

Early Childhood Coalition Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2017

8:00 a.m.

Chambersburg Chamber

The meeting was called to order with the following in attendance: Cheri Kearney Bernice Crouse
Nicole Nicholas Carolyn Callaghan Amy Hicks Robin Harmon

Nicole had provided a link to the most recent Reach and Risk Report for Franklin County. While we cannot be 100% sure we are comparing apples to apples, but it appears that there has been a slight increase in the number of children who have access to quality early childhood services. This Kids County Data Center is another data source which lists information including the number of children in publically funded high quality pre-k. This was 9.3% in 2012-2013, 13.1% in 2013-2014 and 12.8% in 2014-2015. This data is unduplicated so it appears we are making some progress. However, the state is in the 30% range, so we are still well behind other areas.

Ideas to obtain more funding were brainstormed. It was noted that the cost to place a child in quality early childhood education is about \$8,000 a year.

Sam's Clubs – could we convince them to give scholarships to pre-k rather than High School?

Military Clubs

Churches

Pre-K Counts – receives it's funding from the state. They take children who live in up to 300% poverty. Head Start – receives it's funding from the federal government. They take children who live in 100 – 130% poverty. They cannot take funding other than from the Federal Government. They need a wait list to prove to the government they need more funding.

The money United Way raises goes to Keystone Starts Programs. They received \$30,000 in EITC funds this year.

We are not sure how many seats the YMCA funds and what ages they serve.

Bernice spoke about a program the library system offers called Family Place. This is based on a program called One, Two, Three Play with Me and is for children ages birth through 3. It is aimed at families who may be intimidated by school and focuses on family learning, nutrition, reading, art and speech. Their biggest hurdle is getting families to attend. It is offered at Alexander Hamilton, Grove, Besore, St. Thomas and Fulton County Libraries.

The group discussed the push in past years toward academic learning versus play and how the mindset on this is beginning to change. They are finding that children are anti-reading because they dislike what they are required to read in school.

An idea is to see if we could obtain a grant to develop a video on the importance of early childhood education to play in waiting rooms at doctor's offices, the libraries, etc.

Bernice has materials that SCCAP developed including the infant/toddler calendar.

Carolyn can help connect us with Shippensburg University students that need volunteer hours to assist with the early childhood Expo. They also have a Spanish Education Group which could possibly help with translation.

PA 1 Book this year is Daniel Finds a Poem by Micha Archer. The libraries have access to this book. Perhaps Dave Keller could read this book and we can give it out at the Expo?