

Economic Opportunity Agency of Washington County, Inc.
Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council

FEBRUARY 2021 SUMMARY

January 2021 Policy Council Minutes

Minutes from the January 2021 Policy Council meeting are available for review.

Financial Reports

As mentioned last month, February is the final month of our grant year for the Early Head Start Expansion grant. At our next meeting, we will review the total revenue and expenses for the fiscal year. You may notice that expenses are approximately half of the budgeted amount for the year, and that is mostly due to our shutdown from March-August due to the pandemic. It did not cost as much to operate a virtual program during that time than it would have been if we were in school. On our Head Start/Early Head Start grant, revenue and expenses are on target in the current grant year.

Program Director's Reports & Communications

Governing Body Reports

This report outlines enrollment, attendance and meal count numbers from January 2021. 245 children attended in January with an average attendance of 74%.

Program Information Summary

This report includes month-to-date program information as of February 10, 2021. The categories of information include enrollment, eligibility, attendance, children up-to-date on immunizations, and children with an identified disability who are receiving special services.

Annual Self-Assessment Overview

This document introduces an important element of our program strategic planning process. The Office of Head Start requires all programs to conduct an annual program self-assessment as outlined in the document. Our agency chooses to complete this assessment each year during the month of March, and we depend on feedback from our staff, community partners, and parents of enrolled children to identify program strengths and areas where we could improve in the coming year. A full report of assessment findings, program strengths and areas for improvement will be shared with the Council at our April meeting.

In order to gain insight into what enrolled parents need from us during a time when more services are virtual than usual, we are proposing an **optional** parent focus group in March. We will be sending an invite to our current Policy Council members to take part in this. We believe that by keeping the group small, we can have a richer discussion and gain valuable feedback. Any and all constructive feedback is welcome, even if you can not make it to this optional parent focus group meeting.

School Readiness Team Meeting

The EOA School Readiness Team met on February 4th to discuss our school readiness goals, how to help facilitate kindergarten transitions this fall, and prepare for the year ahead. The School Readiness Team is a group of early childhood professionals, public school teachers, EOA staff, and parents of enrolled children. EOA includes families in the development and revision of our school readiness goals, ensuring the goals are inclusive of home languages and cultural identities of children and families in our program.

Our next Policy Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 11:00am. Stay warm!