

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission
April 19, 2011
10:00 am
Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Bob West, Missy Duke, Evelyn Bass, Ann Patterson, Barbara Gilkey, Jody Veit-Edrington, Debbie Malone, Suellen Ward, Eleanor Coleman, Kim Qualls, Shirley Pulliam, Dr. Tracy Tucker, Nickie Hammontree, Debbie Mays, Amy Denton, Dr. Haley Vo, Martha McAnally

Members Absent: Janice Dancer, Gene Gregory, Dr. Chadwick Rogers, Marilyn Chambers, Jeff Maneth, Dr. Rachel Bowman, Dr. Rod Duckworth

I. Call to Order/Reading of Mission Statement

The January 2011 meeting of the AECC was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by Barbara Gilkey. The mission statement was read by Dr. Haley Vo. Service recognition was awarded by Tonya Russell to Eleanor Coleman, Debbie Mays, and Suellen Ward. Standing and new Commissioners, guest presenters, and other attendees introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Barbara Gilkey initiated the review of minutes from the January meeting. A motion to move was made by Ann Patterson; seconded by Nicki Hammontree. Ann also noted a correction to the meeting date from the previous minutes.

Birth-PreK Teaching Credential: Electronic vote to accept as written

Jamie Morrison discussed the teaching credential that went into effect January 1, 2011 and the electronic vote that took place: Motioned by Ann Patterson; seconded by Missy Duke with 13/21 Commissioners voting in favor of accepting as written.

New Video on Impact of the Early Years: InBrief: The Foundations of Lifelong Health

Due to technical difficulty, the video will be shown at the July meeting.

DCCECE Report/Legislative Update

Tonya Russell reported that the majority of all DHS bills became acts. Kristin Staggars will post the final list of DCCECE-related acts to the Division's website.

Invest Early Initiative

Geania Dickey presented information on the Invest Early in Education Initiative. The Invest Early in Education Coalition was formed in 2002 to build support for Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) programs. In partnership with Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and with the Arkansas Early Childhood Association, Invest Early encouraged legislators to allocate an additional \$100 million to extend access to high quality preschool to thousands of at-risk children.

Now we have new goals. They were developed after a series of focus groups around the state with program providers revealed a need for increased access to high quality care and funding to support quality improvements. This is especially needed for infants and toddlers. The coalition also found a need to help parents dealing with increased stress get support they need for good parenting.

The Invest Early steering committee-made up of 36 early education professionals and advocates from across the state-met in December 2009 and agreed on the following goals:

- Goal 1: Expand the ABC Program
- Goal 2: Improve the Quality of Care for Infants and Toddlers
- Goal 3: Increase Parent Education Opportunities
- Goal 4: Increase Business & Community Support for Early Childhood Initiatives

More information can be found at <http://www.aradvocates.org/investearly/>.

III. Old Business

Review of AECC goals

Barbara Gilkey provided a review of AECC goals and requested updates from those who were conducting activities in conjunction with these goals. Tonya Russell and DCCECE management staff provided updates for the group.

In conjunction with the third AECC goal, Dr. Bob West reported that the final grants for the following counties had been received: Mississippi, Crittenden, Monroe, Lee, St. Francis, and Phillips.

IV. New Business

Common Core

Tonya Russell and Jamie Morrison are serving on a workgroup for the Common Core State Standards Initiative. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in

college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

More information can be found at <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

Tonya charged the Commissioners and attendees with adding the phrase, “Executive Function” to their vocabularies. This phrase reflects a child’s ability to manage and control their selves.

If you are asked to address questions or concerns regarding Common Core, please direct them to the appropriate contacts for information and clarity.

AR Head Start Training and Technical Assistance System

Donna Alliston & Kathleen Bergman presented an overview of the training and technical assistance system. They are responsible for working with grantees to ensure early childhood education practices and systems promote positive and quality early learning environments and outcomes for young children and their families. The Office of Head Start goals are:

1. School readiness
 - a. CLASS stands for Classroom Assessment Scoring System, which focuses on teacher/child interactions.
 - b. A Learning from Assessment toolkit has been developed to get the most from child assessments and to build on previously collected data.
 - c. The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework align curricula; establishes school readiness goals to align assessments; aligns professional development activities. The elements of Head Start framework guide all key aspects of Head Start implementation.
2. Teacher qualifications
 - a. Head Start staff must be working toward a degree if they do not have one.
 - b. The use of the TAPP Registry to track staff’s training hours, certification of completion and degrees is encouraged.
3. Collaboration
 - a. Encouraged to work through Better Beginnings, TAPP registry, Collaboration Office, and Head Start and Local LEAs.
4. Family engagement
 - a. Still learning from OHS and working on how to document and track the outcomes.

Report on Zero to Three meeting on EHS and Start Early Childhood Systems

Jamie Morrison, Ann Patterson, Geania Dickey and Jana Bays formed the Arkansas team which represented the state at the Zero to Three meeting held in April in Portland, OR. Between now and August 2012 an onsite visit can be scheduled for TA from Zero to Three to assist the team in narrowing the focus on expanding Early Head Start in systems across the state. The group selected a state self-assessment as the focus for the on-site

visit. They would like to expand the core team to include someone from health as well as a Commissioner.

Proposed revisions to Licensing requirements and forms

David Griffin and Micca Burris presented information regarding proposed revisions to Licensing requirements and forms. Documents were sent for review via e-mail to the Commission prior to the meeting. The Commission's approval is needed to take the drafts through the review and public comment period. The next step will be to advertise the proposed changes in the newspaper post them on the Division's website and hold a series of public hearings around the state. Following the public comment period, any concerns/suggestions gathered during the process will be brought back before the Commission for review. The Commission would then have the opportunity to make any needed changes before giving approval for us to go through the remainder of the promulgation process.

Vote:

Affirmative: 16/23 Negative: 0/23

IV. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2011.