



**Early Childhood Coalition of the Greater Helena Area**  
**December 12, 2016 Meeting Agenda**  
**3:45-5:00 p.m. at Ray Bjork Learning Center, Room 6 (1600 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**  
[ecchelena.org](http://ecchelena.org)  
[@eccgreaterhelena](https://twitter.com/eccgreaterhelena)

**Facilitator:** Trista Vonata

**Notes:** Trina Filan

**Snacks:** Peggy Hollow-Phelps

**3:45 Introductions/Announcements/Updates**

- Ashley Peña-Larsen is the new Head Start Coordinator
- Family Promise – tomorrow night, John Floridis, 7:00, free-will offering, UMC
- AWARE, Inc. – self-assessment, please fill out survey sent earlier today
- 23 + 2 littles 😊
- Dr. Eric Aune – Intermountain, pediatric neuropsychology
  - People with disabilities – birth to adult – referrals help to grow services

**3:55 Featured Foci**

- **Featured Focus I:** Sarah Shapiro, L&C County Tobacco Prevention Health Educator: 2017 Tobacco Prevention Support Campaign.
  - Issue: point-of-sale – Big Tobacco focusing on retail location, focusing on kids, price, placement, flavors – educating kids on how to recognize they're being targeted
  - Issue pregnant mothers – 16.3% pregnant women smoked during pregnancy
    - Quit-line specifically for pregnant women
  - Successes: City parks are tobacco-free; e-cigs aren't allowed indoors in Helena (one of the few places I MT); usage is going down
  - Campaign for 2017: Support campaign – primarily social media. "I like a tobacco-free community because..."
    - Looking for participants and different perspectives – will run in February
    - Can email consent form, looking for pictures
    - Will be partnering with WOYC and other kid-oriented events
- **Featured Focus II:** Report from Jaymie Sheldahl on trip with Lansessa Littrell to the National Head Start Association's 2016 Parent, Staff, and Leadership Training Conference in Puerto Rico.
  - Lots of parent representation, particularly fathers. Inspiring.
  - Lanessa and Jaymie took separate workshops and will report more thoroughly
  - HS performance standards require strong father engagement program
    - Dads filled all the aisles, filled the room
    - Were able to talk about what they bring to the table to raise a whole child
    - Articulated that men enter a room filled with women who are skeptical of men – how to engage them and help them not be overwhelmed?
    - Fathers felt they need to come to the table, take responsibility, be present
    - Dads felt they push kids out into the world and moms hold them close

- Engagement and recruitment: Reach out, talk, be flexible with schedules, adapt to their work lives, be clear that fathers bring particular key things to the table, demonstrate the statistics that show father engagement improving kids' lives; recruit male staff to early childhood – men won't open up or respond to women in the same way.
- TFC, EHS, HS – a more mindful partnership bringing early learning and strong DV safety and shelter
  - Work to not push fathers to the fringes, get them involved
- JS and LL presentation: Leaders of tomorrow come from connections of today
  - Changing programs to incorporate more family engagement
  - Barriers for parents and staff are similar – reach across and break through barriers
  - LL only parent presenter at conference (Brava!!)
- Presentation by lawyer – standards – Head Start Act → everything HS does is based on this → HS Performance Stds → Agency actions. Good for perspective: helps make sure you're doing what actually needs to be done to achieve the goals of the Act.
- Lots of connections made (including those that facilitated the trip).
- Photos and more formal presentations will be available in the coming months.

#### 4:45 Committee Updates

- **Communication and Advocacy** – Chelsea Segrest
  - Governor's budget – lots of cuts coming up
    - \$1.2 million per year for two years for STARS to Quality incentives (hope is for ongoing funding)
    - Pre-School Development - \$12 million. Bill with funding for eligibility – HS, pvt providers, public schools – for at-risk 4-year-olds
    - CCDF – additional funding for additional requirements for child care
  - Pre-K is DOA (scuttlebutt) – lots of work to do with key leadership – talk with Reps about why there should at least be a conversation, that the benefits outweigh the costs.
  - There will be updates to the ECC via email, website, Facebook
  - February 10 is Head Start Day at the Capitol – it would be great to have a rally at the front and down the stairs. How can we make this happen?
    - Get information to Trina, so she can get it on Facebook
  - February 22 is an advocacy day, as well – MT Advocates for Children has rotunda reserved.
  - Montana Association of Christians as potential ally
- **Early Care and Education** – Brandi Thomas
  - Spring child care mini-conference (March 25, 2017) – make and take sessions with HSD folks to congratulate child care providers on all they do to prepare kids for kindergarten
- **Family Health and Support** – Brie Oliver
  - HVTF once per month
- **Coordinator Report and Fiscal Oversight** – Trina Filan
  - \$6000 in budget
  - Strategic Plan Implementation Software
    - Helps with accountability and reporting to outside organizations
  - EMHA
    - Youth – separate MS and HS? March 16
  - HRA
    - Families – PiT January 26

- “Homelessness” v “living situation”
- January 11 – Farm-to-ECE webinar

**4:55 Next Meetings**

- Wednesday, January 4 – LT Meeting
- Monday, January 9 – ECC General Meeting
  - **Facilitator:** Ashley Peña-Larsen
  - **Snack-bringer:** Mary Pat Penley

**5:00 Adjourn**

*With the focus on the whole child, we promote community collaboration to network resources and streamline services in support of the health, safety, care and education for children ages 0 – 8 and their families in the greater Helena area.*