

Policy Council Committee Meeting

July 20, 2021

Motion to: Open the meeting.
Motion by: Richard Yocum.
Seconded: Jessica Ricciardelli.
Vote: AIF

1. Introductions & Roll Call

Representatives:

Michael Mosley (Educare Part-Day)
David Hall (HomeBased)
Jessica Ricciardelli (Educare Full-Day)

Richard Yocum (Community Rep)
Michele Gonya (Community Rep)
A quorum was present.

Excused:

Ada Webb (Mill Stream)
Katy Richardson (Community Rep)

Anthony Houghton (North Elementary)

Absent:

Ashley Hebert (Clinton Preschool)

Nicole Heath (Educare Full-Day)

Staff:

Tracye Fortin, Chief Operating Officer, KVCAP Child & Family Services
Miriam Jacobs, Family Engagement Manager
Jennifer Pare, Executive Administrative Assistant

2. Review/Approval Policy Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to: Accept and approve meeting minutes of 6/15/2021.
Motion by: David Hall.
Seconded: Richard Yocum.
Vote: AIF

3. Family Engagement Manager

Miriam Jacobs shared the following:

- **Head Start Goes to Augusta**

The annual Head Start Goes to Augusta event is Friday, July 23, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Capital Park. There will be children's activities, poster-making, lunch, and a parade to tour the capital. Anyone who wants to join, please connect with staff at your site. Our messages will include thanking the legislators for their recent advocacy of the LD 1712 bill that was recently signed by Governor Janet Mills.

- **Family Coaching**

KVCAP Head Start was awarded a Whole Families grant, which will support Family Coach positions. A family coach works with families to set and reach goals that are important to them and partners to help guide families in developing a step-by-step approach to prioritize and reach their goals.

- **Parent Committee Connections**

Policy Council has emphasized the importance of ensuring the Parent Committee/Policy Council connection. Miriam shared that COVID may continue to be a barrier in face-to-face connections as public school programs open this fall, but Family Service Coordinators will work with parents on ways to ensure these connections are established and remain strong through the upcoming program year.

- **Enrollment**

Enrollment numbers continue to be monitored very closely. Recruitment efforts have increased, with staff deploying over 1,000 recruitment bags into the community. Staff are also connecting with area local businesses to promote having fliers/brochures available to their clients. Foster family referrals have increased through increased staff outreach connections. Our surveys indicate that ‘word of mouth’ is the most effective way that families hear about Head Start. The monthly enrollment reports will continue to be provided for review in the Policy Council packets. Tracye will keep the Council engaged in community assessment data and possible considerations for future reprioritization of funds to new locations.

4. **In-Person Meetings**

Members of the Council discussed the options of meeting remotely, in-person or a hybrid model. Discussion included a review of the date/time/location and logistics of space, travel, meal, childcare and technology. We will keep an eye on the pandemic, including the Delta variant. It was noted that our virtual attendance has been strong.

5. **Michael Mosley**

Michael Mosley shared that Maine Children’s Alliance was recently awarded two grants through the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation: (1) Special Education and Early Intervention and (2) Improving Early/Head Start Access. These one-year grants are aimed to strengthen parent voice. Maine was chosen for these awards in part because of our successful local, statewide, and national Parent Ambassador and Alumni program. Michael was chosen as the Maine Children’s Alliance Project Coordinator. Congratulations, Michael, on your initiative in Maine pursuing these opportunities and your new leadership role!

6. **Reports:**

- **KVCAP Board Update:**

- KVCAP has opened to the public. Following CDC guidance, clients who are vaccinated are not required to wear a mask. Our collaborative sites, including our Educare school, may have more strict guidance. Child & Family Services programs are about 50% vaccinated per staff verification. Continued education and research data is provided to staff.
- Michael Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer, Crisis and Counseling Centers, Inc., Augusta, and a member of the KVCAP Board of Directors, has recently joined the Educare Central Maine Board of Directors. Michael will accompany Suzanne Walsh as the 2nd KVCAP vote on the Educare Central Maine Board of Directors.

- **Child & Family Services Chief Operating Officer Report:**

- KVCAP Employee Satisfaction Survey: Overall response rate was 86%, which is phenomenal! Nearly half of those were responses from Child & Family Services staff. Key highlights include:
Strengths:
 - Connection to mission
 - Employees like the work they do
 - Staff are overall satisfied with their work and KVCAP
 - Supports/resources for staff and families during COVID-19Areas to strengthen:
 - Salary
 - Linking staff to the Agency’s Strategic Plan and Goals
- LD 1712 – An Act To Support Children’s Healthy Development And School Success: Tracye shared the history of how LD1712 was created; Educare Beyond-the-Walls and Elevate Maine-Somerset with Early Head Start:Child Care Partnerships. There was tremendous advocacy for this bill statewide and Governor Mills signed the bill last week. This is extremely exciting for children and families, as well providers, and for the early childhood field. We will have some role with the Office of Child & Family Services determining details on how this legislation will work. Educare’s Lab School & Learning Hub will provide a training and technical assistance role to other programs statewide.

- **KVCAP Child & Family Services Program Information Summary Report:**
 - Reviewed report.
- **Mastercard Report:**
 - Reviewed report.

Motion to: Accept and approve the reports as presented.

Motion by: David Hall.

Seconded: Richard Yocum.

Vote: AIF

7. Motion to: Adjourn the Policy Council meeting.

Motion by: Richard Yocum.

Seconded: David Hall.

Vote: AIF