



Helena AEYC and ECC- Early Care and Education Committee Joint Meeting
January 6, 2016 Meeting Notes
3:30-5:00 pm at Child Care Partnerships (901 N. Benton)

Helena AEYC:

Chapter President: Hannah Danzer
Treasurer: Mary Jane Standaert
Affiliate Board Rep: Shelly McClain
Affiliate Board Rep: Larissa Moe

ECC-Early Care and Education Committee

Committee Chair: Brandi Thomas
Community Impact Coordinator: Trina Filan

Facilitator: Brandi Thomas

Notes: Trina Filan

Present: Brandi Thomas, Hannah Danzer, Mary Jane Standaert, Maria Goebel, Trina Filan

3:30 Introductions/Announcements/Updates

Trina-Accomplishments of ECE to share with D.C. politicians

- GMM sees value of pre-school development and early education to supporting and improving graduation rates.
- Idea for research: Local data to make connection between preschool and graduation. Identifying Head Start kids shouldn't be as hard as it is.

3:40 Helena AEYC Chapter Business

- Helena Mini Conference
 - March 18 and 19 at St. Peters Education Center
 - Presenter: Laurie Baird
 - Laurie's Hotel (Comfort Inn and Suites by airport) is booked she will make her flight arrangements and invoice Helena AEYC.
 - We don't need to pick her up at the airport, but we will have to transport her to events and to the conference.
 - Mallory, St Pete's catering – no list of foods and prices yet- Brandi is working on this!

3:50 Early Care and Education Committee

- Action Plan review and update
 - Will work on this next meeting
- ECC Business

4:00 HAEYC and ECC-ECEC Combination Projects

- Week of the Young Child Events
 - Books – literacy kits – organize volunteer event(s) – ask service clubs?
 - (Trina) **Start this next week.** Trail of kids and activities – Downtown – recruit businesses – take a flyer, doll (in wagon), ask them to hang in window. Stamp card shaped like a tree with leaves as stamps (scavenger hunt) and prize at the end (Big Dipper and kiddie cone?).
 - Bags given to 2,000 preschoolers.
 - Bank window display – ECC tree with books – “Grow your child's mind: Read and play every day.”

- Schools do individual reading events (target: preschoolers) – need to connect with principals (Peggy) – invitation for preschoolers to come to the event. Some principals go out to preschools
- Brandi will get list of facilities getting books + all Head Starts, STARS, Rotunda
- Rotunda event – April 12 (Tuesday), 8:00-12:00 (reading from 9:00-11:00)
- Big-name readers: Law enforcement, First Lady, GST adults (Marianne), other? – 3 readers at a time, 15-minute increments + bookmark coloring + literacy kit demos
- New bags – ECC, AEYC, UWLCA (Katie with UW taking care of getting bags ordered)
- Supplies for literacy kits
- Bag stuffing – HYPC, 4H, other high school volunteer groups? Brandi will get this booked at Ray Bjork
- What will go in the bags? ExWorks coupons, scavenger hunt, literacy kits available from organizations?, St. Pete's?, PURPLE crying, text-for-baby bookmarks, text-2-talk bookmarks, pens

- **Provider Appreciation**

- STARS Appreciation Event Postponed- Should we combine with Provider Appreciation event during the week of the young child?

Avenue to get preschool teachers and K-3 teachers to talk with each other. MJ: It can be included in the WOYC event – they can be highlighted at the event and can share why it's so great being a STARS provider. Benefits outweigh the problems. We have 25 programs in the Helena Area and 76% of them are at a STARS level (the rest are new and working toward the first STAR). 100 licensed programs in Helena and ¼ are in the STARS Program.

- Appreciation event will be on **April 14** at ExplorationWorks! Child Care Providers and Pre-k to 3rd grade teachers.

- Trina asked: The Number of children served – total and in STARS? Kids Count data (including gaps and needs).

- Need ice cream donations.

- Work study students can work on decorations, games, info boards, etc.

- Maria will help with distributing the e-postcards

- *More work to come on this event next meeting

- Mary Jane has 3 literacy tubs at her house – book, math, science, literacy, art activities + notebook on how kids liked it, what worked, what to change.

- **Building Membership**

4:50 Follow-Up Tasks/Next Meeting

- March 9, 2016 (Second Wednesday of the month)
- Trina: Send Mary Jane Gary Gannon's contact information as well as info for Feb 9 meeting. March 14 meeting

5:00 Adjourn