****

**VCPD Meeting**

**December 8, 2020**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Present**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Andrews, Kimberly  Braxton, Mary  Church, Robin  DeLuca, Tracy  Druga, Meg  Gant, Amber  Greene, Julie  Gregory, Kim  Harvey, Jaye | Hill, Cori  Ingram, Kristen  Kendall, Rosemary  Kern, Cindy  Kolodzinski, Clarissa  Koon, Patricia  L’hospital, Ann  Lindsay, Sharon  McNulty-Shaffer, Rebecca  Miller, Brandi/Sprouse, Karla | Phipps, Caren  Popp, Pat  Powers, Jaclyn  Rakes, Susanne  Sopko, Kim  Thomason, Kim  Vaughan, Margo  White, Mary Lynn  Wilberger, Sandy  Williams, Mira |

**2020 Accomplishments**

In spite of COVID-19, VCPD members were successful in supporting professional development for Virginia’s early childhood workforce. At the December VCPD virtual meeting, members noted the following accomplishments:

* Our membership includes 44 active members and 12 email members representing 34 agencies and organizations.
* All VCPD contracted funding is now awarded through the Virginia Department of Education.
* A new three-year Strategic Plan was completed.
* *Pointers for PD Providers* (online Constant Contact tips for trainers) was distributed monthly beginning in March. The November issue was delivered to 328 PD providers.
* Our website, [www.vcpd.net](http://www.vcpd.net), had 314 sessions and 728 page views within the 30 days prior to the meeting.
* One session of VCPD 101 was held on February 13-14, 2020 at ChildSavers in Richmond. Other planned sessions were cancelled due to COVID-19.
* Both VCPD 102 sessions planned for May 2020 were rescheduled but ultimately had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.
* *VCPD 103: Virtual Training the VCPD Way* was developed as two 2-hour sessions and has been delivered three times. Three more series are planned in December and January.
* The VCPD Higher Education Faculty Institute/Project KSR Symposium was offered virtually on October 15-16, 2020 with 150 (non-unique) participants.
* Practice-Based Coaching was converted to a virtual series of six 2-hour trainings. Multiple series have been completed through Virginia Quality funding, and by the VCU TTAC and the Infant Toddler Specialist Network. The original Virginia PBC trainers received training on the virtual model.
* Regional Consortia demonstrated perseverance and creativity in offering professional development in their regions during COVID-19 and without summit funding for 2020-21.
* The Inclusive Practices Task Force completed their first infographic and has a new document *Inclusion Looks Like/Doesn’t Look Like* in the final editing stage.

**Early Childhood in the 2021 General Assembly**

Emily Griffey, Policy Director at Voices for Virginia’s Children, was our guest speaker. She noted:

* The quality initiatives at the VDOE are moving forward as planned.
* Licensing and the CCDBG will transition from VDSS to VDOE by July 2021.
* The highest enrollment decline in public schools is in VPI.
* 39% of our child care centers are closed.
* The third round of CARES Act funding should arrive this week.
* Emily believes that early childhood will be included in the Governor’s budget.
* A public investment is needed. Parents cannot pay anymore. Early childhood educators cannot earn any less. This is the key point for advocacy.
* Voices has a new cohort of 15 early childhood advocates.

**Tips for Trainers**

Jaye shared the rationale for including soft openers in trainings. Soft openers begin 5-10 minutes prior to the official starting time of a training and are designed to capture attention and encourage interaction and networking. The allow participants time to resolve technology issues. Essential content should be avoided, but the content should relate to the training topic in some manner. Strategies to consider:

* Share something about yourself (as the trainer)
* Consider incorporating tool practices
* Use a sentence starter
* Share a statistic and ask for a response (verbal or in chat)
* Ask an open-ended question
* Try a simile
* Share a provocative image and ask for a response

**Announcements**

Applications for the Early Childhood Advisory Committee are due December 18, 2021. A link to the application is on the VCPD website under recent updates.

**Upcoming Meetings**

* February 9
* April 13
* June 8

**Continuous Improvement**

* Thanks to Emily Griffey
* Great to get updates and training tips
* Meeting themes and PowerPoints are always engaging and interactive