

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Parent Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	9:30am, 5/23/2020 Zoom Meeting
MEETING CALLED BY	Shirley Blake
WORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Kendra Mashnik, Julie Lovell
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Shirley Blake, Lynn Hall, Connie Adams
VERSION	Final
RECORDED	No

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Parent Cafes, Shirley Blake
<p>Due to COVID-19, Parent Cafes are on hold.</p> <p>Some coordinators are interested in holding virtual cafes. The group discussed this option, including whether families would be interested in this format, if families have access to a device to use, and if families have time now or would rather wait until school is completed. Some organizations (Relief Nursery, Healthy Families) have been doing virtual home visits and the group deliberated how stressful this option might be for a family with small children.</p> <p>The possibility of having in-person groups again, when Phase Two begins, was introduced. However, the complication for this would be how to handle childcare, which had previously been included with Parent Cafes. If virtual cafes are held, there is a concern over whether it is trauma-informed if children overhear their parent discuss worries.</p> <p>For now, other organizations are delivering care packages to families with food, diapers, activities, etc. It was reported that some families expressed feeling overwhelmed by the number and lists of resources that are being shared in all mediums. Conversely, other families have increased their contacts with a program.</p>	

DISCUSSION ITEM	Organization updates
<p>Julie Lovell from Kidco: Family advocates and teachers initially checked in with families, but many families were overwhelmed with everything and wanted fewer check-ins. Teachers adjusted by offering resources if parents wanted them, and offering to be available if needed. The teachers have also been offering videos on YouTube. Fall enrollment is happening now, with a mid-September opening if possible.</p> <p>Kendra Meshnik, Old Mill Center Relief Nursery: The team of teachers and home visitors has been delivering care packages to families with food, activities, and other supplies.</p>	

NEXT MEETING	9:30am, 6/23/2020 Zoom meeting planned
MEETING ADJOURNED	11am