

Childcare Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2022 via Zoom

Kara Sensenig led today's meeting. There were no changes to the prior meeting's minutes.

Welcome: folks introducing themselves

Pam Bailey, Janet Trent, Cindy Perdue, Misty Jewel, Betty Easter, Crystal Bailey, Kim Gregory, Brigit Austin, Kara Sensenig (and others signed on later, but weren't on line at this moment.)

Pam Bailey was asked to start off with the plan for the August meeting. She stated it was decided to have the meeting with the delegates Delegate Kathy Byron & Senator Steve Newman first. They were the ones who had requested the meeting, and we aren't sure what they want to share, or if they have another agenda to be covered in the meeting. She will be sending them a packet of information that others in Childcare have asked to be shared with the delegates, of statistics, etc. Pam is also sending them a flyer with highlights of the survey we did. We will meet with them next week. We have decided to hold off on doing a business roundtable until after this meeting. So, our plan is to talk to Kathy and Steve, and then, when we have a meeting with the Childcare group, a week earlier than the normal Childcare Committee meeting time, in-person, on August 24 at 1:00pm at the Bedford Welcome Center. Then, it will be easier to share what we learned from the delegates. There is a reporter from Channel 7 that has kept asking Pam about the Childcare group, the issues, and what we're doing with the info, etc. Pam has invited her to attend the Childcare meeting at the Bedford Welcome Center. Pam informed her that this will be exclusive, not open to media, as this is not the goal. Pam feels that they would be very good at telling the story. Unless the reporter gets called off on something else, she plans to be at the meeting. Pam's goal for this Childcare meeting is to glean the info from the delegate's agenda, report it to the group, and then determine what we want to talk about. Then for later in the year, plan a roundtable, bringing in businesses, to talk about what we've learned.

Kara responded that yes, there are a lot of changes going on in July, so it makes sense to have this kind of plan.

Kara turned to the next topic of Centerfest. It is September 24 from 10a – 6pm. Has this time of the Centerfest changed from before? Kara met with Main Street Methodist, who has agreed to share their lot with Childcare. They will have a table for their own programs, as they have some pre-school & after-school program. They have agreed to do two bounce-houses, and to man those. We (Childcare) will do what we've talked about – having some activities and having an information-table. Our information will be geared toward Ready Regions with Bright Beginnings of Central Virginia Text information, and what the Department of Education will be doing. More information about Kara's and Holly's separate meetings with Ready Regions will be reported at a future meeting.

Kara asked if we could get a sub-committee of folks interested and available to help out with manning the Centerfest table, activities, and information. She asks that there be a sign-up list for manning the table, in two-hour increments, with two people for each two-hour shift. Kara said she can help with set-up & take the 10-12 shift. We get a free 10x10 space. We could put info to direct people toward the Main Street Methodist location. So, at that 10x10 space we can have some door prizes and activities for toddlers to pre-K children, books, to get families to sign up for the Bright By Text and offer additional literature. And an info sheet from our committee to explain the importance of brain development from

birth to five. Janet offered to help, and asked if it was ok to wear their Early Headstart t-shirts. She offered to bring sensory tables.

Cindy Perdue could help, and provide information. Bridget can't be there, but will talk to some of the Headstart teachers to see if they could volunteer and bring an activity if needed. Amanda Powell will be out of town, but will have some brochures that could be given out. Misty can volunteer for any time-block, as well as provide some info for parents to be able to apply for subsidies. Amanda offered to print out some applications for subsidy.

Denise Hutton can help volunteer that day. Her work (Virginia Career Works) will have their own table there, also.

Kara will bring a sign-up sheet to the in-person meeting in August. But everyone, plan ahead what they can bring as hand-outs for the table. Danville has a brochure, and Bright Beginnings is working on one. Carolyn Hitchcock can't participate, as she will have delivered her baby close to that time.

Amanda Powell's office is the Danville office (Area 3) for Ready Region. Kara informed the group that Ready Region is contracting with different groups, so for Lynchburg, they're contracting with Bright Beginnings CV.

Kim Gregory offered to participate and bring information. She's been with CVCC since January, so is unaware if CVCC already participates in Centerfest or not.

Meeting adjourned: Next meeting August 24, 2022 @ 1:00pm, in-person at the Bedford Welcome Center. Betty will inform Holly to send out the calendar invite for the new date/time.