

Early Childhood Advisory Council

April 25, 2019

Minutes

Call To Order

The meeting of the Kentucky Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was called to order at 1:07 pm on April 25, 2019 at the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), Frankfort, KY.

Chair, John Roden, welcomed new ECAC member Kim Fithian, appointed as Local Head Start Representative. Ms Fithian has a wealth of knowledge in Head Start and in Early Care and Education.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Travis Burton, Twila Burdette, Anita Dowd, Jennie Pate, representing Kim Fithian, Paula Goff, Linda Hampton, Amy Hood, Rick Hulefeld, Amanda Ellis, representing Wayne Lewis, Tiffany Yeast, representing Secretary Derrick Ramsey, John Roden, Sally Shepherd, and Sarah Vanover. The following members were not in attendance: Senator Danny Carroll, Amy Duvall, Dreama Gentry, Representative Regina Huff, Tamra Parker and Amy Smith.

Approval of Minutes, March 21, 2019

A motion was made by Rick Hulefeld to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2019 meeting. Second made by Travis Burton. The Council unanimously accepted the minutes of the March 21, 2019 meeting.

Executive Director's Update..... Linda Hampton

Linda Hampton, Executive Director of the KY Governor's Office of Early Childhood gave an update on the National Governor's Association grant that Kentucky was awarded in the amount of \$25,000. Mandy Sorge, Beth Caron and Tiffany Ferrette from the National Governor's Association conducted an on-site monitoring visit on April 18, 2019 to discuss the grant Project Plan. Ms. Hampton reported that part of the \$25,000 grant will be used to conduct an intimate round table policy discussion that will take place at the 2019 Early Childhood Institute on June 19th at the Galt House in Louisville, KY. Renee Shaw from Kentucky Educational Television (KET) will be facilitating the round table discussion. Ms. Hampton announced that Malcolm Mitchell of the New England Patriots will be the keynote speaker on the first day of the 2019 Early Childhood Institute. Mr. Mitchell has a long history, as well as a passion for, working with literacy. On Thursday evening there will be a reception with keynote speaker Mark Shriver, Sr. V.P. U.S. Programs and Advocacy, Save the Children, CEO Save the Children Action Network. Friday the keynote speaker will be Sonia Manzano. Ms. Manzano is known for her whole as Maria on Sesame Street. The National Governor's Association loves the School Readiness Summits and requested those be showcased. The monitoring visit was a success.

Ms. Hampton informed the Council that on April 17, 2019, Kentucky hosted Secretary Betsy DeVos for a round table on Education Freedom Scholarships. The Education Freedom Scholarships will provide for a \$5 billion annual federal tax credit for voluntary donations to state-based scholarship programs. This proposal would empower students and families to

choose the best educational setting for them – regardless of where they live, how much they make, and how they learn.

Ms. Hampton appeared on KET’s Early Childhood Forum that was set up in a town hall-style conversation with lawmakers, educators, and advocates about early childhood education and what it means to prepare a child for success. The forum may be viewed online at https://www.ket.org/episode/KJGAP_000106/.

Ms. Hampton announced that the 2019 Early Childhood Institute will take place June 19-21, 2019 at the Galt House in Louisville, KY. As of today there are 800 registrants. Registration will close May 1, 2019. There have been 250 scholarships awarded to Early Childhood participants throughout the State of Kentucky to be able to attend the Institute. This year the Institute will feature nationally known early childhood experts training high quality sessions. Registrants will be assigned tracks according to their specific area of work in the Early Childhood field.

Ms. Hampton shared that the School Readiness Summit will be held April 29, 2019 from 10am-3pm EST at the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, KY. There are ten (10) participating teams with 8-10 members on each team. The participating teams are: Danville Independent, Whitley County, Pulaski County, Somerset Independent, Sciencehill Independent, McCreary County, Hancock County, LaRue County, Boyle County and Wayne County.

Strategic Plan Stephanie Ashley
Stefanie Ashley, Facilitation Center, Eastern Kentucky University, spoke about the development of the Strategic Plan from the kick-off in June 2018, until the present. Ms. Ashley spoke to the Council about the vision and the mission of the Plan, and shared the 2019-2024 goals for the future. Ms. Ashley shared that the next steps will be to receive Council feedback and approval of the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, to submit the Strategic Plan to the federal partner (part of the Preschool Development Grant is the Strategic Plan), and to complete a Tactical Action Plan. Discussion ensued regarding wording in one of the goals and the measuring of the goal. A vote was taken to approve the Strategic Plan. Twila Burdette made a motion to approve, Deputy Secretary Mike Nemes seconded the motion. Ms. Ashley’s presentation may be found online at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Preschool Development Grant Sarah Heinemeier
Sarah Heinemeier, Compass Evaluation and Research, discussed the Preschool Development Grant alignment needs and draft definitions of the Assessment and Strategic Plan. Chair, John Roden, Project Manager of the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), gave an update of the major activities and accomplishments that have taken place from the PDG Kick-Off event January 24, 2019 through the present, as well as Quarter 2 planned events and highlights. The presentation may be found online at www.kidsnow.ky.gov.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.