



Local Leadership Council March 4, 2020

The Local Leadership Council (LLC) meeting held on March 4, 2020 began with two announcements:

- The Week of the Young Child, Family Friday Fun Day: April 17th
- Conscious Discipline training: March 30-31 and April 1-2

Next, Megan Penson from OCDEL spoke and provided general information regarding the Infant Toddler Contracted Slots program.

The Local Leadership Council (LLC) participants participated in one of three subcommittees. This time was used for the Local Leadership Council to move forward with goals that had been previously established and set as priorities for the group.

Temporary Child Care Assistance (TCCA)

The group met and discussed a new Temporary Child Care Assistance (TCCA) program that is in its development stage. As a group, we began to establish criteria for determining who would qualify for this local funding. It was decided that we should commit to serving low-income families. We discussed eligibility criteria for TCCA. We agreed to applicants should be ineligible for Child Care Works subsidized childcare to ensure that TCCA funds are used efficiently. Families who apply for TCCA should be asked to identify the reason that emergency services are needed. Some emergency situations that were identified were as follows:

- Respite care for caretakers over 62 years old
- Single Parents unable to work due to disability
- Parents attending drug/alcohol treatment
- Parents attending treatment for mental health issues
- Family is homeless
- Family has experienced a recent traumatic event
- Death within the immediate family
- OCY Protective Daycare funds are not available

The group discussed what type of childcare service would be potentially offered through the TCCA program. We discussed that at application, a family would need to specify the services being requested (Under 30 days, 30 days, 45 days, or 60 days). WE discussed that the family would need to identify how and when emergency childcare will be used (1/2 days, full days, specified date range). The group discussed that some families could potentially apply for this service with a provider in mind while other families might need assistance and could potentially request care from a network of TCCA providers.

The subcommittee began to discuss the application process. An application for TCCA services would need to be drafted. The Local Leadership Council could potentially create a review team to

assist with TCCA applications being approved or denied, based on the availability of TCCA funds. The TCCA program will need to partner with childcare providers to formulate an agreement for enrollment and payment. Providers would need to submit a TCCA attendance invoice in order to receive payment.

In order to provide these families with comprehensive supportive services, many other suggestions were made. TCCA program applicants should be offered high quality family engagement to identify additional needs. The TCCA intake process should be developed to ensure that the family is referred to other supportive resources available within the community. It was suggested that TCCA funds be used to provide ECE staff with scholarships in an effort to “take care of our own.” The LLC will explore partial tuition assistance for waitlisted families living significantly below the poverty line. TCCA funds could also be used to support parents with mental health issues who are looking for work so that they have access to high quality child care while working to obtain employment.

Early Learning Programs

(Infant Toddler Contracted Slots program, Early Head Start, Head Start, Pre-K Counts)

The Early Learning Programs Committee spent time discussing setting up an event for the providers to spread awareness of each program (ITCSP, EHS, HS, PKC). The group’s thought was it would give an opportunity that programs could get to know each other and they could refer to each other if they did not have open slots available. The committee spent time digging into the differences between each program. The committee ended the discussion with a family engagement piece working with public libraries and how beneficial it is to have a relationship with the library because of all the free resources to families especially in lower income areas.

Quality Staffing / Job Fair

The Quality Staffing subcommittee brainstormed ideas for an Early Childhood Education job fair. Providers and community stakeholders discussed when to hold a job fair, where to hold a job fair, and who to invite to a job fair, among other logistics. To reach more individuals in Montgomery County, the group decided it would be best to host two job fairs in two different locations across the county. Also, these events would be hosted at different times and days of the week to provide more flexibility to those who would want to attend. The group also discussed the possibility of expanding the job fair to include career counseling opportunities for ECE professionals on how to further their careers and education.

At the conclusion of our meeting, dates of the upcoming LLC meetings were announced: May 13, 2020 and August 12, 2020.

Directory of Participants

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