

Sussex Early Childhood Council (SECC) - Monthly Council Meeting

in partnership, with

Sussex County Health Coalition (SCHC)

Sussex
Early
Childhood
Council



Meeting Minutes -January 23, 2018

Easter Seals Office, 1st floor conference room
Georgetown, DE 19947
10:00 am to 11:30 am

SECC MISSION: *The mission of the Sussex Early Childhood Council is to promote the highest quality comprehensive early childhood system for Sussex's young children and their families by Providing Leadership and advocacy through collaboration among families, communities, providers and schools.*

ELAT MISSION: *The Early Learning Collaboration identifies issues and needs of young children in the community and collaborates with our partners to provide them the support through training, education, and resources.*

Welcome & Introductions: Christine Hoeflich-Olley, called the meeting to order.

Motion to approve minutes made by Toni Dickerson, motioned was seconded by Tom Atkinson, minutes were approved as presented. Attendees: Christine Hoeflich-Olley, Kim O'Malley, Toni Dickerson, Daphne Evans, Anne Atkinson, Tom Atkinson, Casey Christophel, Linda Chantler, Ramona Pickett, Hannan Cassidy, Rayne Aaron, Schlonn Hawkins, Melody Hines, Michelle Taylor, Nancy Burris

Action Items:

- Nancy to resend February 10th flyer out again.
- Michelle Taylor has a one pager document on 3rd grade reading level and will send to SCHC to be distributed.
- Invite DFS and OCCL (Office of Child Care Licensing).

COIIN Grant Update – January 2018 Report

- Working with Read Aloud Delaware to Read Aloud DE to provide nine “Parent Empowerment Classes” in Sussex County to reach residents the specific zip codes outlined in the COIIN Grant.
- SCHC and Read Aloud DE are working together to establish metrics needed to measure successful outcomes. All classes will have a Developmental Screening Component.

Description of programs listed below:

- **Language and Literacy** – The transition from oral language to books is explained and demonstrated. Presenter will model reading aloud as well as give examples of appropriate books for each age group.
 - Rhyming, Songs, Print Awareness and Games
- **Reading Readiness** – School success is dependent on prior learning. Letting families know how to give their child that head start is the basis for this session.
 - Letter Recognition, Color Recognition, Sight Words and Rhyming, and Making Predictions
- **From Scribbling to Writing** – Writing success will lead to school success, self-expression and self-reliance.
 - Muscle Development, Scribbling Materials, types of media to use, where to get supplies and why writing is important.

**Free brand-new books will be distributed to attending families at the end of each presentation.*
- Working with Jennie to discuss the feasibility to have two to three Public Allies in Sussex County.
- Actively planning an Early Educator Conference planned for February 10th, 2018. This full day training will feature the Phase 2 training for the ASQ Training. The keynote speaker will be Eric Litwin, aka Pete the Cat. The best-selling author who brings early literacy and music together. Additional topics will include:
 - ✓ Supporting Sensory Learning
 - ✓ Infant/Toddler Mental Health
 - ✓ Parent Engagement

- Continuing to work with Nanticoke on our Mom/Baby Bags. Applying PDSA process. Looking to meet with Beebe and them Bayhealth to expand outreach.

Everything is about outcomes, parents that have attended are very engaged.

Discussion on Public Allies program. Candidates have been selected for 2018. Daphne stated that Jennie is interested in having more interaction with Sussex County. Brief recap of the Public Allies Program by Daphne. Employer pays 25 % the salary, state pays the other 75%. Win-Win for both the employer and the employee.

Q. What does PDSA stand for? Planning, Do, Study, Act (Plan out; do it, study the results, act (duplicate the program or not). PDSA data goes to the state. Sussex County Play Space Group defined. (Community groups working together in Sussex County). Increase the number of children that are screened and the systems around the testing. The after “testing” needs work. Hard for parents to find needed resources or resources that work. Parents have the right to ask for screening (no charge). Parents can ask the Pediatrician for a referral for testing, or the early child care provider as well. Social/Emotional Testing is still the biggest area. Delaware 211 has been very helpful to early childcare providers with paperwork and resources.

Update on Early Child Care Training – February 10, 2018. Current 85 people are paid and registered. Max is 180.

Couple of classes are already filled. Linda Chantler was able to committee to a second sensory class so there will be a morning session and an afternoon session.

Toni has sent at least 150 emails out in the past 3 weeks to promote the training session, reached out to those folks that attended the August training session. Unfortunately, about 40 percent of the emails came back as undeliverable. Toni asked Nancy to resend out the flyer. Tom Atkinson was able to secure reusable bags from Insurance Market. Health care benefits will be offered to all deaeyc members.

If the committee wants the August training curriculum to be Quality Assurance approved all sessions need to be submitted by March of this year.

Christine acknowledged and thanked the sponsors for the training.

3rd Grade Level Reading: Michelle informed the group that she will be attending monthly so that United Way will be involved at every SCHC committee meeting. Delaware is the 48th state to sign up brining National Best Practices to Delaware. Looking to work with communities in need. Wilmington’s average is 17% at reading level.

Michelle recapped the markers:

- 1) Kids need to be born healthy, basic needs need to be met
- 2) Kids need to grow up in a literacy enriched environment
- 3) Show up to school on time to make sure that they don’t miss reading class
- 4) Stop summer loss learning. Low income kids lose 2 months learning over the summer, middle income kids gain 1 month reading level (family vacations, summer camps that continue reading). Over several years that gap widens to 2 to 2 ½ years behind middle-income children.

State Steering Committee created, three sub-committees: Readiness Level, Summer Learning Loss; School Attendance.

If any one from SECC-ELAT would like to join these sub committees, please contact Michelle Taylor. First meeting will be in Wilmington, some meeting in Dover area and throughout the state. Using Metrics, where are we today, tomorrow, next year? Focus is on 3 to 4-year-old children. Parent involvement and buy is critical to the success. Identifying what is working, what is not working. Looking at offering financial incentives to parents. If they help their child meet the set milestones, the parents could receive say a \$200.00 credit/payment on a utility bill for example.

Discussion on home visiting program, Parents as Teachers, working with parents from birth to age 5. Staff is also able help parents requesting diagnostic screenings.

Q: Where would the summers learning camps be held and would that take away from the early child care providers that currently offer summer programs? Work with current programs that have summer/literacy programs. Schools are the king pin, need to have pre-post summer learning testing. Parents need to have a choice for their kids.

Objective: identify the current programs and how they a line with the 3rd grade reading level issue and how to identify that child is learning during the school year. Constant flow in school/out of school and how to include early learning providers. Schools and child care providers need to work together. DATA sharing is key between schools and early child providers. Delaware Stars program isn’t as successful as it once was. Working on increasing outcomes for all kids but especially kids from high needs communities.

Michelle asked committee members what do you need to be successful? Data that is being entered by providers is not being accessed, and the reports are not correct. Big priority to have this resolved.

Review Member Goals for 2018, who should be at the table.

- DFS should attend on a regular basis, Child Development
- OCCL. Licensing specialists don't have the knowledge, or authority to make decisions on the spot. The more key partners attend the meetings the stronger the bond and collaboration between partners will be.
- School Districts need to be at the table to work with this group.

Child care providers establish strong relationships with parents and those relationships are not continued when a child enrolls in kindergarten. Today's teaching methods in schools are outdated, need to have more subject matter interaction.

Invite groups to attend the meeting that you think should be here.

Partner Updates:

COLIN is looking for more speakers. If interested, complete the speaker form on line.

Meeting Adjourned: Next Meeting will be February 27, 2018 at Easter Seals Office

SCHC Quarterly Meeting
April 19, 2018 -- 8:30 am to 11:00 am
CHEER Community Center
20520 Sand Hill Road, Georgetown, DE 19947