda resulted in no changes.
- III. The minutes were reviewed. The lack of a quorum at that point resulted in no action taken.
- IV. Guest Speakers:
 - A. Alison Caballero and Maria Ruvalcaba of UAMS provided a presentation on health literacy with a focus of the impact of low healthy literacy in Head Start families. The presentation included ways of communicating with families and the *Plain Pages* service. This new service can help convert materials to lower and easier to understand reading levels. There is a fee. In addition, the pilot *How to Talk to Your Doctor* program and the corresponding handbooks were shared. Grant funding is supporting this project in five counties.
 - B. Tonya Williams, Director, AR DHS- DCCECE provided an update on the EHS-CCP State grant. It was announced that Angela Ward would be representing the state office at all of the meetings. This project is on schedule. In addition, she shared that the state is moving to the new revised edition, ERS 3. (The Third Edition of the ECERS) The state will continue to use the CLASS for reciprocity purposes. She also provided initial data from the work that the state is doing in drilling down on the financial figures in ABC enrollment. The state has been looking at ABC data and it appears as if the ABC programs are serving a very high percentage of the lowest income families. Tonya Williams's office is reviewing this information. In addition, HS staff present shared the concern that it appears that large numbers of children with disabilities and those from ELL families may not be accepted by some ABC programs but are being referred to HS.. Tonya offered to sit down with programs to help facilitate some interagency conversations.
- V. Old Business:
 - A. National/State Legislative Update: There was nothing new to report.
 - B. Dollar per Child: The report was distributed. Programs are encouraged to review their donation information.

- C. Membership Dues: The next invoice date is January 12, 2018.
- D. Report on the Institute/Region VI Conference :

The possibility of merging with the Arkansas Early Childhood Association for our state annual conference has been raised. The Institute Committee discussed this at the morning meeting. This discussion included the suggestions from the Institute Committee. The Region VI conference made \$68,000. This money is shared with the Region. The remaining money is Arkansas's; minus paying, back the Regional front of \$5,000. The state keeps the remainder. The results of the evaluations was shared and there was recognition of the impact of the Hurricane on no- show presenters.

- E. Birthdays were recognized.
- F. Head Start Performance Standards are a standing agenda item, but there was nothing new to discuss.

VI. New Business

- A. The HSSCO Grant Continuation Application will be presented to the board for approval.
- B. ELAN Recommendations were discussed.

VII. Reports

- A. T/TA: No one was able to attend today.
- B. Arkansas Early Childhood Commission: Our representative was not present and thus there was no report presented.
- C. Head Start Collaboration Office Report: Jackie Govan presented a comprehensive report that included information on homelessness, behavioral health and the rules around suspension and expulsions. Behavioral health will be on the agenda in January. There are concerns about the ability of Project Play to continue to serve the HS programs. Several programs have received notices that the services will no longer be provided. The group was reminded that the current BehavioralHelp program is designed to support Conscious Discipline. The new HS background check requirements are delayed. The state is looking to receive FBI approval to obtain the necessary information from the fingerprinting. Current ones are on hold until the decision is finalized.

The Fatherhood Project is up and running and is active in five schools. The oldest child of an enrolled father is two years of age. Five fathers have partners that are expecting. Jackie provided a very enthusiastic update. All 14 modules are on target to be completed by April. The Kellogg grant application has been completed. Arkansas was able to hold two summits because of the way that they were scheduled in the grant year. A report on Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families planning meeting was discussed. AACF is preparing to address early childhood needs during the next legislative session. Lastly, Jackie shared that the Strategic Plan development is in process.

D. Region VI Head Start Association was a review of the Institute and the exploration of the Association combining with the AR Early Childhood Association for the next conference.

VIII. Announcements:

- A. There were no new date announcements.
- B. Fatherhood Dads on the Carpet: This was temporarily been postponed.

IX. Reminders

A. The 2018 refreshment schedule as now is: January –CADC, March-Little Bitty City, May-CAPCA, July-UAPB, September-STC, November-NWAHS

X. Next Meeting Date: January 17, 2018

XI. Adjourned: Motion made by Pam Draper