Early Childhood Advisory Council
Retreat Notes
April 10, 2014
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Keynote Presentation

Key Ideas

- Conflicts in mission, message, and accountability
- Regulations differ by segment and block partnering and hinder quality
- NAME=Early Childhood Education & Development
- Universal, collective agreement on child outcomes, accompanied by prepared teaching workforce
- Raising awareness of others not in ECED
- Quantity of unprepared practitioners

Trends/Themes in Thinking

What choices are being minimized?

- To build capacity/quality with intentionality, knowing that our current piecemeal approach for incentives/motivations/funding will not do it
- Programs and family choices and services are minimized by jurisdictional boundaries, alignment, and collaboration
- Less fragmentation and better communication (leverage technology)
- Has classroom practice been ignored in funding decisions?
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What questions are being dodged?

- Is our collective group avoiding taking the leadership needed to create the improvements?
- Reality of relationships and partnerships in Montgomery County vs. telling ourselves how good we are?
- How to make sure people are fiscally on board as ECAC moves forward?
- How will funding support the system we come up with as an ECAC?
- What is capacity at local level to meet state mandates and what's our interest?
- Can ECAC funds drive County's funding choices in ECE?
- Is ECAC fully exercising its individual and collective leadership in support of collaboration and desired results?
- How can emphasis be put on what matters to children's learning & development, e.g. teaching practices?
- What is the plan for addressing the dodged questions?
- What about children not in formal ECED?
- Who is going to champion ECED as a profession?
- Are coordination and collaboration and partnerships focused on day-to-day realities and should they?
- What is ECAC holding itself accountable for?

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Conclusion

1. ***Based on today's interactions, what's emerging that's new for you?***
2. ***What seeds might you plant together today that could make a difference to your work?***
3. ***What questions remain for you that need answers?***

   - What would make this group most effective?
   - How does ECAC deepen its shared understanding of ECE as a system?
   - How can we energize stakeholders and constituents around Action Plan?
   - How can and when ECAC advise County?
   - How can ECAC plan change needed to answer the questions posed today and is ECAC the group for all of them?
   - How do we get at common core for EC development?