

**Community Education Coalition
Early Childhood Coalition Meeting**

Friday May 5, 2017

8:00 a.m.

Chambersburg Chamber

In attendance: Nicole Nicolson, Annette Searfoss, Bernice Crouse, Nickie Fickel, Heather Myers.

We met the new director of Franklin County Head Start, Annette Searfoss, as well as the new Community Health Coordinator for Summit Health, Heather Myers.

Amy shared that about 100 guests attended the Early Childhood Expo. Vendors were fantastic and feedback was really positive toward continuing the event. Our goal next year is to expand attendance by increasing advertising in advance of event. Suggestion was made to deliver flyers for distribution by elementary schools in addition to medias used this year.

ELIC conference was reviewed and introduced conversation around the importance of supporting childcare as an industry, recognizing the quality of childcare programs outside of state funded entities and the challenges of keeping child care centers profitable, especially in places where programs for older children aren't balancing infant care.

Bernice informed us that St. Thomas Assembly of God and Mercersburg Area Pre Schools have had conversations around closing because of necessary structural changes in churches that support those programs. We also talked about the recent move for Buds of Promise and their process toward re-establishing as an independent non-profit.

Bernice invited CEC and United Way in partnership to be part of Franklin/Fulton Reads, which will take place in September, as an opportunity to connect volunteers to reading opportunities. Amy Hicks will follow up for more information as we get closer.

Amy talked to the group about moving meetings to quarterly, instead of monthly. The group agreed that this would be a good arrangement. Next meeting should occur in August. First Friday would be August 4th at 8am at the Chamber of Commerce.