

May 31, 2016  
Advocacy Committee Meeting

Present: Brie, Chelsea, Mary Jane, Trina

### **Mary Jane:**

- Collaborative Head Start event
  - Turned out well
  - Right amount of people to get something done
  - Phrase: can be used by all people – except the state, which needs to “approve” it
  - Parents – wonderful. Savvy, smart – advocacy planning on health care access
    - Unafraid to speak up

### **Citizen’s Advocacy Group – Jaymie**

- They’re doing stuff, but MJ doesn’t know what
- Chelsea will check in with Jaymie

### **How do “Paper Tigers”/ACEs impact our advocacy group?**

- Can the common language the Head Start group came up with in March be the foundation of the creation of the “common language” we have as a goal from our ECC April meeting? Much of the groundwork has been laid.
- Access to (mental) health care

### **School Board**

- Let’s advocate with the new members, perhaps invite them to a general ECC meeting
- Advocacy meeting (Brie, Aidan, Kellie, Trina) with Jack Copps to get him up to speed on what we’re doing around ACEs.

### **Legislative Forum**

- **Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (sometime in September or October (4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>))**
- **Invitations – Patty Dahl may have the template**
- **Reserve St. Pete’s Education Center**
- **Chelsea: Will contact D/R people to see what other events are going on.**
- Goal – to have citizens present, show candidates that there are many people who care about these issues, here’s your chance to meet them.
- ECC Legislative Café format
  - Presentation: We are ECC, we are your source of information on kids, families, etc.
  - How to educate candidates on all topics and have a facilitated discussion on it. “This is the issue today for children 0-8 and their caregivers” or “What does this community need and want on \_\_\_ issue?”
  - **Topics:**
    - Safety with young children and families
    - Workplace wellness
    - Screening
    - Early care – money needed for staff, meeting regulatory requirements, etc.

- Head Start and CCP's – we are the people who serve kids in CPS
- Start with this population (at-risk, low-income)
- CPS + Head Start are a system
  - MAC
  - Mixed-use zoning (coffee shops and stuff in a welcoming neighborhood) – neighborhood planning
    - Provide a contact on each issue provided
    - Expert in the room but not at the table
- **Logistics and questions**
- Idea: tables – here's what we think you need to know about; they move around.

### **BBAC June 28**

- Communicating with one another
  - Do we have shared priorities?
  - These are the things we want our policy makers to write letters about.
  - ECCs as advocacy arms locally for early care/education/intervention issues
- HMHB can lead this process, potentially

### **Add Advocacy discussion to ECC LT agenda**

#### **List of topics – send to LT:**

- Safety
  - Primary seat belt laws.
  - Supporting changes for Montana Child Protection System (Protect Montana Kids Commission is currently working on recommendations for 2017)
- Workplace Wellness
  - Changes to workplace policies regarding Paid Family and Medical Leave.
  - Another thing is that private insurance pays for breast pumps under ACA, but Medicaid won't cover them.
- Access to Care
  - Another Medicaid issue is that it will pay for lactation counseling provided by hospitals, but not public health. If we could bill for this service, we would be able to expand our programming to help more people. Breastfeeding = MAJOR ROI!
  - Perinatal Mood Disorder under Medicaid
- Screening
  - Screening and early detection list, post partum depression screening, paid family leave, sick leave for all, raising minimum wage, are all no-brainers for us.
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- Early Care
  - State funding to preschools. Early Edge or even state funding for Head Start or both!!
  - Expanded coverage for STARS to Quality: State sets percent-of-federal-poverty-level rate for access to STARS to Quality – we have chosen 150%, but it's possible to change that. We can make public comment. This would help GAP families.

- Support the agenda items that MAC created for last session, as it seems many of these will need to be addressed again this session.

#### HMHB

- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (drug treatment for pregnant women and those considering pregnancy as part of pregnancy related services under Medicaid)
- Funding for abusive head trauma
- Increased family leave for the birth or adoption of a baby