

Advocacy Committee Meeting, 2-16-16

Introductions: Chelsea, Mary Jane, Judy, Brie, Roberta, Trina, Jaymie

Best Beginnings Advisory Council local councils meeting: update from Trina and Brie

- Positive feedback
- Listserv
- No real form, as yet
- **We can send out a list of our ideas and our ECC website link**
- Grassroots coordination of advocacy seems popular
- MJ would like permission to add EC coordinators to MAC emails – Trina has requested the list from Sally Tilleman. MAC is missing the grassroots piece. Needs more diverse population contributing information on issues of concern for families of young kids.
- How to keep abreast of issues of import – it would be great to get that from the lobbyist for MAC every Friday. Perhaps Erin McGowan is an alternative source of information.

Collaborative Head Start event on March 15: background update from Mary Jane

- Head Start Collaboration Office is running this. Head Start Association is hosting.
- Goal is to get Head Starts statewide to identify their common work and how they can go about using common messaging so general public can recognize the work HS does around the state.
- Steps to unify MT's early childhood system – Head Start is not the only focus, so everyone will be invited
- St Peter's Education Center, lunch, 9-4. March 14 still up in the air.
- RSVP/registration + agenda – MJ will send a link, so there's food reserved. This will be sent out via Head Start directors and ECC coordinators. Anyone can invite anyone, but the numbers are limited. People who come – preference for them to stay all day – it's HS directors' job to remove all the barriers to participation.

Citizens Advocacy Group update: Jaymie

- Met on Feb 11. Four people. Logistical stuff, why part of ECC, beginning coordination. Gap families, ACE training, legislative process – developing skill base to go forward.
- Chelsea will work with Katie to put advocacy training powerpoint on ECC website as a start to getting the appropriate information out.

Lists of issues: do we see topics as priorities and list of groups we plan to coordinate with

- List of topics from group shared with group via email and hard copy
- Share information among agencies doing “community impact” and “collaborative impact” work – so we can tell candidates that we have shared community topics that many organizations are working on together
- How about safety, workplace wellness, access to care, screening, and early care and education
- Following up via email on topics and headings

Events for Round Table Discussion

- What do we want it to look like? One or two topics are good for the candidates, but hard because there are more than two topics people need to know about. Perhaps we can have “topic tables” and expert facilitators to move the conversation forward. Perhaps a blend of both formats. Do “topic tables” derive from our priority list? Notes at table? Less structured? Look for gaps on what is being sponsored and what needs to be done to fill those gaps.
- Letters to candidates post-primary in June – How to generate interest from both sides of the aisle – marketing!
- Setting a date: looking at something in October before the election (table until June)

Funding for event (advertising, stamps for invitations to candidates, food)

- What does this look like in conjunction with United Way? Does ECC need to do fundraising?
- Printing costs
- Food can be donated
- Supplies are available
- Marketing and social media can be inexpensively done
- Hospital can be the free space (and there are others)
- Need to look up past budgets

Next meeting, 10:00, April 19