

INPUT GROUP MEETING MINUTES



Date: 04/26/2024

Time: 10:00-11:30

Location: TEAMS

Group Agreements/Ground Rules; These are the rules the group will follow to accomplish the set goals during the meeting:

- Everyone has a chance to share, and their opinion is taken at face value and respected
- Active Listening
- This Meeting is a Safe Space. What is said here stays here, but important info goes to the centers.
- Input Work Group Representatives (from each center) will help make sure the meeting is a safe space when sharing at their center meetings.
- Come with a problem-solving perspective. Bring the concerns with solutions.
- Avoid “group” thinking. Challenge each other’s thoughts, have different perspectives. Think outside the box.
- Have Fun!
- Be Respectful

Team Members in Attendance: Trish Maitrejean, Melissa Clark, Cindy Hall, Alicia Harrington

More staff are showing interest in the Input Group now that the Suggestion boxes are at centers.

Alicia would like to send an email to AA’s about collection of suggestions in boxes to be sent to Trish each month before our meeting. As a team we will reach out to the AA’s to have them collect the suggestions and send them (inter-office mail) to Trish (or Robin) one of our Co-Facilitators.

Suggestions gathered before this meeting:

Communication. Policy changes within the classroom need to be distributed more efficiently. Perhaps they could be added to the Weekly Memo, or the Friday email? – These are posted on our website and updated regularly, it is a good idea to check out the policies & procedures on a regular basis.

Has the water bottle policy changed? Are all children now allowed to bring their own water bottle from home to class/center each day?

Having more trainings in Josephine county for those that have to drive for trainings. It seems like all the trainings are in Jackson county.

My Teaching Strategies: can this app be adapted/changed for easier use? Delete inappropriate goals like “reads fluently.” These and other goals that do not apply to our age groups, is there a way to delete them?

Too many conferences: We have too many observations and conferences to do and prepare for and not enough time to do them. District 7 has gone to a Semester Calendar, having to only do conferences only twice. Once at the beginning of the year and once mid-way through the year.

Response from Input Team: Our grants/funding require assessments to be done a certain number of times and throughout the year. We show not only physical growth but also intellectual growth. The center Tablet can be very helpful with observations. You can bring it into class with you and could even do one (or more) observations every day.

Also, Duration classes do need more support to be able to finish things like; behavior plans, and observations. The teacher needs more support to be able to “step-out” of class and have some office time.

Cooks – Green Smock? Cooks should be able to have the opportunity to step-up in smocks. Then they can have Cooking Activities with small groups of children.

Behavior Specialists – Not Enough! 10 Ed. Sups. are being trained currently, but having just the 1 specialist from Kairos is not enough. We need more support.

Schedule Accommodations – staff that has school/needs schooling for certification is not being given any schedule accommodations.

You don’t get paid time to complete your CDA, this is something you need to do on your own time.

Processed Food – This concern was brought up multiple times – Processed food is making us sick, making our kids sick. We need to have organic food, it will help the children with their health and development.

CACFP has certain rules and regulations we have to follow to stay compliant with our Standards, “organic” labeled food does not always fit in to those categories. Also, most of our food is not heavily processed and meals are made as much from scratch as possible with full recipes and not from boxes and pre-made items.

In-house Mental Health Specialist – for children and for staff.

We need to support our staff and children better and more. Having a Mental Health Specialist (or a few) on-staff could be extremely beneficial for the children in our program, as well as for our staff. Having someone who can support our company as a whole would be very helpful.

Current Mental Health Specialist(s) need to provide realistic suggestions and goals for teachers with high behavior classes. The specialist needs to be in the classroom and more often – live and in-person, so to speak. Also, meeting with staff and going over strategies and skills that can be applied in the classroom will help the teachers/center staff with the children and be more beneficial for everyone (like Heather Kats.)

Trish – email/contact Kat & Stephanie about our need for a Director/HR liaison to replace Michael Stanton’s position on the Input Group Team. As well as, write up a blurb about our suggestions.

Alicia – Recruit PC member for Input Group

Next meeting is May 10th, 2024, at 10am – In person at PV and on TEAMS

We will discuss: Pre-Service and how we can have a presence there, maybe a presentation.