

TAMA COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA

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Tama County Early Childhood Iowa Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 2010 – 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
ISU Extension Office Meeting Room

Voting Members Present:

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health
Karen Christensen, Citizen
Darla Thiessen, Human Services/Citizen
Deb Schlichting, Pied Piper

Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors/Citizen
Cathy DeBondt, South Tama Education/Citizen
Jenn Stover, Consumer/Citizen
Richard Arp, North Tama Education/Citizen

Others Present:

Lori Johnson, ECI Director
Laura Kopsa, Tama County Auditor
Jana Enfield, Child Abuse Prevention Services
Becky Roe, Child Care Resource & Referral

Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Rachel Porath, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Frank Albertsen, ISU Extension of Tama County

Apologies: Teresa McCall Heidi Schminke Jill Herink Angela Dreesman
Mandy Lekin Rick Vesely

Larry Vest, Chair, called meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

One additional agenda item under correspondence, Request from Rick Vesely, was added.

Minutes of Previous Meeting –Tama County Early Childhood Iowa meeting minutes for November 23, 2010 were reviewed. Joyce Legg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report – was disbursed. With December's expenses, we should be at 50% of the funding unexpended. Several program lines are below that. Jenn Stover made a motion to approve the report as presented. Karen Christensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input – none noted.

Provider Reports – *Child Consultant*–Becky Roe shared December 2010 report of number of providers per type, slots filled, QRS levels, and YTD Annual Report information. They are seeing a decrease in providers and slots due to economy and delays in registration process with DHS. They are seeing an increase in non-registered providers as providers are discouraged by process after DHS restructuring. They will be offering training in the spring.

Nurse Consultant – No training provided yet.

QECE (Quality Early Childhood Environments) – Ms. Schminke not able to attend but had sent her 6th month report for review. One provider that she is currently working with felt that this program was a good refresher and wanted her to do more with their facility.

Nest (formerly Stork's Nest), Public Health Home Visitation, etc. – Joyce Legg shared they continue to have good attendance at parent education and spouses are attending as well. Home visits continue to floxuate. One lead poisoned child's family did qualify for lead abatement assistance and received several gallons of donated paint from Wilkerson's Hardware.

Coordinator – Ms. Johnson shared Board of Supervisors "officially" approved Ms. DeBondt as the STC Education/Citizen Representative. ECI Directors Meeting, FAWG (Fiscal Accountability Workgroup) Meeting and State ECI Board Meeting updates were provided. Discussion was held regarding Empowerment Area Map, effective December 2010, showing areas merging. Ms. Johnson listened in on Budgeting Webinar provided by the State. She suggested to watch the legislative issues regarding preschool and the house draft language.

Ms. DeBondt shared that STC is looking at continuing preschool, but with a possible sliding fee. They are discussing their options and are waiting to see what happens with legislation. Mr. Arp shared that North Tama is also waiting to see what develops.

STC will be going through their verification process with their current Voluntary Preschool Funding.

Item under #8 Updates from the State – Levels of Excellence Update - Ms. Johnson shared that at the last FAWG (Fiscal Accountability Workgroup) it was stated that areas can “contract” a .5 FTE Coordinator and meet that Level of Excellence. She had felt that this was the only level that we couldn’t meet with the current hours that their office provides. With this wording we could request a waiver and remain a single county. Discussion was held. After a lengthy discussion, consensus was that we continue with Benton County as they are a “good fit”.

Care for Kids – 2nd Quarter Report was disbursed. Jana Enfield shared that Anita Townsley will be trained by Jana for the STC Elementary school and will be doing presentations. They will continue to work with North Tama. They are not able to provide presentations in Gladbrook-Reinbeck due to being contacted too late.

Infant Toddler Specialist and Dental Hygienist–July through October and November & December Tama Healthy Families reports were disbursed. Royce Hickie shared that families really enjoyed the evening at the Tama-Toledo Aquatic Center in July. August was a time of transition with children transitioning into their next level. September staff received training on using the Peabody Picture Vocabulary test. October referrals were made to LiHEAP (energy assistance). November AnnaLee Austin retired and Tracey Gerard was hired to take her position. December they began working on the Iowa Family Support Credential Program Application.

Respite Scholarships – no report given.

Tobacco Funds – Frank Albertsen reported that no replacement has been found yet. They received 2 responses to their aid. They have been waiting on the new contract for this fiscal year and are switching to an electronic system for billing. The state is 4 to 6 weeks behind and are requiring areas to survey all convenience stores looking for key items. HUD apartment complexes will also be surveyed. Discussion was held regarding TATU and JEL in the county.

Old Business – *NACRHHS Site Visit* – letter received from The Honorable Ronnie Musgrove, Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services was shared. Minutes from the site visit were disbursed. All thought it went well.

ECI Director Evaluation – Ms. Johnson had met with Linda Rosenberger on November 2nd for her evaluation. Seventeen responses had been received. She received an overall score of 4.2 out of 5. Two goals had been established for the next year. They are: 1) Keep Board informed of ECI changes; 2) Attend State ECI trainings as offered. Ms. Johnson thanked everyone for completing the evaluation forms and for their comments. If anyone wanted to meet with Ms. Johnson to discuss comments further, they can contact her to schedule a time to do so.

New Business – *Approve and Recommend to Board of Supervisors, Cathy DeBondt, as the STC Education Representative, replacing Angie Knowles* – Joyce Legg made the motion to recommend Cathy DeBondt as the STC education representative to the Board of Supervisors. Karen Christen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Johnson will take this recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

Facebook – Social Marketing – was discussed. Jenn Stover made a motion to approve Ms. Johnson utilizing Facebook for social marketing for ECI activities. Joyce Legg seconded the motion. All members voted nay to the motion. Motion failed.

Board Member Applications – Under Levels of Excellence, Operational, #11 states “Board member application is found on website, if applicable” Samples from Jones and HAWC areas were shared. Discussion was held. These will be kept on file for reference. No formal application form adopted at this time.

Funding Sub-committee Recommendations – meeting minutes were disbursed. Jenn Stover made a motion to approve the following recommendations:

- 1) No more funding be allocated to Hard to Serve Children

- 2) Reimbursement remains at \$4.50/hour for Hard to Serve Kids until this funding is gone.
- 3) Reimbursement for respite services will be paid at regular tuition rate, with maximum of \$3.50/hour.

Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Request from Cindy Skopec – Ms. Johnson had received request that the hard to serve money be utilized for respite services. Ms. Johnson disbursed copies of Tool CC (A) Preschool Programming Support for Low-Income Families (where the Hard to Serve funding is from). She had also contacted Shanell Wagler regarding this option as well and found that respite services are not an allowable service to be funded by the Preschool Programming funds.

Board Professional Development – Ms. Schminke shared information regarding the QECE program. ECERS-R Profile was shared. She is currently working with 2 centers. Each center can receive \$500 in stipends by going through this process. It is a 3 year process. Fall Assessment Findings were shared. Typically she sees an increase up to an average score of 5 by the spring.

Updates from the State – no further updates.

Correspondence – Child Care Nurse Consultant Role Guidance booklet shared and is available for review.

Adjournment – Jenn Stover made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County ECI Director

Reminder: Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be January 25th at ISU Extension at 12:00 Noon.