**Equity Implementation Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting Held May 16, 2017**

**Committee members participating:** Sue Miller, Joyce Harris, Sadie Holmes, Kelly Poe, Lennie Bjornsen, Rashelle Hibbard

**Staff participating:** Lillian Green, Meredith Russell, Dawn Woods, Peter Blume

**Guests participating:** Donalda Dodson, LeeAnn Grogan, Jennifer Irving, Carlos Gomez

The minutes of the April 2017 meeting were accepted.

**Spark Tiers and Standards Draft** : (Presenter: Meredith Russell)

Meredith gave a presentation on the Spark Tiers and Standards Draft for Ad Hoc Input dated 4/18/17. She discussed the:

Introduction

Proposed Spark Tier Overview

Spark Entry Requirements

Self Study Phase

Meredith discussed the Standards and what it takes to apply for a 3-star rating. The 3-star rating looks at five foundational aspects of quality:

The environment

Experiences (daily routines)

Inclusiveness of children, families, and culture

Positive interactions

Educator Qualifications

Meredith discussed how the committee is attempting to remove a lot of the barriers in the education qualification section. The Ad Hoc Committee has a broad range of individuals which is allowing input from many valuable sources. The committee is not lowering the bar – rather they are defining and making it equitable.

Discussion on the 5-star standards. Looking at:

Family engagement (opportunities for families to be engaged)

Individualized curriculum (proposing specific types of curricula activity – assessments, ongoing child

 observations, child’s interests, and family input)

Supporting relationships (provider is intentionally involving and engaging family)

Questions specifically asked to the Equity Implementation Committee:

1. Do the new standards inherently favor dominant culture providers?
2. Are providers that have a focus on equity being recognized for that commitment?

Meredith provided clarification on the word “recognized” in question 2: Is it helping them to achieve a star rating? Have we built the standard so that providers are really focusing on equity? Recognizing the good work that providers do will allow them to show their unique approach to the children they care for that can be reflective of their culture and values. Is it tight enough to show the quality but also loose enough for the individuality of the provider of a community to shine through.

Response by Lillian: We need to ensure that our standards are reflecting the value placed on culturally responsive practices so that individuals who are doing that within their programs are being recognized for that as reflected within the standards.

**Donalda Dodson Award:**  (Presenter: Sue Miller)

Sue would like to recognize Donalda for receiving the Children’s Institute Alexander Award. This is given to recognize someone in a leadership position who is making a difference in the State for children and families.

**Rules Governing Use of Vehicles in Child Care Settings:** (Presenter: Dawn Woods)

Dawn provided background on the Rules Governing Use of Vehicles in Child Care Settings. The National Highway Transportation Board established concern about 15 passenger vans and prohibited the building of them. They were found to be unsafe and had been involved in several accidents. As a result, there was a rule put in place by the Early Learning Council to prohibit 15 passenger vans – which was grandfathered in until 2018. The intent was to put that into all 3 sets of child care facility rule books.

Through investigating this topic we found that there was a lot more involved than just being a 15 passenger van. Specifically, the chassis and wheel base difference versus just taking out some seats to make a 12 passenger van.

After research we came up with three options that we took to the CCEC for consideration:

Option 1: Designed to carry more than 10 - cannot be used to transport children.

Option 2: Designed to carry more than 10 - cannot be used to transport children unless the vehicle is a school bus/multi-function school activity bus or was manufactured after 2010.

Option 3: Designed to carry more than 10, and is not a school bus/multi-function school activity bus -

 may be used if travel speed not to exceed 50 mph; and have an annual safety inspection.

CCEC recommended Option 3. Dawn asked for EIC opinion on this topic.

EIC agreed that Option 3 is also the best option.

**Meeting Structure:** (Presenter: Sue Miller)

Reviewed document listing options. Noted that this will be implemented in September. Looking for input on all three options.

Option 1: All meetings are in-person with GoToMeeting option

Option 2: Meetings rotate between in person, with a call in option, and GoToMeetings

Option 3: All meetings are GoToMeetings

Discussion held and the group decided to try Option 2 beginning in September – alternating each month from in person to GoToMeetings.

**Review of Draft Work Plan:**

Will be discussed at future meeting.

**Next Meeting Topics:** (Presenter: Lillian Green)

Lillian will be meeting with other committees to set our next topics.

Sue mentioned that the Child Care Education Committee has invited the Equity Implementation Committee to join them at their June 8th meeting.