



Success, Achievement, Together . . . for All Students

Polk County LICC Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2019

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Henry Hill

Present: Robin Simmons, Stephanie Gilbert, Cheryl Cisneros

Welcome/Introductions

Stephanie Gilbert – Early Learning & Family Engagement Supervisor

Cheryl Cisneros – Director of Creating Opportunities

Data Review:

Robin shared current data sheets for Polk County. Current numbers are up across the board in terms of enrollment. Robin asked the team about their thoughts on Polk County referrals and shared the current locations offered to families for evaluations. Families are offered the choice of having their appointments in the McMinnville or Salem WESD sites. The WESD can also accommodate and hold the evaluations in the Polk site in Independence as needed. Robin explained that the issue with this is the schedule availability of the evaluators and room availability. Stephanie brought up that there might be an opportunity to offer evaluations in Dallas due to an available classroom on Mondays.

The team discussed the transportation barrier to evaluation appointments that some families have. Falls City Transportation is a great resource for families. It is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays and travels to Monmouth the 1st Tuesday of the month. Cheryl provided the suggestion that it could be helpful to distribute flyers with this information to local offices, pediatricians, and with CCR & R.

Cheryl asked about referral trends in Polk County such as the DNQ rates and children that are in the gray area but are in need of additional support. The team discussed data on decline rates and wanted to know if information is gathered on reasons parents decline. The team also expressed interest on eligibility rates for Polk County in comparison to other counties.

Polk County EI/ECSE Updates

Robin provided updates on new WESD staff that will be serving Polk County. Jennifer Hasbrouck will be the new EI/ECSE specialist next year that will support and provide consultations to families in the community setting. Robin also discussed the good partnership between OCDC and WESD this year.

WESD Planning 2019-2020

Cheryl shared about her role on an advocacy committee that supports legislative advocacy, children's institutes and gets parents to advocate for EI/ECSE funding. The committee wants increased funding for EI/ECSE programs and they feel

**Dave Novotney, Ph.D.
Superintendent**

that things are looking positive with support for the programs. Robin thanked Cheryl for providing a fresh update on increased community support for EI/ECSE.

Robin asked the team for feedback on offering parent groups in Polk for next year. The groups would be beneficial because they require less time commitment for families, but still offer the opportunity for children to interact with one another and for parents to have connections in the community. Currently, Marion has a parent group that has been working well. If transportation is an issue for families, look into free transportation resources for them.

Parent Participation

Robin expressed the need for more parent participation in the LICC meetings and asked the team to brainstorm ideas on how to bring in more parent involvement. Cheryl had the idea for creating a flyer or postcard that provides information to families on what the LICC is about and how important it is to have a parent's input/perspective on the team. Cheryl also suggested that this flyer could be given to families when they first meet their service providers for their IFSP.

Stephanie suggested that combining the LICC meetings with the PYC meetings might help increase parent engagement and make them even more involved in the community. Many of the PYC members are also LICC members so it would be beneficial to have the meetings together.

LICC Budget

Robin talked about the LICC budget and asked if the team had any ideas on what the money could be used for this year. Stephanie mentioned that books had been purchased last year for the Lending Library project, and that a draft bookmark was made to promote it to families. The team thinks that a good idea for this year might be to create a postcard with LICC meeting information, PYC info, lending library info and mail or distribute to families at community events. The money can be used to print these items and family outreach activities.

Next Meeting May 15th