



## **Preschool Coordinator Advisory Group (PCAG)**

### **Kentucky Department of Education**

#### **Meeting minutes from January 28, 2021**

The first meeting to the Preschool Coordinator Advisory Group was held virtually on January 28, 2021.

Andrea Bartholomew, Kentucky Department of Education, Manager of the School Readiness Branch led the roll Call of Members. At the time of roll call all members were present with the exception of Whitney Stevenson, who signed on right after the roll call was completed.

Jason Glass, the Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner and Chief Learner, welcomed the group and expressed appreciation of the members giving their time. Gretta Hylton, the Associate Commissioner from the Office of Special Education and Early Learning, welcomed and shared her appreciation for the members agreeing to be part of the Advisory Group.

Member introductions were made, with all members present as follows:

Whitney Fowler, Harrison County, Anderson County RTC  
Jennifer Walrod, Scott County, Anderson County RTC  
Carla Malone, Boyd County, Ashland RTC  
Anna Shepherd, Floyd County, Ashland RTC  
Barry Lee, Casey County, Berea RTC  
Dr. Whitney Stevenson, Fayette County, Berea RTC  
Kristy Lewis, Paducah Public Schools, Calloway County RTC  
Miranda Reed, Mayfield Independent, Calloway County RTC  
Monica Heavrin, Grayson County, Simpson County RTC  
Carlena Sheeran, Hardin County Simpson County RTC

The group had an election to determine officers for the group and they are as follows:

Dr. Whitney Stevenson- Chairperson  
Kristy Lewis- Co-Chairperson  
Monica Heavrin- Secretary

The group worked together to create a list of group norms. The decided list of norms are as follows:

- Be courteous
  - Use the raise your hand feature
  - Mute mic when not speaking to eliminate background noise
- Honoring everyone's time
  - Limit distractions and interruptions
  - Stay on topic
- Be ready and prepared
  - Be ready to share views, thoughts
- Exhibit generosity of spirit
  - Respect different experiences and viewpoints
  - This group is a place to be honest with each other.

Joe McCowan, Consultant with Office of Special Education and Early Learning, introduced himself and then led the group in a discussion of the Preschool Coordinator Advisory Group with the guiding question: *What does this group want to accomplish? What are the main issues district preschool programs are facing?*

After discussion, the following list was determined to be the priority of the group.

- Data Quality
- Quality Programming/Pre-K grade curriculum alignment/equity and diversity
- PBIS/Behavior (Academies are getting ready to kickoff)
- Teacher preparation and certification (recruitment and retention)
- Family engagement and parental support
- Creative ways to address communication and transition

Mr. McCowan shared some dates to set for future meetings. The group agreed on the dates and scheduled the priorities that we will focus on for the meeting. It was agreed that quality programming would be a consistent thread throughout the meetings.

- (Winter) January 28, 2021 (Kickoff)
- (Spring) April 29, 2021: Creative ways to address communication and transition/quality programming/Pre-K grade curriculum alignment/equity and diversity/Data Quality
- (Summer) July 28, 2021: PBIS/Behavior/ Teacher preparation and certification (recruitment and retention)
- (Fall) October 28, 2021: Family engagement and parental support.

At the end of the discussion, Mr. McCown gave the staff from the Kentucky Department of Education that were with us the opportunity to introduce themselves. The following people shared warm welcomes and the offer to provide any support needed from the group.

- Dr. Thomas Williams, Policy Advisor
- Veronica Sullivan, Director, OSEEL Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool
- Amanda Waldroup, Assistant Director, OSEEL Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool
- Stephanie Ernst, Preschool Implementation Specialist, School Readiness
- Sylvia Starkey, Director, OSEEL Division of IDEA Monitoring and Results
- Carol Ann Morrison, OSEEL Division of IDEA Monitoring and Results
- Jennifer Riley, OSEEL Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool
- Rebecca Atkins Stumbo, OSEEL Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool

Mrs. Bartholomew and Mr. McCowan shared closing remarks and a link to an exit slip was shared. The meeting then adjourned.

---

Next meeting date: April 29th, 2021

Topics to be discussed: Creative ways to address communication and transition/quality programming/Pre-K grade curriculum alignment/equity and diversity/Data Quality