

MINUTES

Marshfield Early Childhood Council

Date: November 18, 2020

Place: Remote – via Zoom

Time: 4:00 pm

Present:

Deb Worsh, Lynn Neacy, Susan West, Anne Kelly, Dotti McDevitt, Danielle Giddings, Amy Carey, Courtney Coutts, Deb Ritz, Liz Hartigan, Jill Leahy, Lakia Small, Anne-Marie Ward, Amy Gordon.

Minutes of the March 11, 2020 and June 23, 2020 meetings were reviewed and accepted.

Deb advised the council that a website has been created and she will share the link with council members. Deb will try to keep meetings to one hour.

New Council Members – Deb Ritz, Anne-Marie Ward.

Resignations – Donna Admirand, Nancy Bowers, Lynne Miner, Virginia Moalli

Deb is looking for an Early Intervention contact that would be interested in joining the council.

Program Updates:

Liz Hartigan, SSCAC – they have 5 PK Classrooms open, with twelve per class. Two infant/toddler rooms open, 10 months is the youngest. No sharing of toys, etc. every child has their own space and bucket.

Dottie McDevitt, CACCI – She is getting calls frequently about facilities closing, permanently and temporarily. EEC is covering parent fees for now to allow them to keep their voucher. Looking for other places to accept vouchers. Dottie to send information about voucher program to the council.

Amy Carey and Danielle Giddings (parents) – Home learning is going fine, not overwhelming. Staying positive.

Lakia Small, JRI – Discussed a Mental Health Grant through the EEC. She will share information with council.

Jill Leahy, Beansprout – She has twenty children enrolled, ten at a time. They are spending a lot of time outside. She had been shut down for six months.

Amy Gordon, Ferry Hill Center (formerly YWCA) – Did not run summer camp as planned. Focused on community partnerships. Will be an inclusion center/camp.

Deb Ritz, Steeple School – The Director and eight staff did not return. They opened 9/28. They are spending 80% of their day outside. Masks are worn by all children. Parents keeping children home with any sniffles, etc.

Anne Ward, Parent – Finding the balance of full time work at home and remote schooling challenging.

Sue West – Holding her programs virtually or one on one on the phone. Has been doing story walks with Deb.

Anne Kelly – Has been unable to volunteer due to Covid.

Deb Worsh discussed a possible collaboration of an event in May. Possibly fundraiser to purchase books for families. Is working on outreach. Will be starting remote playgroups two times a week for 0-3 yrs and 3-5 yrs. Deb will send brochures to council to help distribute. Story walks will continue until it is too cold. Deb will provide link to website which includes all current activities. She is actively looking to get contact names to reach out to apartments in Marshfield.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Meeting Schedule 2020

December 9, 2020

February 3, 2021

April 7, 2021

May 12, 2021