

United Way of Franklin County ECP Minutes

Date: 10/11/18	Time: 9:30am	Location: United Way Office, 182 South Second Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201
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In Attendance Robin Harmon, Carol McNamee, Chelsea Bennett, Jessica Hatch, Jeanne Predmore, Leslie Fick, Sarah Applegate, Brandi Glenn-Akers, Cathy Dusman, Barbara Martin, Noel Purdy, Nickie Fickel
Staff: Amy Hicks, Amy Weibley

Action Item	Discussion/Notes	Action	Who
Call To Order	Ms. Weibley called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM		
Review of Minutes	The minutes from the September ECP meeting were distributed for review.		
Guest Speakers	<p>Chambersburg Area School District Update: Ms. Glenn-Akers explained the KEI (Kindergarten Entry Inventory) which has been implemented for all elementary schools in the Chambersburg Area School District (CASD). There are currently 673 students enrolled in kindergarten throughout CASD schools. The KEI looks at students during the first 45 days to evaluate what skills they are coming in to the school system equipped with. The current reported results for CASD (not all have been included yet) reveal that indicators seven (Phonological Awareness) and eight (Phonics) are the two areas of greatest concern where students coming in are lacking in skills.</p> <p>The group shared their experiences with KEI results and how they have observed there doesn't seem to be much difference in results between schools. There seem to be similar results across counties, as well, even those assumed to be different such as Cumberland County schools compared to Harrisburg schools. Does this indicate that across the board there are key pieces missing from the early learning standards? The group also briefly discussed how the data from KEI will be very helpful to early learning centers to help identify areas that need more attention and focus so they can continue better preparing students for kindergarten.</p> <p>In addition to KEI, the CASD performs K Assessments in letter and sound ID three times per year, math 3 times per year, NSGRA (pre-A) at the beginning of the year, NSGRA (reading level) three times per year, and DWKI two times per year.</p> <p>Dr. Dusman described the initiative of CASD to refocus on Purposeful Play in the classrooms to enhance learning and skills growth of students. When Dr. Dusman started working with CASD elementary schools in March, she asked teachers for feedback and input. What has changed in the classroom? They reported growth was stagnant. To make a change, the district decided to focus first on implementing changes in the kindergarten classrooms. All of the kindergarten teachers brainstormed what their vision of the perfect classroom was, and what their fondest memories of kindergarten and early learning were. They realized the biggest thing missing in their</p>		

classroom was learning through play. What they school district has called as “Purposeful Play” is now being mindfully integrated in each kindergarten classroom based on research of the impacts learning through play has on children’s growth and success. When children use 3D activities, they are more likely to master concepts and retain skills. The school district is working with the teachers to encourage 3D play. It is a big change for many teachers, as it is a change in principles, but they are working closely with the teachers to grow the purposeful play to integrate it with the traditional academics lessons. Dr. Dusman then showed a video clip about a school that learns through interactive play and long-term projects.

Ms. Glenn-Akers mentioned the kindergarten registration for the new year has been moved. Rather than registering at each school, the registration is in the CASD Administration Building.

Waynesboro School District Update:

Ms. Martin reported on the initiatives happening at Waynesboro Area School District (WASD), which specifically focus on the pre-natal to 3rd grade ages. 80% of 3 and 4 Year olds are currently not experiencing quality preschool. Franklin County has been identified by OCDEL as a high-risk community with the lack of pre-k offerings in the community. The Pre-K Counts program received grant funding and is now expanded to encompass 5 classrooms in collaboration with Waynesboro Day Care Center and Franklin County Head Start. One of the classrooms is in the high school, which has been a positive experience since some of the high schoolers have been brought in to work with the pre-k children on sports.

The P3 Coalition is a group of community, school, early childhood, business, and government individuals for the purpose of supporting our youngest population. The goal is to increase quality pre-K facilities in the Waynesboro area and provide support to parents of young children. They have assessed the offerings in Waynesboro and what the community is missing to help identify what they can bring to Waynesboro families. One of the first initiatives was to use donations to purchase Ready Rosie, which will be made accessible to all families for development resources for parents. The coalition also provides information and activities for families by setting up at community events. They are currently working on an online parent help desk resource.

Additionally, WASD has made all its kindergarten classes a full day, which they have named Comprehensive Kindergarten. This includes integration of the academics with play for learning. They have added kitchen areas and building areas into the classrooms to further encourage learning through play. The school district continues to help teachers blend the two teaching strategies together to enhance the learning environment for students.

<p>ECP Updates</p>	<p>Ms. Weibley shared the upcoming meeting calendar, noting the November meeting is the LICC Quarterly meeting which will meet on November 8 at 9:30am at Grove Library. There is no meeting in December, so the next meeting of ECP will be January 17.</p> <p>Ms. Hicks shared that planning is underway for the Early Learning Expo. The event will likely be moved to late March. The format of the event and quality of providers, activities and information are what we want to continue seeing, so the focus of the committee will be how to attract and market to families encouraging them to attend. This will likely lead to a name change, such as "Family Fun Fair." The next committee meeting is tonight at 5pm. We will let the ECP list know of the next meeting date after that if anyone is interested in joining the committee to contribute to the planning process.</p>		
<p>Minutes submitted by: Amy Weibley</p>	<p>Next Meeting: LICC on November 8 Topic:LICC Quarterly Meeting</p> <p>ECP on January 17 Early Learning Resource Center Changes</p>		