

VAHSA Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:00-11:00 pm
Conference Call Meeting Minutes

A zoom meeting of the Virginia Head Start Association Board of Directors.

- Members present: Dawn Ault, Julia Beglane, Julie Greene, Isha Barrie, Shikee Franklin, Jackie Wake, Alison Noble, Ramona Fisher, Kathy Channell, Taundwa Jefferies, Fay Butcher, Kim Austin, Donna Buckland, Kim Hill
- Members not present: Kacey Dalton, Tammy Petrowicz, Renita Strange, Angela Barnes, Joe Lacey and Jennifer Tonkin
- Open childcare centers were discussed. Allison stated there were still non-head start programs that were open in the SE Smart Beginnings program. Julie Greene also said that if anyone has questions on open centers, to contact Child Care Aware. There was also a question on funding/payments and Julie said for that to also call CCA.
- Jackie spoke about tele-dentistry. DentaQuest is working with the state for dentists to be reimbursed.
- Shikee – their program is not open at the moment. She was interviewed by a new station and the parents have sent in pictures and videos of the children and families. It was reassuring they are being resilient. It showed her that the program is working.
- Taundwa – acclimating to the new position.
- Kathy Channell – She’s doing well and happy to be retired. They are doing what they can to promote the children through Smart Beginnings.
- Fay Butcher – Most staff is working from home but going in 1 day a week. They are working on enrollment
- Kim Austin – Working from home.
- Kim Hill and Donna Buckland were both on the call. They were able to hear but not talk.
- Shikee welcomed everyone and said there were enough to have a quorum.

- **Approval** of January 2019 Minutes –Shikee Franklin asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Kathy Channell made a motion to accept the minutes, Fay Butcher second, motion carried unanimously.

- **President’s** Comments/Updates – Shikee Franklin – no formal update.

- **Treasurer’s** Comments/Updates — not on the call. Dawn Ault gave an update. There was no action needed by the board at this time.

- **Executive Director’s** Comments/Updates - Dawn Ault
 - Dawn held a call with Executive Officers (Shikee Franklin, Alison Noble, Joe Lacey and Donna Buckland) to discuss the annual conference. She did talk to the officers before cancelling altogether instead of postponing to October. She explained we were able to cancel with no penalty. We will be receiving the deposit back in full.

- We are at a financial risk for the June and August conferences potentially being cancelled as well.
 - Shikee asked if we are available to cancel the June meeting since the new order is until June 10th. Dawn and Julia will contact the Sheraton to see about cancelling.
 - For the August conference, we will leave it on the books for now. With cancelling the annual conference, we have October open for the Ed Summit.
 - Julia spoke about a call she was on where there were other associations that were postponing their scheduled conference until the fall. They were also looking into virtual and/or live trainings.
 - Dawn was discussing the “new normal” of conference calls, some even being held later in the evening with lots of early childhood stakeholders in VA.
 - She also discussed a letter that she signed written by Emily Griffey of VOICES to Governor Northam, Secretary Carey, and Superintendent Lane in response to Covid19, even though they knew the stimulus package was coming, they want additional funds for CCDBG, they felt the stimulus would fall short for stabilizing the child care sector in Virginia.
 - Dawn indicated from a meeting with Jenna Conway that the General Assembly will reconvene to look at the state budget. Jenna was pointing out things for child care providers, etc., the state to continue support to pay providers to accept child care subsidies for their authorized enrollment during the time programs must close for Covid 19, also other states that have authorized payments for voluntary closure. They also talked about absences. Some childcare centers were open but people weren’t sending their children because of the virus/germ exposure or because the parents were not working at the time. This meant the absences were not counted toward the subsidy dollars unless the families called-in absent. They have upped the amount of absences allowed. The current policy requires parents to call in their child’s absence each day the child is not in an operating program, but it does not allow any payments to programs choosing to close to avoid a community spread of the virus. They are also asking to consider paying differential to providers offering emergency childcare to essential staff. They are asking the state to absorb or reduce the parent co-pay for childcare.
- Early Impact Virginia – they are having a lot of talk about how we support home visiting. Discussion on virtual support, daily/weekly support to families and teachers.
 - NHSA is having online meetings helping with funding CACFP and the reimbursements. Working with childcare, temporarily repurposing HS/EHS centers. HS funds would not serve non-HS children. There has been a lot of discussion about this topic. Taundwa said that on a call with Dr. Bergeron, that classrooms can be utilized. She was pretty flexible, said that of course we can’t use specific funds that are ear marked for HS for other programs, but the goal is for everyone to chip in and to do as much as they possibly can. She said if there is a way that you can explain what you’re doing, and be as specific as possible, then they are not going to penalize people for trying to support their community. Taundwa still reached out to program specialist Latasha Shears because her question regarded the staff. Programs reported out that staff were volunteering, but the programs are continuing with wages and benefits and she

wanted to be sure that she was updating grantees with the most up to date information pertaining to: Can the staff be required to do any of these services. Still waiting to hear back from Latasha for complete confirmation.

- o Regional office is having weekly calls with the state association EDs, Collab Directors and program specialists.

Taundwa mentioned that Dr. Bergeron's guidance about funding from the government, \$750M is going to be for COVID19 resources and school readiness. \$500M will be for summer enrichment which will be a non-competitive grant. She will give more information at the Director's Call on Friday. They are working on the guidance now and she will share when it comes out.

Kathy Channel made a motion for the June Directors Meeting be cancelled, Isha Barrie seconded. Motion carried.

Next meeting was discussed. An official meeting in May for action items. The budget approval needs to be submitted. Dawn will get with the executive board to pick a date and time.

Julie Greene said that if there are people that are essential personal that need childcare to call 866-TLC KIDS

Shikee said the Early Learning Standards are still due to come out sometime in May. Dawn said they are still on the same timeline for the VPI Expansion. Letters due May 15th. Money used for September. Kathy Channell said the VECF has postponed the letters of interest for the mixed delivery grants and PDG grants and she thinks the May 15th date has changed.

Isha moved to close, Alison seconded. Motion carried. Shikee closed the meeting at 11:13.

Donna Buckland

Donna Buckland, Secretary

5/28/2020

Date