

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 Lakin 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 were 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 was not able to attend, but 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, with spouses attending as well. Home visits continue to fluctuate. 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 that the 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 watching the legislative issues regarding preschool and the house draft bill 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 to provide presentations at the STC Elementary school. They will continue to work with North Tama. They were not able to schedule 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. The Dental Hygienist had provided 141 dental screenings; 107 fluoride varnishes; and 87 oral hygiene instructions in the 2nd Quarter.

Respite Scholarships – no report given.

Tobacco Funds – Frank Albertsen shared that he has advertised three times. For the amount of time (10% FTE), requirements (enforcer/regulatory), and amount of pay, he has been unsuccessful in finding a replacement. Mr. Lopez, high school guidance counselor, has been working with the STC TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use) program. JEL (Just Eliminate Lies) is possibly looking at budget cuts from the state level.

Old Business – none

New Business – *Annual Report Review* - was completed by Shanell and she had questions regarding Stork’s Nest and home visits that were reported. The information was provided/updated, with no further information requested. Larry Vest, Joyce Legg, Richard Arp, and Ms. Johnson listened in on the conference call with Ms. Wagler.

Board Professional Development –none this month due to full agenda.

Updates from the State – The following information was shared:

- E-mail (dated 11/24/10) from Deb Scrowther regarding Tools A (ECI Structure), T (Insurance), X (By-laws) & MM (Area Director competencies) have been updated.
- E-mail (dated 12/2/10) from Shanell Wagler regarding Janet (Gartin) Horras has accepted a new position with the Affordable Care Act Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program as the State Home Visiting Coordinator with the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- E-mail (dated 12/2/10) from Deb Scrowther regarding early childhood careers in Iowa. Document available for review.
- E-mail (dated 12/9/10) from Janet Horras regarding family support update. Majority of programs are reaching families that are high risk, fees are reasonable, quantity of services impacting behavioral change, and are retaining families in programs. A few areas are not meeting these levels. Iowa Family Support Standards document available for review.
- E-mail (dated 1/10/11) from Shanell Wagler regarding report from Department of Education regarding Kindergarten Literacy Assessment. Document available for review.

Correspondence – Child Care Resource & Referral January – June 2011 Newsletter and Early Childhood Iowa Congress information available for review.

Ms. Johnson had received an e-mail from Rick Vesely stating that the board needed to consider replacing him on the ECI Board. Discussion was held. This will be tabled until the next meeting and Ms. Johnson will bring a copy of the By-laws.

E-mail from Deb Scrowther was shared regarding the Quality Matters: Moving Iowa's Early Childhood Programs to Excellence training.

SKIP (Supporting Kids in Prevention) resource list directory was shared.

Adjournment – Jenn Stover made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County ECI Director

Reminder: Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be March 22nd at ISU Extension at 12:00 Noon.