



NMCAA Policy Council Minutes  
Thursday December 12, 2024  
10a.m.-12p.m.

Welcome and Call to Order-Blair Cole, Policy Council Chair at 10am

- Roll call – Grace Ogden, Blair Cole, Kayla Cook, Melanie Chaney, Rosalynn Alfsen, Samantha Haggerty, Crystal King, Brittany Burk, Amber Martin, Kerry Myers, Rose Shaw, Taya Reece, Brigitte Matzke, Tabitha Bergland-Sprague
- Approval to use roll call as attendance (**Quorum Established**)
  - Motion to use roll call as attendance, Crystal King motioned, Melanie seconded, motion carried
- Review of agenda
- Approval of minutes from last meeting
  - Motion to approve minutes from last meeting, Brittany Burke motioned, Kayla Cook seconded, motion carried.

Agency Connection- Kerry Baughman, NMCAA Executive Director

- Kerry was not available to attend the meeting.

Grounding Activity- Family Engagement Specialists

- Resilience was talked about last meeting
- Stacey mentioned that sometimes what is discussed may be triggering and that there is support in place for everyone.
  - Please contact Stacey, FES or CFS if you have any questions or concerns.
- The group discussed and shared stories about childhood trauma, protective factors for children and how to set up boundaries.
  - Creating your own traditions
  - Letting your partner know when your “cup is full”
  - How your own trauma can affect you as an adult
  - Examples of protective factors for children.
- Shannon thanked everyone for attending online and their stories.

Community Assessment Report (10:30)- Jeff Schilling, Schilling Consulting

- Shannon introduced Jeff
- Jeff did an overview of the Community Needs Assessment.
  - Methodology
    - How the standards are set
  - Key Data Findings
    - Primary data
    - Secondary data – data from other sources outside of the agency
      - County Data
      - Township data



- Education and unemployment
- Housing & Homelessness
- Early Education and Childcare
- Food Insecurity
- Health
- Transportation
- Broadband Access
- Jeff shared a Meta Analysis chart with what counties struggle with the above information in our service area.
- The primary Data slide was based on clients' surveys and where they need help. The survey results are the same as the survey results in 2021.
- Jeff shared outcomes of the Parent/Guardian Focus Group: Early Education and Childcare Barriers, Accessibility, Home Based Option, Evening/Night Considerations/Summer Month Needs etc.
- Stakeholders' surveys identified 23 best practices or interesting ideas that they think might be effective if applied to addressing one or more social determinants of poverty in the service area.
- The board and employees were asked the same questions
- All surveys combined is the Primary Data
- Needs Prioritization
  - Jeff shared a chart of each need or issue, impact, urgency readiness
  - Jeff had a chart of partnership interest – where can we get help if it is a service we do not offer.
  - Scenario Considerations – coordination of services with other entities.
- Needs Prioritization
- Next Steps
- Questions and Discussions followed
  - Housing – there is a great need for more affordable housing
  - Childcare – most counties have a lack of childcare options; especially for nights/weekends.
  - Jeff did a breakdown of each county townships needs.
  - There was a discussion about poverty and what the government considers “poverty” because the grey area cannot afford to make ends meet.
  - Tabitha talked about falling into the grey area about meeting basic needs and veteran's services.
    - Shannon said that there is help for veterans in the area and Shannon can share that.
- Parents talked about meeting needs their families need regarding the needs assessment and some of their struggles.

#### Executive Committee Elections- Blair Cole, Policy Council Chair

- Elections will be held in the next Policy Council Meeting on January 9, 2025.



## Program Information Summary- Mini Management

- Manager updates
  - Abria, site manager
    - We are always hiring!
    - Substitute positions are always open.
  - Stacey Parent
    - Community resources are less available for Holidays if you are looking for support check with your FES or CFS for assistance.
    - Please complete your family outcome tool.
    - In-Kind can be counted by completing surveys online.
  - Dru O'Connor
    - Teachers are doing Parent Teacher Conference in December and January. Please participate.
- Budget, enrollment, and attendance reports
  - Enrollment Report – Alicia Temple
    - Under enrollment plan, hoping to be out of it in February.
    - Agency is at full enrollment.
    - Received guidance for over income which will help
    - The new recruitment year starts in January.
    - Share your story. Word of mouth is the number recruitment effort.
      - Agency can give out cards and other information to assist with enrollment.
  - Budget – continues to be tight.
    - Priority spending only.
    - At the end of the year, it goes into one account for EHS and HS.
    - Non-Federal match waiver was submitted, waiting for the response from Head Start

## Advocacy Information- Shannon Phelps, Child, and Family Development Director

- Current landscape
  - Advocacy Information
  - Head Start Impact
  - Legislative Changes and Potential Impact
    - Pending administrative change – Head Start has not been reauthorized since 2007.
- Understanding potential impacts of block granting
  - Legislative Changes and Potential Impact
    - Pending administrative change – Head Start has not been reauthorized since 2007.
    - Raised-flat or reduced funding or block granting.
      - Block Granting – replaces federal to local funding with fixed grants to states.
      - Funds are capped



- States determine program priorities
  - What does it mean for Head Start
    - Funding shortfalls
    - Funneling of funds to other Programs or priorities
    - Lack of Accountability
  - Consider sharing your story
  - Discussion
    - What further information would be helpful?
    - What commitments might you make to advocacy?
  - Question about defunding Education program federally.
  - Early childhood advocacy day – March 12<sup>th</sup>. Call out to staff – funds to go down there.
  - Melanie shared a story she heard at one of the MHSA conferences. It is especially important to advocate.
  - Sharing personal stories who make it real for people who make the decisions on the federal level.
  - Will be sending invites to the legislature to visit a classroom for a day.

Leadership and Governance Training- Shannon Phelps, Child and Family Development Director

- This is carried over to next month.

Personnel –

- Blair asked for a motion to approve personnel - Melanie motioned, Rose Shaw seconded, motion carries.

Meet Adjourned at 12:02pm

**Meeting Objective**

1. Better understanding of NMCAA and Head Start locally and nationally
2. Explore Program Governance
3. Election of Officers

**Next Meeting January 9, 2024**

- Great Start Family Coalition Presentation

**NMCAA Vision** *NMCAA drives the change that strengthens communities where ALL PEOPLE have opportunities to achieve their full potential.*

*Chair – Blair Cole; Vice Chair – Rebecka Kenwabikise; Secretary – Open; Treasurer – Open; Parliamentarian- Open; State Delegates – Kat Byers, Melanie Chaney; Alternates- Rebecka Kenwabikise, Open*