

MINUTES

Marshfield Early Childhood Advisory Council

Date: June 8, 2021

Place: Remote – via Zoom

Time: 4:00 pm

Present:

Deb Worsh, Amy Carey, Marie Miller, Danielle Giddings, Jill Leahy (Beansprout University), Susan West, Courtney Coutts, Wendy Gardner-Breindel (Head of Youth Services, Ventress Library), Sandy Koslowsky (Pudding Hill Pre-School), Anne Kelly.

Minutes of the February 3, 2021 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Discussion regarding looking for new members to join council. Sandy Koslowsky, Director of Pudding Hill Pres-School and Wendy Gardner-Briendel, Head of Youth Services, Ventress Library were voted in as new members. Anne Kelly submitted her resignation from the council.

Program Updates:

Deb Worsh discussed MA Family Engagement Framework and Strengthening Families 5 Protective Factors and provided copies for everyone. Deb also provided the council on current outdoor story walks and that she was continuing to search for a new location for the CFCE programming. One event is scheduled for July and one event in August. Deb talked briefly about the outreach efforts and that unfortunately she was not permitted to post flyers in the apartment complex's.

Sandy Koslowsky was interested in knowing how many families were participating in the playgroups. Deb explained that the program services approximately 40-50 families per year, 7-12 families per day. Sandy suggested Deb look into offering playgroups at the "Great Room" at Ellis Hall. Pudding Hill will have three weeks of summer camp.

Sue West, discussed her groups and that the group she is most concerned about is the Breastfeeding Support Group. It is being held via Zoom and participation is increasing. Discussed the importance of asking questions rather than being a presentation. The programs Sue is currently involved include Active Parenting 1,2,3,4, Breast Feeding, Sibling, Parent development/Family development, Parent Support and Education. Sue has been with the Plymouth Family Network for the past twenty years. The need is overwhelming and continues to increase, everyone is booked solid.

Deb Worsh added that she has learned so much from Sue over the years. Building relationships before a crisis happens.

Amy Carey continues to participate in the story walks with her son and enjoys them.

Danielle Giddings feels like she is in an amazing spot compared to September. Relationships were strained. Kids are thrilled to be back in school and all activities and sports. Her kids do not mind wearing masks.

Marie Miller talked about a slideshow about kindergarten screening. There is a new version this year. Kindergarten screening is NOT a test, the purpose is to determine where they are developmentally. Discussed a parent orientation to discuss screening which would include teachers, building personnel, and discuss kindergarten curriculum. This will include all parents. Orientation day with parent and meet the teacher in small groups.

Jill Leahy contributed that she has had the feedback from parents that they think the screening is “pass or fail”. Marie Miller advised that the screening ratings are “Okay”, “Rescreen” or “Refer”. Ann Kelley reiterated that it really is a snapshot of how they perform that day.

Marie Miller updated everyone that she had been to Headstart and shared the slideshow about kindergarten screening.

Courtney Coutts provided an update on how the Early Childhood program was running during COVID, what the classroom set up looked like and that there have been no COVID transmission in preschool.

Deb Worsh advised that the next meeting will be held in September or October.

Anne Kelley notified the council that after 32 years she is resigning from the Council. She has enjoyed being part of the council and Early Childhood was the favorite part of her job. She is happy to volunteer any time she is available.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.