



Candidate Name: Kari Shepherd  
Employment Information: Child Care Licensing Consultant

1) Why are you interested in serving on the Michigan AEYC Governing Board?

I am very passionate about the early childhood field. Serving on the MiAEOYC Governing Board allows me to serve the early childhood professionals and further the field right here in Michigan. I have served on the MiAEOYC Governing Board for the last 2 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving early childhood professionals in Michigan in this capacity and I hope to continue to do so.

2) Please share any relevant professional and/or volunteer experiences within the past five years that would be applicable for this role.

I am a current Member-at-Large on the MiAEOYC Governing Board. I work as a Child Care Licensing Consultant in southwest Michigan. I also teach early childhood education courses as an Adjunct Instructor at Bay College in Escanaba. Previously, I have taught CDA classes through Child Care Resources/Great Start to Quality Southwest Resource Center. I have also been a child care center program director and trainer in the field of early childhood for many years before taking on my current role. In a volunteer capacity, I have served on boards and committees for multiple agencies and organizations including Great Start Collaboratives, ECE Advisory Boards, early childhood conference committees, UPAEOYC Governing Board, and advocacy committees.

3) Please share your knowledge, skills and abilities that would contribute to serving on the Michigan AEYC Governing Board.

I am extremely passionate about the early childhood field and helping to make sure everyone's voice is present at the table. I am organized, professional, and responsible. I take my role on the Governing Board very seriously and give 110% in my work always. I believe that as a Child Care Licensing Consultant, I bring a unique voice to the Governing Board, and I try to bring the voice of all different types of early childhood educators with me.

I earned my Masters degree in Early Childhood Education from Eastern Michigan University. I have my Bachelors in Elementary Education with the Early Childhood focus. I hold an active teaching certificate in Elementary Education with Early Childhood Special Education, Early Childhood General Education, Math, and Language Arts endorsements.

4) Please share your experience related to governance and leadership that would be applicable to this role.

I have been a manager/supervisor in many professional roles throughout my career. I was a successful child care center program director for 8 years within multiple programs. I believe strongly in leading by example and leading from within as I work alongside those that I manage, supervise, and lead. I enjoy serving the early childhood field in any way I can as a member of the MiAEOYC Governing Board, and I hope to continue in that role moving forward. Thank you for your time.