

Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date: April 13, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: WEBEX Virtual Meeting

Attending: Commissioner Michael Johnson, Abbe Hensley, Bev Schoonover, Bridget Weiss, Debbie Baldwin, Elizabeth Siddon, Gail Trujillo, Lori Grassgreen, Margaret Bauer, Matthew Hirschfeld, Maureen Harwood, Karen Melin, Don Enoch, Veronica Plumb, Kathy Berry, Abigail Parker Stephanie Berglund, Supanika Ackerman, Trevor Storrs, Emily Urlacher, Rebekah Morisse, Christie Reinhardt, Tamar Ben-Yosef, Kristen Spencer, Christina Hulquist, Marion Johnstone, Denali Daniels, Betsy Breneman, Diane Casto, Iris Matthews, Jimael Johnson, Meghan Johnson

Welcome

Commissioner Johnson opened the meeting at 1:07 pm and welcomed everyone. Trevor Storrs motioned to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2020 AECCC meeting. Abbe Hensley seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

COVID-19 Impact Shares

Stephanie Berglund shared how thread is navigating through the current health crisis while continuing to provide children, family and educators with the services they need. Christina Hulquist discussed how the Child Care Program Office intends to support licensed child care providers impacted by COVID-19 closures, with capacity building funding. Tamar Ben-Yosef shared that All Alaska Pediatric Partnership/Help Me Grow continues to support families during this time by staying on top of referrals and providing resources.

Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)

Christie Reinhardt and Mack Wood gave a presentation on the Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) as well as updates with the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), and how they are utilizing telepractice to support families both during the current challenges and as a beneficial service on a regular basis. Christie Reinhardt introduced the new NFP Nurse Supervisor, Marion Johnstone.

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Jimael Johnson presented on the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority current projects, with the purpose of receiving stakeholder input from the AECCC. Jimael also provided an overview of Alaska's new Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan, which is aimed at providing adequate resources and funding to support the mental/behavioral health of Alaskans. The foundational goal of the plan is to provide adequate resources and funding to support a comprehensive behavioral health service system, promoting independent, healthy Alaskans so that they may live meaningful lives in the communities of their choosing. Jimael noted that goals 1 and 6 most related to the early childhood population of Alaska, and provided overviews of each one. Jimael also shared how the Project Launch Model aligned with current and future efforts by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. It was also

noted that workforce development in early childhood related fields was a current primary focus. Current and future efforts for early childhood intervention and prevention include:

- Screening and assessment
- Integration of behavioral health into primary care settings
- Trauma-engaged practice and behavioral health in education settings
- Infant and early childhood mental health capacity building
- Enhanced home visiting supports
- Data development and evaluation

Lastly, Jimael requested stakeholder input and feedback. Stephanie Berglund asked what is next for the Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Program Plan, and how it will be used. Jimael shared that DHSS and partners will use the plan to develop an action plan. This will be done by looking at the work that is already being done and recognize current gaps. DHSS may also seek federal funding opportunities to help carry out the work.

Early Childhood Joint Task Force

Christina Hulquist gave an update on the Early Childhood Joint Task Force. She reported that the early childhood strategic plan is still in process and due by June 26th, 2020. The goal is for the plan to go into effect in 2021. Progress has been made by way of stakeholder meetings and work group meetings focused on governance in Early Childhood Sector. The JTF is recommending the AECCC adopt the Strategic Plan as their priorities and that AECCC committees be reconfigured in alignment with the plan once it is finalized. Christina also shared an overview of the Early Childhood Scan.

AECCC Stellar Group Survey Report

Data indicated a need for improvement with partnerships, leadership, management and efficiency.

Many comments were made about how to use this survey to constructively improve the governance of AECCC.

Announcements, Events and Resources

CCPO Covid-19 Response: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/ccare/default.aspx>

Thread Alaska COVID-19 Resource Center: <https://www.threadalaska.org/thread/COVID19-Resource-Center>

Help Me Grow Alaska COVID-19 Resources: <https://helpmegrowak.org/covid-19/>

Strengthening the System: Alaska's Comprehensive Mental Health Program Plan 2020-2024:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/Commissioner/Pages/MentalHealth/default.aspx>

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm

Next AECCC Meeting:

Tentatively Planned for July 14, 2020 from 1-4PM