

Early Care and Education Association

Meeting Date: 12/14/2021

Meeting Time: 4:00pm

Members Present: Amy Brooks, Faith Dubois, Jenn Hosmer, Sunnie McPhetres, Vicky Fogg, Jenn Parker, Tracee Barden, Lisa Pike, Lindsey Trombley, Joan Valentine, Tanika Beauchemin, Katie Jenks

Topic	Discussion/Decision
Update on guide to supporting staff with ARPA funds	<p>NH WorkForce sitting (needs to pass) bill includes funds for sign on bonuses and retention of staff. The discretionary funds have not been spent yet so there is a possibility of more funds coming.</p> <p>Amy shared a guide for staff support options. JP suggested adding an explanation to each of the programs. Bev Widger, the HR consultant, is working on a cheat sheet for the ICHRA funds as well as a staff performance form to score benefits which will classify employees and give explanation in case of audit. It was brought to attention that the plug and play document Kim Votta created is accessible and very easy to use.</p> <p>Amy is looking into creating a membership plan that will include all who want to participate. The fee would be paid for by ECEA. The participating centers would have to agree on the offerings to staff. Also looking into mental health activities such as animal therapy visits. Working on getting all resource links on the website under the Providers tab.</p>
OperationExpanded Tests	<p>Amy spoke with Jim Lentine of Affinity Empowering. They are running a Covid testing program for center and family based providers free of charge. It is a federally funded project. This is a great monitoring tool. There are no restrictions, use as little or as often as needed/want. Two tests per person are submitted. One is put in a "pool". They are tested and if no positive is detected it stops there. If a positive is detected the individual samples are tested to find the positive. Results are sent to the Provider. YOU are responsible for HIPAA regarding results. Usually a 3 day turnaround.</p> <p>UV Finance Committee is looking into getting bull rapid tests for all. NH RESIDENTS are eligible for 4 FREE tests through the state.</p>

UV Symposium	Great success. Follow up is being planned. Providers are welcome to join work groups which include, Advocacy, ECE Retention and Recruitment and ECE Facilities and Models, Couch could stipend for participation. Hope Foundation and Hypertherm are involved and are sitting on committees. Vital Communities has decided to “take on” child care which is very exciting!! Amy feels we are in good hands!
Recruitment	Amy Katie and Tanika met with a Recruitment Specialist who gave some great ideas. She is going to help us form a more active plan which will include Indeed, advertisements, Instagram etc.
R-3 Committee	Still looking for staff to participate! Faith has graduates from her Getting Ahead program ready to graduate and would like to be considered.
Food Pantry	ECEA is looking into partnering with Grub Hub or a similar company to deliver food from area Pantries. Talked about possible reasons for Pantries not being accessed. Such as gas prices, operating hours.
Wrap Up	<p>Working on getting resource links on website. Marketplace insurance open enrollment is closed but Amy strongly thinks there is a possibility it will be reopened. Work United is taking on a Marketplace Navigator, hope to be available early January.</p> <p>Have a GREAT Holiday!! See you next month on January 11th at 4PM</p>