



Local Leadership Council November 6, 2019

- 1. Julie Kleinguenther & Sharon Joyce from ELRC Region 17 welcomed the participants and segued into the slide show**
- 2. Preview of Asset Mapping**
 - Jim Rebilas, GIS/Data Analyst from Montgomery Co Dept of Health & Human Services came to speak to the group regarding the interactive map he has put together using various filters (school district, mass transit, etc).
 - Jim answered some questions from the group saying it's in the initial stages and more filters can be added.
 - Julie Kleinguenther, Assistant Director of ELRC Region 17, also helped Jim by answering any questions from the group as well as speak to the interactive map.
 - With the suggestions from the group it was discussed how the information would be maintained, should changes happen.
 - The group had the following suggestions to add to the filter: Family support (drug, alcohol, abuse, etc.) and before/after school programs.
- 3. Announcements**
 - Theresa Paludi from ELRC Region 17 spoke regarding the press release from Early Ed News regarding the announcement of Professional Development Organizations stating that more information will be provided when available.
 - Jennifer Troutman from ELRC Region 17 spoke of the ELRC event: Week of the Young Child scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2020.
 - She also spoke to the items that have been donated to the ELRC (winter jackets, backpacks, diapers) which are available to any parent and parents don't need to be receiving subsidy to receive the items.
 - A participant in the group spoke to how helpful Community Connections has been and Jennifer made note that our office is in contact with that department to ensure we are sharing all the necessary resources to the families.
- 4. New Program Initiatives & Funding**
 - Jeanine Moser, Director of ELRC Region 17, spoke to the following regarding initiatives:
 - Hosting a Job Fair in May
 - Implementing a substitute pool of qualified staff
 - Funding childcare for unserved populations. A participant in the group spoke to the conscious discipline curriculum that they have started following at the YWCA and the training associated with the program. This will help with the social and emotional challenges and behaviors the children have in care
 - Mention to the job fair will allow for us to reach out to recent graduates or soon to be graduates

- Discussion on the unserved population and what that might look like. Notes were taken from the participants ideas
- Note made that clients are provided other resources if they don't qualify for child care assistance. Resource & Referral asked that they are contacted if participants have parents with any questions and need the additional resources.
- Regarding unserved populations a participant shared a story of a parent that was in rehab and when released, was required to attend meetings, trainings and wasn't able to because she didn't have child care for her children. She wound up relapsing, because she was unable to attend the meetings/trainings.

5. Break Out Sessions with Subcommittees

- Participants were asked to move into one of the following subcommittees:
 - Knowledge, Networking and Advocating
 - Early Intervention and Behavioral Health
 - Early Head Start, Head Start & Pre-K counts
 - Quality Staffing
 - Alternative Funding Sources & Services
- Notes were taken by designated ELRC Region 17 staff assigned to the groups above

6. Next LLC meeting was announced for Wednesday, March 4, 2020

- Participants were given our website, montcopa.org/elrc, and email, elrcregion17@pa.gov, for any follow up questions, concerns or to provide to families that might need to get in contact with us.

7. Participants were asked to complete the survey and provide any feedback and suggestions for future meetings

Break Out Session Notes

Knowledge, Networking, & Advocating

Followed up on conversations about Parent Cafés. Easter Seals in Lansdale may be able to help with creating a new site for future Café gatherings along with staff to help. Discussed overlap in programs and how to more effectively share information with families so as not to overwhelm them, but to give them guidance to fulfill all of their needs. Central points of contact discussed were:

ELRC Resources and Referral

- Jenn Troutman jtroutma@montcopa.org 610-278-1477
- Raquel Graham rgraham@montcopa.org 610-278-5261 (fluent in Spanish)
- Located at 1430 DeKalb Street, Norristown 19401 5th Floor (can meet with clients at County satellite locations when transportation is an issue)

Community Connections

- Lansdale: 421 West Main Street
- Norristown: 1430 DeKalb Street, 1st Floor
- Pottstown: 364 King Street
- Willow Grove: 102 York Road, 1st Floor

Home Visiting central referral system. Working on ways to build stronger connections between offices represented at the LLC throughout the County to avoid overlap and to provide the highest level of service to meet the needs of families where they are at from a wholistic approach, regardless of the initial point of contact.

Early Intervention & Behavioral Health

- Eligibility for children who have behavioral health/mental health diagnosis
- Losing quality staff
- Responsive classroom- component of using strategies to teach social and emotional learning
- Providers being required to use these types of programs or be able to implement them in their centers
- Inclusion of children while they're on the waiting list for other services (i.e. IU, etc)
- Leverage newer programs that are available
- Work on getting a rapid response for various grants, partnerships which will help with the above concerns of working with children currently on waiting list to receive other services
- Being able to provide staff with helpful information to use with children
- Educating parents who have children that need additional services without offending them

Early Head Start, Head Start, Pre-K Counts

We began our breakout session with discussing different funding sources and programs. WE reviewed the differences between EHS-CCP and EHS-federal. We had representatives from Early Head Start (EHS-CCP) which is state funded EHS administered by CCIU. We also had representatives from Early Head Start which is federally funded EHS administered by Maternity Care Coalition. We also had a director in the group who works for an ECE program which offers Early Head Start, PreK Counts and Infant Toddler Contracted Slots Pilot classrooms. She spoke how they manage these programs within classrooms at the facility.

We discussed some of the barriers that these programs face- helping families find jobs who are currently not working and not meeting requirements for Child Care Works, transportation issues from the center that is out of the county and the smaller classrooms versus cost of business to run blended classrooms.

Quality ECE Staffing & Substitutes

We know we need quality staffing. Shared assets to help each other. Seniors to help fill in the gaps for staffing needs. Partner with CareerLink or Community College. What do you do at your center?

- Support the current staff, incentive to keep staff, fulfill their needs (help with transportation, assist in ways to get them to work and not leave).
- Using seniors to help cover breaks – to be trained in appropriate practices
- Have to find the population – not just keeping quality staff but finding quality staff. Staffing agencies don't seem to have a database for ECE.
- Even with substitutes, covering cost of their training has been problematic. What PD is necessary for subs?? Depends on STAR level but for DHS the entire staff needs to have required PD.
- Answer = shared services can help! Substitute database created by ELRC? Idea = schools buy in to ELRC, they pay ELRC fee for hours needed to sub, and ELRC pays teachers.
- Overall teacher salaries need to increase. Finding that subs are not willing to take a job from the school because they get paid more as a sub. Shared sources would help but would need to be consistent across the county (industry-wide issue).
- People aren't becoming teachers any longer. They aren't making enough money as a teacher (even with a degree) so they are choosing other careers.
- Losing quality staff, not finding quality staff, admins need to be in classrooms to cover ratio...owners do too!
- Striving to keep quality!!

Alternative Funding for Underserved Populations

Continued conversation of identifying areas of need:

- Respite care
- Grandparents
- Homeless
- Drug and alcohol - in treatment
- Subsidy waiting list
- Mental health
- Trauma
- Loss of parent - deceased, incarcerated
- Continuity of care
- Transportation - public and private
- Affordable housing

[Montgomery County Parent and Infant Resource Guide](#) recently updated

Can shelters apply for grants to help families pay off court costs and fines?

EIPC - Your Way Home rental assistance?

Explore ways to establish a fixed means of income - grant money is nice until it runs out

Directory of Participants

| Name | Agency | Email |
|------------------------|---|--|
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