



Early Childhood Initiative April 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held using video conferencing.

Agency Updates:

Child Care Aware is assisting in researching supply needs for providers, where and how to access them and determine the delivery of items to providers. They are working with distributors from around the state. West Central Initiative is covering the cost of the supplies. The agency is also working with grocery stores around the region, asking for special shopping hours or exceptions to the "one per family" rule for such items as milk and bread. Training for providers is being offered online only at this time. Marianne is working on developing two new training curriculum. She is working to contact educators to read stories that will air on the Facebook page for CAPLP.

The Village Family Service Center is seeing clients utilizing the Zoom platform. The option was offered to all clients who want to continue services and have access to the internet on a phone, computer, or tablet. This method of telehealth has allowed services to continue for many families and individuals.

Lake Agassiz Library will soon be offering curbside no contact pick up at the Moorhead Library site. Patrons will be able to order books and other materials either online or by phone. The summer program is in the process of being revamped to an online program called Bean Stock. The library is now offering Hoopla free to its patrons. It is a free link to videos and movies and operates like Netflix. You do need a library card to access it. Library cards can now be acquired online. The Bookmobile is in the final update on the wrap for the bus. One Book, One Minnesota Book, has chosen *Because of Winn Dixie* as this fall's upcoming book read. There will be author talks, online book clubs, an art project, recipe exchange, and more activities planned as part of the book read.

Head Start is starting to prepare for when the stay at home orders are lifted. Classroom services will be offered this summer to approximately 60 students who are either on an IEP or will be transitioning to kindergarten in the fall. Both federal funds and United Way funds will be used to provide summer programming. The agency will utilize CAREs funding to distribute packets to children over the summer that will not be receiving classroom services. Training for staff on trauma and strength finders is in the process of being set up. Teachers and home

visitors are busy meeting the needs of the families they serve. Activities including assisting families in meeting basic needs, classroom zoom meetings, weekly contacts, and an active Facebook page.

MSUM Early Learning Center is using the Zoom platform for classroom circle time. The teachers are sending out weekly activities for families to do together.

YMCA is caring for children of essential workers. The agency started a meal program that offers a snack and supper to children to age 18. Meals are being distributed in Moorhead at Robert Asp Elementary and Hopkins Elementary from 4:15 to 5:15 pm.

Child Care Licensors, Karen, and Julie reported that three home-based child care programs have closed during the pandemic due to health issues within the family or provider. Providers are becoming overwhelmed with the amount of email communication on Covid19 that they are receiving. At a future meeting, we will discuss the way and the types of information that are sent out to providers and look for ways we can work together to streamline that information. May is Child Care Provider Awareness month. A thank you card, and a gift card will be mailed out to the providers. Karen has completed four orientations for new providers. The government temporarily lifted some of the in-person home visits required for licensed providers.

Safe Kids continue to do car seat checks. The Safe Kids event has been canceled, and they have temporarily put their classes on hold.

The Little Free Library has received a fresh coat of paint on the house and roof. Other decorative painting will be done when we can meet in person. The Longest Table event scheduled for June has been canceled.

Next month's meeting will be held on Friday, May 15. Clay County Public Health will provide its quarterly report on the Healthy Families America and Nurse-Family Partnership.