



Hope From the Start for Franklin County Task Force
MINUTES
Friday, October 5, 2018, 9am-10:30am
Chambersburg Area School District Administration Building

In attendance: Annette Searfoss, Tod Kline, Ann Spotswood, Kim Lucas, Monica Diehl, Amy Pinkerton, Nicole Nicholson, Cathy Dusman, Barbara Martin, Stephanie Shoemaker, Brandi Glenn-Myers, Bob Thomas, Brian Weir, Joanne Cochran, Doug Reasner, Jen Hawbecker, Sara Myers, Tom VanArsdale, Terri Siverling, Janine Pigano, Ashley Yinger, Noel Purdy

Welcome and Introductions: Annette Searfoss welcomed everyone and the members present introduced themselves. Annette gave an overview of the recent transition of Hope from the Start to work under the umbrella of Healthy Franklin County as a task force with the overarching goal of increasing the proportion of children who are ready for school in all five domains of healthy development. Annette introduced Deb Wise with the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) to give a presentation on the Kindergarten Entry Inventory (KEI).

Kindergarten Entry Inventory: Deb Wise gave an overview of KEI reporting tool which is based on Pre-K early learning standards, offers teachers an instructional strategy for understanding and tracking students' proficiency across both cognitive and non-cognitive domains. The KEI is not intended to be a high stakes assessment tool but rather a data point to start a general discussion about what's happening with a student. The KEI is not meant to replace assessment or evaluation tools. The tool is designed to be used within the first 45 days of Kindergarten and can be used to help chart progress in the students' development, but also to open the door for other conversations with all stakeholders within the schools and community. The KEI includes 30 indicators that cover multiple domains; it provides a holistic view of the student. Brian Weir asked if other data, like demographic and social determinants are collected in the KEI; Deb said that some demographic data is collected however the tool is very fluid and can be customized to include other indicators. Annette noted that the KEI represents powerful outcome data that could benefit efforts to improve kindergarten readiness. Deb said that OCDEL can provide on-site training for teachers / school districted interested in using KEI, as well as ongoing professional development, such as Data Dialogue Training. OCDEL has many tools and resources available to help teacher and schools improve early childhood education and instruction. It was noted that some schools use the KEI but do not have fidelity to the using the data. Brandi Glenn Myers said that Chambersburg Area School District had had two schools that used KEI but did nothing with the data in previous years. She said the entire school district is using KEI in 2018-2019 and that the district is providing resources to use the data and provide coaching to teachers and to open more conversations with families and the community.



HEALTHY FRANKLIN COUNTY

Healthy Franklin County Action Plan: Ann Spotswood reviewed the draft action plan, which had been emailed to the group in advance of the meeting. She noted that this was a draft and any suggestions were welcome. After reviewing the action plan, Joanne suggested that we needed to include medical providers in the discussion (particularly those who provide MAT to addicted mothers). It was also noted that providing education materials to parents isn't always most effective; you must first build trust and find accessible ways to communication with them frequently and regularly (like with an app). Joanne also noted that Keystone is in the process of hiring a Nurse Educator who will work with families on early childhood education. There was also discussion about general community awareness and messaging related to valuing early childhood education. Annette asked the group to review the plan again and be prepared to act at the next meeting (for approval).

Family Center Updates: Annette shared that the family center group was meeting after Hope from the Start but wanted everyone to know that a visit to the Family Center in Washington County, MD is scheduled for October 19. As Hope from the Start works to apply for funding for two family centers this year, the family center committee is looking at various models for programming and services.

Other: The Franklin County Head Start Annual Meeting is on October 26 where there will be a celebration for their recent designation as a Keystone Stars (4 stars) provider.

Next Meeting: Friday November 2, 2018 at 9am