

News Release for Ephrata Review

Diamond Street Early Childhood Center

March 12, 2011

Diamond Street Early Childhood Center (DSECC) in Akron was awarded a \$20,000 Capacity Building grant from the Lancaster County Community Foundation to explore a more efficient business model for the Early Childhood industry. June Hershberger, Executive Director of DSECC, is providing leadership for exploring the concept of Shared Services for early childhood providers. This initiative is part of a national movement to investigate and implement various models of Shared Services that meet the needs identified in various geographical locations. DSECC's goal for the project is to assess the need for Shared Services among early childhood care providers in the northeast part of Lancaster County. Directors of childcare centers from five school districts; EASD, Cocalico, Garden Spot, Warwick, and CV, are meeting together with both a local and a national consultant to discern areas of need and to plan for solutions to the identified challenges. Participating centers are all state DPW licensed and participate in the Keystone STARS quality rating system.

Finding ways to use time and resources more efficiently and effectively will increase the economic stability of Early Childhood businesses, which in turn has the potential to increase the quality of services to children and families in our communities.

DSECC invites additional community participation in the project. If you are a childcare provider and would like to join the discussion, or are a business with organizational advice, or a funder who would like to invest in this concept of Shared Services, please contact June Hershberger at 859-4272 or at june.hershberger@gmail.com