



Health and Safety Regional Task Force October 21, 2020

Health and Safety Regional Task Force

ELRC Region 17 hopes to act as a connection among support systems and between support systems. We have been tasked with creating a Health & Safety Regional Task Force to bring together professionals in a regional, collaborative effort to provide coordinated, consistent health and safety related supports to ECE providers, identify needs, maximize resources, and leverage local and statewide strengths to address needs and improve services.

The Health & Safety Regional Task Force will be comprised of ELRC Quality Coaches, Program Quality Assessors, Preschool Program Specialists, EI/EITA Consultants, Certification Representatives, and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Consultants. ELRC 17 will be creating a Task Force informed by an assessment of the needs of providers in their region and available resource partners who can serve on their Task Force. The individual expertise and strengths of each task force member will guide the work and the allocation of effort. Now more than ever, we need to ensure that health and safety is at the forefront of early childhood education. We hope that you will join us as we focus on this critical matter.

- Bring together professionals in a regional, collaborative effort to help support ECE providers, identify needs and address needs and improve services.
- Comprised of QC Assessors, Preschool specialists, certification representative and IECMH consultants.
- Objectives:
 - Meet regularly to discuss challenges and needs, finding suggestions, resources and supports
 - Identify areas of expertise and create a contact list
 - Determines needs and how to support those needs
 - Set up systems of communication
 - Share findings at ELRC LLC regularly-may overlap but do want health and safety task force to be able to stand on its own
 - Report work and developments to PA Key Senior Health Manager

Role of Task Force Member

- Relationship-based work, acknowledge all concerns
- All information is privileged and confidential
- Work collaboratively and share resources in order to support and implement best practices
- Engage with Cert reps through OCDEL
- Maintain compliance of DHS Regulations
- Continue to review CDC guidance, government guidelines, and best practices.
- ELRCs should ensure that the Health and Safety Regional Task Force develops long-term goals to guide the team's work, even after COVID-19

- Health and Safety System Supports Training Webinars – Available at pakeys.org/hstrainingseries/

Amy Requa – Senior Health Manager amyreq@pakeys.org

- Oversaw the creation of the recorded health and safety webinar series for child care providers
- Asked all the different support teams in order to connect and be on the same page with all the rapid changes surrounding COVID-19.
- Goal is to help support each other. Staying steady with best practice and sticking to the basics.
- Yale Study done by Walter Gilliam showed being in child care did not raise the risk of COVID-19. Study from Yale found that working in childcare did not increase ones risk for getting COVID. Study was conducted with 55,000 ECE professionals.
- Bringing together people from the community in different areas of knowledge and expertise.
- Understand where the weak spots are and where we need to focus.
- Yale Study is reassuring that we are doing a good job and following the guidelines.
- Study link – Child Care Aware website
- It's possible that we are already doing all of this work. Montco has great resources. Rather than creating something parallel, combine efforts. Don't want to duplicate what's already going on in the county or in the ELRC region area. Just to connect the strands of expertise that need to be woven together a little more intentionally.

Jim Walters

- MDART **Active Review Team – County approach to the pandemic
 - To be able to respond to incidents that are emerging from the community
 - People from different offices coming together to bring the issues to the team to look at it and take action or get advice. There when they are needed and look at it from all different angles.
 - Really good overview what's being done health and safety is being done in forefront with across the state and local level. Not one set defined model for how health and safety should be demonstrated.

Setting Our Direction

- Not one set defined model for how we will model the Health and Safety Regional Task Force
- Brainstorm different definitions of Health and Safety and identify needs
 - Listening to what the providers need
 - Possible goal- Focusing on the next group of providers opening in January and how to support them.
- Work through existing system and existing relationships.
- Provider insight and where the needs are. Where the support is needed.
 - Holy Redeemer – child need the supports. The therapists don't want to come into the centers. Children are not getting the mental health supports they need when they need one on one. They are allowing people in their center with their safety protocols in place. Get IU involved in the Task Force. IU from other counties are not coming out to program. Rather have someone come in and observe the child instead of teleconsultation.
 - Lorinda Moyer from IU– Offering in-person services. The board needs to approve in-person services. Have spoken to programs and what needs to be worked

through. Virtual is working for some people. As long as some are making progress, virtual is expected to continue.

- Areas of focus:
 - How to prevent COVID-19? What is the most important thing to focus on? Where is the need?
- Donna and Mary Ellen - COVID-19 Checklist if have a positive case and how to respond.
- When there is a suspected case or contact with a positive case. If someone has symptoms. What to do? When a child gets ill for the flu, what should they do, clear guidance, a flow chart?
- Each doctor a provider contact is giving different advice. Maybe if there was a doctor or someone to call with specific questions and scenarios.
- ECELS – help programs give guidance on what to do and get resources
- FAQ Health and Safety Questions - pakeys.org/hstrainingseries/ & Health and Safety Questions to HSSCO@pakeys.org PA Key FAQ Oct. 5 Pages 4-5 discuss symptoms of COVID-19/exclusion - More of Exclusion with Symptoms and/or Positive Case of COVID-19 pages 23, 24 in the Frequently Asked
- Office of Public Health – guidance for schools. Give support for child care providers.
- Providers to make sure that keeping a good attendance list and making note close contacts in that period? Pods with other pods in group? You want a pandemic coordinator to keep track of who's in that pods. Contain the spread and track who's in the pods and maintain the protocols who might be exposed. Don't kick yourself because it will happen. How do we prepare for this? Quarantine as much as possible before it spreads.
- How do we define health and safety?
- How general or outbreaks? Chronic preventative issues. Or yes and. Who do we invite? A good direction, address the concerns that are active right now with cold flu and symptoms with childcare. Real concerns right now first about COVID. Plan for how health and safety once beyond COVID and away from COVID. COVID policies and suggested practices and start forward moving and where do we go after this.
- Name in Chat Box if committed to being on Task Force
- Schools that use commonly used areas in the schools. Days when they are not in-person and going completely virtual, ELRC can pay for them to be in a 2nd child care program.
 - In order to prevent the spread is to wear masks. Regardless if there is mixed ages in a room.
 - Cycling the air system 6-10 times an hour
 - Doing activities outside as much as possible
 - Be aware of the hand-sanitizers that are hooked to school-age children's backpacks because programs are being cited by Certification for this!
- Jeanine and Julie will create:
 - Contact list
 - Resources
 - Identify needs immediately and where we go from here
 - Asset Map
 - COVID testing sites
 - Homeless shelters
 - Domestic violence resources