

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission
October 19, 2010
10:00 am
Minutes

Members Present: Janice Dancer, Nickie Hammontree, Evelyn Bass, Ann Patterson, Dr. Rachel Bowman, Martha McAnally, Barbara Gilkey, Jody Edrington, Debbie Malone, Suellen Ward, Eleanor Coleman, and Gene Gregory.

Members Absent: Dee Cox, Debbie Mays, Jeff Maneth, Dr. Joseph R. West, Kim Qualls, Shirley Pulliam, Missy Duke, Dr. Chadwick Rogers, Amy Denton, and Marilyn Chambers.

I. Call to Order/Reading of Mission Statement

The October 2010 meeting of the AECC was called to order at 10:00 am by Barbara Gilkey. Barbara asked everyone to introduce themselves and the area they represent.

Vandy Nash, AR Teacher of the Year, was introduced. She spoke of how important early childhood is and how that will be a big focus for her because it is the common core.

Barbara Gilkey read a letter from Tonya Russell. Tonya is in Washington DC for a CCDF meeting. She apologized for not being there and gave an overview of what would be discussed at the Commission meeting. Barbara also introduced Crystal Glidewell who has been placed at the Division by the Department of Education and is working on the State Longitudinal Data Systems Project with the Department of Education.

Barbara Gilkey asked everyone to independently read and focus on the goals and mission statement of the AECC.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 2010 meeting were reviewed. Ann Patterson made a motion to accept the minutes. Eleanor Coleman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Old Business

Early Childhood 2010/National Meeting

Barbara Gilkey and the “DC” team reported that the EC 2010 meeting was great. The focus was Innovations for the Next Generation. The state of Arkansas should be commended because we are one of the top preschools in the country.

Better Beginnings Event

Martha Hiatt noted that everyone had received an invitation for the Better Beginnings kickoff event. It is a celebration of the QRIS program in AR. She emphasized the guest speaker Dr. Joshua Sparrow, Director of Touchpoints and invited all commissioners to attend.

IV. New Business

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Overview/Connecting Early Childhood & EC Commission with the Comprehensive System

Martha Hiatt presented on AECCS and stated the purpose of AECCS directly relates to the goals of the commission. She gave an overview of the five workgroups, which are: Medical Homes, Social-Emotional Health, Early Care and Education, Parenting Education, and Family Support. Martha will email the commissioners a list of when each workgroup meets inviting them to join or just to sit in for more information.

Patti Bokony also spoke about the Social-Emotional workgroup from AECCS. There are very few providers in areas to refer clients to but institutions of higher education are trying to recruit people. They are offering classes to certify people to provide this service.

Sherri Jo McLemore spoke more about the Parenting Education workgroup from AECCS. She said more availability and quality of parenting classes is the big focus. They are conducting Community Cafes at different areas across the state with the theme of “changing lives through conversations that matter.” One of the goals of this workgroup is to have parenting education information on the Better Beginnings website.

Traveling Arkansas Professional Pathways (TAPP) as Ad Hoc Committee

Jamie Morrison reported the TAPP system is missing from all of the AECCS workgroups. She wants the TAPP steering committee to be a part of the committees as an Ad-Hoc group.

Review Goals of AECC/State Advisory Council and ECCS

Barbara Gilkey reported that AECCS has committees addressing the goals of the commission. She asked for volunteers to work together to strengthen the goals. Debbie Malone volunteered for the workgroup and others are thinking about it. This committee will meet with the state “DC” team.

State Advisory Council Grant Update

Shawn Glenn shared an update regarding the State Advisory Council grant received from the Office of Head Start. There was a meeting with UALR in August to work with them on geographic information. A project plan is being developed.

State Longitudinal Data System Grant

Crystal Glidewell spoke about the SLDS three year grant working with AR Department of Education and 4 other state agencies to get longitudinal information from Pre-k through career. This study will help with policy making and will be a unique visual tool for teachers, administrators, etc.

Scheduling Visits to Early Childhood & School Age Programs

Barbara Gilkey challenged all commissioners to visit two centers in their local area. This is to be completed by June 30, 2011 and is to encourage commissioners to act locally.

Special Event Announcement

Barbara Gilkey announced that Geoffery Canada, Executive Director of the Harlem Children’s Zone, will make a presentation and have a book signing event on August 11, 2011. The details surrounding this event are still being worked out. A planning team from the Commission was formed to assist in this. The members on the team are Jody Veit-Edrington, Evelyn Bass, Janice Dancer, Eleanor Coleman and Ann Patterson.

Birth – Pre-K Credential

Jamie Morrison reported that the rules and regulations surrounding the Birth – Pre-K Credential are available for public comment until November 15, 2010. She plans to take it to the legislative committee in December with an implementation date of January 1, 2011. She asked if the commission could vote electronically on these since there will not be another meeting until mid January. Nicki Hammontree made a motion to vote electronically and Janice Dancer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned.