

Minutes of the Meeting of the Navarro County Early Childhood Coalition

January 19, 2023 -- 1:00- 3:00 P.M.

Location of Meeting: Bulldog Life Office Library @ Navarro College

Present at Meeting: 20 in Attendance

The meeting was opened by Rachel Gillespie, Program Director

Agenda for Meeting

The agenda for the meeting was distributed earlier through email.

Review of Previous Minutes

No minutes from the previous meeting

Consideration of Open Issues

Rachel G. – Program Director – opened the meeting and introduced the new Co-Chair Deb Tamez. She will serve as co-chair for the next two years.

Rachel G. – the new priority projects for 2023 were discussed:

- Connect with Navarro Regional Hospital to give out Bright by Text and Safety packages to parents of newborns
- Create a LFL reading rewards program and spread LFLs to new areas identified by the EDI
- Focus on outreach to Dads and promoting their positive influence on families. Connect this initiative with more information in the community about ACEs and Positive Childhood Experiences
- Create an event that targets Cognitive/Language developmental domains on EDI and shares info with parents on how to build these skills in their young child to prep them for kindergarten.
- Quarterly trainings/meetups for Early Childhood Educators

Stephanie Norton and **Katelyn Davis Villanueva** presented information on Help Me Grow and Help Me Thrive North Texas and they discussed the HMG model and how they have expanded into Help Me Thrive.

Looked at **upcoming events for the Spring/Summer**: Child Development Days, Early Learning Center meetups, Dads Café for Father’s Day, Child Abuse Prevention Month and Summer Movie Night

There was an **update from the PAC**. They have had guest speakers come and share with them about their services so they can share with their friends and family and be experts on community services.

Discussed some Long-term Projects - will be discussed at next meeting

Rachel G. – LFL Rewards Program and BBT/Safety boxes for Navarro Regional

On Going Project Update

Rachel G. - Shared some ongoing work on the LFL. The next LFL will be placed at the Salvation Army’s Family Store. The next LFL will be at the Twilight Nursing Home.

Rachel G. - Discussed Bright by Text – currently have 355 families subscribed. Discussed strategies to build that subscriber base and potential agencies and activities to highlight in BBT messages. There were 20 new subscribers from the Non-profit Challenge

At end of meeting we celebrated our 3rd Year Anniversary of the ECC with a photo and cupcakes and banana pudding

Agenda and Time of Next Meeting

Parent Café – February 9, 2023

Parent Advisory Board – February 16, 2023

Navarro County Early Childhood Coalition – March 23, 2023

The meeting was adjourned by: Rachel Gillespie

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Wood
