

MINUTES

Marshfield Early Childhood Advisory Council

Date: November 17, 2021

Place: Remote – via Zoom

Time: 6:15 pm

Present:

Deb Worsh (Outreach Coordinator), Dottie McDevitt (Child Care Network), Leah Smith (Kennedy Donovan), Susan West (BID Family Education), Sandy Kozlowski (Pudding Hill Pre-School), Courtney Coutts (Dir. Early Childhood Education), Jill Leahy (Beansprout Univ.), Karen Lincoln, (South Shore Early Education and Care), Meghan Richardson (MPSD Early Education Teacher) Danielle Giddings (parent), Lakia Small (JRI Institute), Pam Smith (MPSD Early Education Teacher), Wendy Gardner-Breindel (Head of Youth Services/Ventress Library), Deb Ritz (Education Director, Steeple School), Kim Campbell (MPSD Nurse), Marie Miller (MPSD Retired teacher), Lynn Neacy (Early Childhood Admin. Asst.)

Minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Program Updates:

D. McDevitt - More programs are needed. There is coaching available. Dottie to share her newsletter with the council.

L. Smith – They are back to in person. Referrals are very busy. Actively hiring.

S. West – BID Plymouth family education still running breastfeeding support group. Parenting classes on Zoom. South Shore Family Network has a new director.

S. Kozlowsky – They are beginning to return to some normalcy.

C. Coutts – Very busy with referrals. Long wait list of tuition paying peers this year. Added a new teacher to our program so we now have seven teachers. Next Early Childhood Screening is December 1st.

J. Leahy – She is full to capacity. Kids do not wear masks but parents are not allowed in the facility.

K. Lincoln – Almost fully operating. Looking to hire new staff to open another classroom.

M. Richardson – Kids are wearing masks and are able to do some sharing.

D. Giddings – Keeping busy with her kids and also watching other children.

L. Small – Extremely busy

P. Smith – Things are going well with children wearing masks. Pam visited Head Start today to collaborate on some students we share.

W. Gardner-Breindel – Starting a program with Deb. Very busy trying to find out what people want. The library is very busy but not consistent as far as what programs people are looking for.

D. Ritz – Things are going well. Back to the new normal. They have seen a lot of common colds; not sure how to make those decisions on coming to school.

K. Campbell – Busy in her role as School Nurse at DWS; and also mom of four. Pediatric nurse for 18 years.

M. Miller – Substituting three or four times a week. Kids are doing really well with masks. Distancing is very difficult, especially outside. Kids are thriving.

D. Worsh – Playgroups continue to be outdoors. Past eight week average attendance is about 20-29 families a week. Several new families have joined. Sue has been doing parent baby groups at Ferry Hill, live group in the barn with the door open. Challenging to get participants to come regularly to baby groups. Bethany is doing music groups on Saturdays. Will shift into the Ventress Library soon due to

cold weather. There is a Lil' Yogis group being run at the Library on Thursdays. A Mighty Movers group is being held at the Daniel Webster School on Wednesdays, supported by the preschool teachers and specialists.

Working on getting all of these programs together on the website. Working on shareable newsletter.

Ideas for Parent Education Series:

C. Coutts talked about a speaker series, possibly Zoom presentations in the evenings for parents. Ideas may be transition to kindergarten, parenting, Marie Miller/Annie Violissi (kindergarten teacher) to talk about the kindergarten overview. Possible speech and language pathologist to talk about red flags to look for, speech ideas for home. Looking for ideas from what parents are saying?

Video – Strengthening Partnerships- Five Principals. Four Key Elements. Courtney shared the “Harvard Center for the Developing Child” Video.

Our task is that Early Education and Care is asking us to look at how well and in what ways do we do this and how can we improve in engaging families?

K. Lincoln agreed the speaker series is a great idea and that there is a need. Early literacy, developmental milestones, behavior management. Not sure if people will join on Zoom; not everyone has computer. It was suggested they are held at the High School in person.

S. West had a group of parents get on zoom together, make it flexible. Start at 7:00, goes a little past 8:00 PM. Fathers, grandparents participated. One of the topics she did in Carver was “Why do kids do what they do?” A light bulb turned on for some parents. Does feel parents are starving for support.

D. Ritz asked if it was possible for the parent sessions to be recorded so parents could go back and watch it later? Post to our website?

S. Kozlowsky would like to know about the kindergarten screening process and what a kindergarten day looks like. Would love collaboration on how we can work together to build a partnership and provide this information to parents.

K. Lincoln is willing to host an event at Head Start for parents.

D. McDevitt stated that Harwich did something like this and it was very well received. Included kindergarten curriculum so parents knew expectations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

