

Title of Training: Meet the Division**Date 10/12/21****NWAECA Board Members:**

Jennifer Bowman – President, Rebecca Dunahoo – President Elect, Natasha Kile – Treasurer, Emma Tempest – VP Communication, Terri Teters – Interim Secretary/Ex-Officio, Nicole Bedard – Benton County Member-at-Large, Anna Cannon – Washington Count Member-at-Large, Debbie Mays – Advisory Board, Elizabeth Scudder – Advisory Board, Susan Edwards – Advisor

Well-Being Check-In**Emma Tempest**

Emma will be providing opportunities for us to share our “wins or success” on the NWAECA Facebook group page each Friday. Encourage you to toot your horn and celebrate with each other. This will provide long-term self-care and support each other. Emma asked us to share; What’s going well? Where are you struggling? What will you try next? Several participants shared their progress and tips/strategies for others to try. Trying baby steps and celebrating each step even if there is still

Call to Order/Greetings**President**

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Number of Participants in Attendance: 16**Approval of September 14, 2021 minutes****Secretary**

The September meeting minutes have been posted on the NWAECA Facebook group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nwaeca> as well as on the NWAECA website at www.arkansasearlychildhood.org and emailed to NWAECA members. Jennifer Bowman asked for a motion to be made to accept the minutes as written. A motion was made by Emma Tempest and seconded by Rebecca Dunahoo.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business to share.

NEW BUSINESS:

Will have NWAECA Board positions for President Elect, Benton County Member-at-Large and, Secretary open for the upcoming year. Please consider serving and complete an application when they open. Look for more information in early November.

Treasurer Report**Natasha Kile**

The current NWAECA affiliate balance is \$958.90 with no outstanding receipts or charges.

Upcoming trainings/conferences/early childhood events

Open Share

Educators Night Out at the Amazeum 10/21/21 6:00-8:00 pm PDR #40434.

Emma Tempest shared she will be doing a FREE webinar on Wednesday, October 12th at 11:00 CST titled Community Care for Early Educators with Brightwheel. If interested, you can watch the replay [here](#).

Terri Teters shared that A-State Childhood Services is hosting several trainings, cohorts and Q&A sessions to assist providers in the Better Beginnings Level 2 process. You can subscribe to the A-State Childhood Services newsletter which shares a ton of training opportunities and other available resources. If interested, click on this link to subscribe <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/Wraur4r/newslettersubscribe>

Family Child Care Home Better Beginnings Q&A (PDR #40168) on Thursday, October 14th from 6:00-7:30 pm. They will have PAS and BAS assessors to answer questions about BAS and FCCERS assessments as well as answer any questions about the Better Beginnings application.

BAS Portfolio Cohort for FCC providers preparing for Better Beginnings Level 2 will begin on October 21st from 6:00-7:30 every other Thursday night through December 9th. Email Terri Teters at tteters@astate.edu for training dates and PDR numbers for each session.

Michelle Wynn shared training opportunities and shared they have information and can provide support in the ARPA grant process. She encouraged participants to let them be a resource for you and your program. Child Care Aware website nwachildcare.org. Michelle's email mwynn@nwachildcare.org

Elizabeth Scudder shared information about the FCC Network. They hold monthly meetings and support Family Child Care programs with the information and resources as needed. Elizabeth shared she is excited that all the agencies are working together to get you the things that you need to be successful.

Jennifer shared that ECEP is still providing facilitated and self-guided trainings as well as some face-to-face opportunities of the required trainings. You can get more information at <https://ecep.uark.edu/index.php>

Acknowledge Host Site/Hostess

President

Presentation: Meet the Division

Guest Speaker: Dawn Jeffrey and Division Staff

Panel Moderator, Rebecca Dunahoo

Dawn Jeffrey, Division of Child Care Assistant Director shared her new role at the Division but is still doing some of the same things as roles transition. Kellie Hillburn has been hired in Dawn's previous role and will assist with Professional Development, PDR, and Better Beginnings. The new levels of 4, 5, & 6 will still be rolled out but have put on the back burner right now given the release of funding opportunities and the current mandate to move all programs who accept vouchers to Better Beginnings Level 2 by June 30, 2022. Dawn

shared prior to her time at the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education she was
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at Southside Preschool in Batesville for about 20 years as well as many additional years in the early childhood field. She shared she has learned a lot about the different types of early childcare programs but continues to learn more.

Dawn shared information about the American Rescue Plan Proposal and the different grants that are currently available as well as additional grants which will soon be available. In order to qualify, the provider must have operated a center on or before March 11, 2021. The Division is looking at applications on a case-by-case situation to ensure that programs who may have had to close but were operational prior to that date could still possibly qualify. Hoping first round of money will just help programs get on their feet and give them the opportunity to rebuild their staff and increase the quality of their program.

Programs will greatly benefit as 90% of the funds must go to existing providers and up to 10% can be used for new programs. The first two rounds did not add any additional Administrative positions or funding but in this round, they have added some much needed support that will benefit the Division as well as providers. Dawn shared that the CARES Act and CRSSA money has been spent and funds have been exhausted.

Grants 1 & 2 is where we are at now. Dawn noted that although the current application states you will have 24 hour to complete and submit information, you will have more time.

The Division wants everyone to take advantage of the money but also consider how the money can benefit your program long-term. ***Be looking for an informational flyer which will be shared and posted on the NWAECA Facebook group page.**

Currently Child Care Licensing Accreditation (CLASS) puts information for all programs in the system which is accessed and used by Division Staff. A new system, called Enterprise, is being implemented. Dawn wanted to make sure that programs prepare for the possibility of being audited so please keep your receipts and good records

A question was asked about what needed to be entered for your budget since it appears the application will only allow you to enter your bottom line. Dawn will investigate and let us know.

TEACH scholarships are available for 2-year degrees which covers part of tuition (employer pays a portion and the applicant pays a portion). This opportunity will make a change in the foundation of the early childhood field in Arkansas!

Dawn shared they have a Program Manager position currently open for the Division. AECA has a Jobs Opportunity page. There are no concrete details provided about President Biden's proposal at this time.

Dawn shared there are currently 5 closed sites. She wanted to make a point and make sure that we are aware that Arkansas never shut childcare services down! She said that many other States did have to shut down and we should all be proud of that accomplishment which would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication to each and every one of us in the early childhood field!

Until We Meet Again

Emma Tempest

Emma shared an assignment for us to think about before our next meeting...check-in on your sleep habits and/or lack of sleep habits. Look at tiny little changes you can make that can make a huge difference in your overall health and well-being. Follow along on the NWAECA Facebook group page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nwaeca>

Door Prize

Kris Mickna with the Central Child Care Center, Inc. in Rogers was the winner of the Wheelie Bag.

Emma Tempest**Adjourn**

Jennifer thanked us for attending tonight and asked for us to show our appreciation for Dawn Jeffrey for being our guest speaker tonight. She gave a reminder to “Like” us on Facebook and register for our next NWAECA meeting which is scheduled for November 9th at 6:30 pm. Our topic will be “Using the CDELS with Infants and Toddlers” PDR #38205 presented by Jenny Dura.

Jennifer Bowman

We hope to see you there!

Minutes submitted by Terri Teters