

**Arkansas Head Start Association  
Director's Class  
July 19, 2017  
1:00 PM**

**Attendees: Rhonda Ahrent, Sandy Aguirre, Pamela Draper, Janet McDonald, Ryan Clayborn, Carol Amundson Lee, Sarah White, James Heritage, Jackie Govan,**

Rhonda Ahrent called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

**I, II, III Roll Call, Agenda Consideration and Approval of Minutes:** The sign in sheet served as the attendance. James Heritage moved, and Pamela Draper seconded moves to approve both the agenda and the minutes.

**IV. Guest Speakers:**

- A.** Matt Vermillion, DDS of Delta Dental (Director of the Smiles Outreach and Education of the AR Medicaid program) and Lindy Bollen, Jr. DDS, Director of the Office of Oral Health State Oral Health Officer.

Delta Dental provided toothbrushes for all children in the programs present today. Matt Vermillion shared the Delta Dental program.

- He shared that a dental van had been taking to North West AR as a way to serve hard to reach children.
- At this time, barriers to services and best practices for reaching out to families are the primary issues currently being explored.
- Mini-grants up to \$2,500 are available for local programs to enhance service delivery. A flyer was distributed.
- Additional foundation grants are also available for higher amounts.
- Beginning this year, every child enrolled in AR Medicaid programs will be assigned a dental Primary Care Provider. This transition may take a while, there are seven counties in the state with no dentists, others do not take Medicaid or serve children and others have no room on their schedules.
- It will be possible for some prevention and identification services to be provided outside of the dentist office and through the services of a dental hygienist. The new collaborative care dental hygiene program is responsible for these changes.

Dr. Bollen spoke to dental prevention and identification of dental issues. Both of the guests spoke of changing adult behaviors through the children.

Lee raised the question as to whether the grants could provide services for individual children. Vermillion is very new to the program and was unsure. The STC program committed to will following up in writing to Vermillion and sharing that response with all of the programs.

Directors raised concerns about the increase of the usage of thickening agent, which leads to additional tooth enamel. Dr. Bollen said that a child's dentist should be told that when they are on this. The increasing number of children with disabilities being served by HS programs was also discussed.

- B. AR DHS-DCC/ECE, EHS-CCP State Grant: Tonya Williams was on the agenda, but did not come. This grant was discussed later during the meeting.

**V. Old Business:**

- A. National/State Legislative Update; Jackie was out with a death in the family and did not attend the last meeting in DC. She will be attending the state directors meeting with Tonya in August. On the state level, legislators are interested in teacher training and keeping statistics current. The primary reference has been in regards to the ABC program, but these are topics applicable to HS as well. Programs are encouraged to invite local legislators to come and visit their programs.
- B. Dollar for Child: The Collaboration office will be sending what has been collected. Averaging .91 per child. The DCECE grants will be added to the contributors. The three sites funded did not add up to the required state funded level and so negotiations are in place for them to add the necessary slots.

There are programs in the state that do not contribute to the fundraising and do not pay dues into the association. These programs do however; take advantage of the benefits (I.e. NHSA work and recent participation in the Family Engagement meeting and opportunity to get free materials. This led to some discussion. In a motion made by Jackie Govan and seconded by James Heritage, the decision was made to convene a committee to look at the association benefits. Pam Draper presented a motion that was seconded by Rhonda Ahrent to look at these benefits being made available only to dues paying members. The committee will be comprised of Rhonda Ahrent, James Heritage and Ryan Clayborn. They will review benefits, look at these issues, and make recommendations.

- C. Membership Dues: \$1,065.00 is the remaining amount due. Jackie will call those programs with friendly reminders that their balances are due. Again, not all programs in the state are members.
- D. Institute: Fundraiser event was set at \$5,000. There have been changes made to the event schedule due to the meeting time needs of the Board and Region VI. The morning's Institute meeting was reviewed, including workdays, timelines etc. It is a struggle to keep the Marriot costs contained. Registrations are very low – 150 at this time. However, many present have not processed theirs. A great deal of discussion centered on spreading the word and being realistic about attendance. A major concern is the poor registration for WIPFLI training. It appears as if many sites have been accessing this training at other events.
- E. Birthdays Recognized: James Heritage, Jackie Govan, Deana Howell, and Carol Lee.

- F. AECEE Nominee: Recent changes to the early childhood commission discussed. It will no longer be a regulatory body, but transition to an advisory one. The numbers of those serving were decreased dramatically. HS went from having three representatives (Migrant/Seasonal, HS, and EHS) to just one. Thus, the need for a new nomination. The decision was made to nominate Ryan Clayborn and Rhonda Ahrent and ask Jackie Govan to continue attending. This motion was made Pam Draper and seconded by James Heritage.
- G. Head Start Program Performance Standards: The reminder was made that the PII is due on August 1. This is new to the programs. This is a federal requirement not just HS. The online training provided by Ted Water is available online and was mentioned as a resource.

The CLASS training e-mails sent out by the T/TA folks was discussed. CLASS training numbers for the new mentors is being developed. Programs need to let their TA staff know who will need the training. One TA staff sent this e-mail out sometime ago, one this past week and one has not notified her programs yet.

There was discussion about issues with the new system and the program plan. There is some confusion as to how “public assistance” is defined. The question was also raised as to whether children receiving TEFRA qualified for services.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. Background checks: Programs are still having problems getting the information back timely. All providers must now get both the criminal and child abuse checks. Codes cannot be crossed all programs must get their own reports.
- B. Fatherhood Mentoring Program: Five sites are involved. Mentoring will take place twice a month. The mentors will receive \$100.00 an hour. (to cover travel too) Mentoring services will take place October – April. Work is ongoing to standardize the curriculum and prepare it for evidenced based development. It is hope that Project Launch will provide future funding. Ivory Daniels and Jackie attended the Fatherhood Initiative Conference.
- C. EHS/CCP with DHS Three hubs, Batesville, Hot Springs and Little Rock they will serve 168 children and these numbers are in final negotiation.

## **VII. Reports**

- A. T/TA Update: Issues discussed earlier. No T/TA representatives were present.
- B. Commission Report: In previous sections, changes were discussed. The Partnership was on the Commission agenda as well as the summer food program and the AR workforce survey. The focus of the commission will shift some to infant and toddlers. No action items to consider.
- C. AHSA Collaboration:

- Family engagements summit, \$36,000 worth of materials were ordered from Lakeshore, Discount School and Kaplan. It was noted that Frog Street and Discount School have merged. *Behavior-onics* is still to be distributed. These will be sent to the programs.
- The state administrators meeting will be on August 7, in D.C. Jackie Govan will attend with and Tonya Williams.
- Work is continuing on the racial equity training for each of the competencies. If Better Beginnings levels 4/5 are not developed, then these will be added to level 3. Jackie is working on the legislative presentation.
- The Dollywood Imagination Library (at \$780,000) update was provided. Arkansas is now at 65 out of 75 counties started. A person has been hired to spearhead this.
- Jackie thanked everyone for his or her support these past few months.

D. Region VI HSA: Pam Draper provided the Region VI meeting update. The idea that local states discontinue their meetings to do larger regional ones has been floated. It was shared that new chair is very organized and is communicating well with members.

#### VIII. Announcements

- A. The School Readiness Summit is scheduled for October 17. The next Family Support Coordinator's credentialing training is July 31- first week of August. It was shared that credentialing is also available online. The Parent Conference will be held in Austin in December (4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>). The Region VI Institute is in Little Rock, August 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### IX. Reminders

Refreshments: Save the Children provided today's food. SEACAC will do September and CCSD will do November.

X. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 1:00 PM

Adjournment: Pam and James 3:10 PM

