

ECC Advocacy Committee – Hot Wash for Legislative Forum
September 27, 2016

Chelsea, Mary Jane, Jaymie, Brie, Trina
Sarah Corbally is interested in joining the group

Agenda:

1. Debrief on our forum. What worked/ What we would do differently
 - Wonderful! Better than ever before! You did a marvelous job!
 - How do we get the word out and not just preach to the choir?
 - Everyone in the group should be invited to bring a friend
 - Perhaps a community café isn't the best forum for this
 - Perhaps a town hall-style meeting is better. We could work with other groups concerned with family issues, so that more folks might get involved and a broader audience might be reached.
 - What would you do about these issues specifically
 - Invite people who are more skeptical about investing in early childhood and families
 - We also could serve as an advisory group for legislators?
 - We're in the process of becoming both an advisory group on issues of importance as well as a forum for the public to come together and talk with legislators
 - Future work:
 - Less intro and debrief, more time at each table
 - How to deal with conservative viewpoint that it's a "family" issue
 - Is it possible to have a policy brainstorm session – what can we actually do to address this issue? Come with opposing viewpoints and let's work with them
 - Planted situations – "Here's where I'm coming from. How will your solution help me?"
 - Add a fact-checker – jobs, housing, skill sets of people seeking employment, numbers of people who use child care, cost of child care
 - Have someone facilitate who is willing to be adversarial and push people on their assumptions.
 - Next steps during the session
 - Can Sarah help us write bills, like "Medicaid should pay for breast pumps."
- We still need to provide info sheets on the topics of concern on our website (2 down, 3 to go)
- Invite those elected to come to the ECC meeting after the election – what bills do we want to bring forward?
 - Head Start – one community can derail a whole process (\$200 per kid)

- Need to get the right champion (as yet to be identified)
 - Early Edge – like MPDG – open classrooms for kids under a certain AMI – 1998 – how to best serve “gap children”? Encourage not concentrating kids with potential or actual behavioral/social/emotional issues in one classroom
- ECC could be the best collective advocate for “gap kids” getting monetary and classroom resources.
 - TANF (including non-cash) – families at 200% income guidelines – Head Start can serve those kids – **have a further email discussion about this with Mary Jane, Jaymie, and Brie about this topic.**
- Child care providers – very upset about the STARS requirements and the potential of having to partner with Head Start
 - How can we engage these folks to work together and compromise?
 - This is perhaps a place where EMHA can come in – education on resilience – first five years are important for ALL KIDS ACROSS CLASS and CULTURE
 - Demonstrate the importance of quality child care for kids’ development
 - Show the comparative costs of up-front and back-end “state interventions”
 - Away from informal backyard daycare to professionalization.
 - We’re independent businesses, and you can’t make us!
 - Resistance to change, not wanting the state to tell you what to do, cultural devaluation → internalized devaluation
 - Parents need to counter-demand, but they’re between a rock and a hard spot
 - How can we find common ground and compromise? Parents, providers, state...taking into consideration the increased cost

2. Thank you notes

- Being taken care of

3. Review Action Plan/ What do we need to document from our event?

- Data – number of people, number of legislators, number of credits given, number of data sheets

4. What are the next steps for our committee for the session?

- See above
 - Montana Budget and Policy Institute – fact checkers
 - Carroll College political science students – fact checkers
 - Public access TV – broadcast?
 - Communications professor – moderator
- Write letters – Part II to our educational process
- Flash cards for legislators – email them to legislators
- Mug shots: cost of incarceration → costs of early intervention