

**Community Education Coalition (CEC)  
Early Childhood Education Coalition Meeting**

**September 2, 2016**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Chambersburg Chamber of Commerce**

The meeting was called to order with the following in attendance: Amy Hicks Eric Michael Melanie Cook Andy Wiliford Cindy Ash Cheri Kearney Eric Foreman Robin Harmon

Amy Hicks reported that over the past summer, she and Cheri met with the providers in the area to learn what their top concerns were. The top concerns reported are:

- Behavioral and Mental Health. This was the top issue reported and we learned via the ACEs study (Adverse Childhood Experiences), childhood trauma has a very significant impact on all aspects of health later in life. Robin noted that the Chamber looked to have Dr. Roy Wade come to present on ACEs at the December breakfast. Unfortunately, his fee was outside of our budget.
- Parenting Issues. It can be challenging to get parents to accept help. Some parents just want the provide to “fix the kid” but are hesitant to receive education on how different parenting techniques can help. Parents can feel that the term “parenting class” is negative and some are afraid if they accept help their children could be taken from them.
- Infectious Disease. Food, Hand & Mouth disease are very rampant at the moment. There is a treatment resistant strain of lice out there now. It is very hard to get rid of and often remediation is needed in the home also. Cindy reported that bed bugs have slowed down.
- English as a Second Language continues to challenge providers.

Cindy reported that Head Start is hiring for many positions at the moment: teachers, coaches, and more. She added that they are now with the Pittsburgh head start, making attending training and other events a little more challenging.

Amy reported that the state is working on changes to the Keystone Stars program. There continues to be concern from the providers relating to the cost of the program compared to the financial benefits. Levels 1, 2, & 3 focus mainly on the child experience. At level 4 the center structure comes into play. We are also now grouped with Pittsburgh/West Pool. Providers now have to travel further for training and there is concern if we receive the same level of support. We will send out a synopsis of the Starts standards to the group.

On November 1 providers that receive CCIS funding and have 6 kids or more will be required to be certified, not just registered. While the goal of higher quality care is good, this will shut some providers down and others underground. There will be added expense to the providers to get certification but the CCIS subsidy is not increasing. Many of these providers provide evening and weekend hours, which are in short supply already.

Providers have requested a Children’s Expo. In the past these events have focused on parents and children but we would like to add a provider piece to assist with the challenge to continuing education. We are looking at the Week of the Young Child which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in April. The time requested is Saturday morning. Childcare for providers while in educational session would be required. Wilson, Ship U., YMCA, a school or a church may be a host site. It would also be useful to have vendors such as Lakeshore attend the export. Sponsors would be needed.

The next meeting is October 7 at 8 a.m.