

# TAMA COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA

129 W. High Street, Toledo, IA 52342  
PH: (641) 484-4788 (or) 1-866-484-4788  
FAX: (641) 484-5447  
E-mail: ljohnson@tamacounty.org

Tama County Early Childhood Iowa Board Meeting  
Tuesday, March 22, 2011 – 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
ISU Extension Office Meeting Room

## **Voting Members Present:**

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

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

Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action  
Jessica Gethman, Child Care Resource & Referral

<b>Apologies:</b>	Teresa McCall	Heidi Schminke	Jill Herink	Angela Dreesman
	Mandy Lekin	Rick Vesely	Karen Christensen	Larry Vest
	Jana Enfield	Becky Roe	Frank Albertsen	

Richard Arp, Vice-Chair, called meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

One additional agenda item under New Business – “Funding Sub-committee Recommendations – 3/22/11”, was added.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** –Tama County Early Childhood Iowa meeting minutes for January 25, 2011 were reviewed. Joyce Legg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report** – was disbursed. With February’s expenses, we should be at 33% of the funding unexpended. Several program lines are below that or have exhausted all of their funding. Jenn Stover made a motion to approve the report as presented. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Input** – none noted.

**Provider Reports** – *Child Consultant*–January 2010 report of number of providers per type, slots filled, QRS levels and YTD Annual Report information was disbursed. Jessica Gethman, Child Care Resource & Referral, shared that they are going through restructuring. There will be a CCR & R agency providing services in Tama County, but it may not be the same current staff members. There will be a lot of transitions. A RFP (Request for Proposal) was sent out from DHS for these services. The division lines will be changing but are unsure at this time where or if they will continue to serve the current counties. We are currently under Region 4, but may be transferring to Region 5.

*Nurse Consultant* – No update provided.

*QECE (Quality Early Childhood Environments)* – Ms. Schminke is on vacation – no update provided.

*Nest (formerly Stork’s Nest), Public Health Home Visitation, etc.* – Joyce Legg shared that they are out of funding for the Home Visits that she provides and will be taking this to their Board of Health to determine if they will continue this program. Saint Pat’s Church, Tama, had speakers present on local community outreach projects and asked her to speak on Stork’s Nest. She has received an overwhelming response the week after she presented. She has received cash donations (\$300) and incentive items (diapers, wipes, etc - estimated value = \$1,000). She is seeing an increase in children with high lead levels.

**Board Professional Development** – *Public Health Community Needs Assessment Results* – Linda Rosenberger shared results from their recent Community Needs Assessment. Their assessment, for Tama County, showed high rates or percentages of (as compared to similar Iowa counties or the United States rate):

- lead levels in children less than 6 years old
- low and very low birth weights
- premature births
- births to women age 18 or younger

- births to unmarried women
- women receiving no prenatal care in the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester
- infant mortality (Tama County 19.0; US rate 5.6)
- Post natal mortality (28 days to 1 year) (Tama County 2.9; US rate 2.3)
- Colon Cancer
- Coronary Heart Disease
- Motor vehicle deaths

Low incidence was noted with people reporting eating the daily recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables.

They will be focusing on nutrition and exercise as a result of their community needs assessment.

*Coordinator* – Ms. Johnson shared updated information regarding the following:

- Decrease in local ECI funding – 31.2%/\$69,335
- Highlights from Governor Brandstad’s Iowa Preschool Program
- FAWG (Fiscal Accountability Work Group)
- Early Childhood Iowa Board Meeting
  - Updated ECI Area Map disbursed
- Communicated with Legislators
- ECI Director Meeting
  - State level funding cuts
  - Advocacy “rules/procedures”
  - Family Support eligibility guidelines
  - Dunn’s number required for ECI Boards
  - Upcoming Webinars
  - Financial Reports and Annual Reports **have** to match
  - ECI areas incorporating fiscal audits
  - Early Childhood Funding Parameters and Limitations (Tools G (A)); School Ready Funding Parameters and Limitations (Tool G (B)); and Preschool Programming Support for Low-Income Families (Tool CC) – revised handouts disbursed
  - Revised Levels of Excellence Document disbursed
    - Frequently Asked Questions disbursed
    - Draft General Policies (Tool N) disbursed
    - Process for Community Empowerment Area Boundary Change (Tool U) disbursed
- Annual Report revised handout disbursed – was noted that Board Member meeting attendance will be included in new format.
- Policies and Procedures – Organizational and Fiscal and Contracting for Services documents were shared. We will need to develop these policies.
- Board Development Plan will need to be developed utilizing the following Tools. The following documents were available for review:
  - Job Descriptions (Tool Y)
  - 10 characteristics of High-Functioning Boards (Tool Z)
  - Statutory Responsibilities of ECI Area Boards (Tool GG)
  - Internal Collaborative Functioning Scales (Tool F)
  - Board of Directors Self-Evaluation (Tool AA)
- ECI Director Professional Development Plan Template available for review and will need to be drafted for our area. Tool MM – Area Director Competencies/Skills will be incorporated into the plan.
- Cost Allocation was discussed and time studies, in some format, will be required 7/1/11.
- Community Plan Template, Tool N(A), has been revised and available for review.

*Care for Kids* – no report given.

*Infant Toddler Specialist and Dental Hygienist*—no report given for Dental Hygienist. Royce Hickie shared the January and February Tama Healthy Families handout. Staff attended the Period of Purple Crying training. One new staff member has attended the Parents As Teachers training in St. Louis. This is an evidenced based curriculum. One staff member has been working with a mother with two young children that were involved with DHS. The children have returned to the home and DHS has exited the case. They have received several referrals from hospitals recently.

*Respite Scholarships* – no report given.

*Tobacco Funds* – this program has been terminated in Tama County.

**Old Business** – *Faith Representative – By-laws – Tool LL* – By-laws and Tool LL were disbursed. Discussion was held regarding the faith representative and the definition of this position. Discussion was held regarding the chair and vice-chair positions. It was felt that the faith requirement could be filled by Mr. Arp. The North Tama School Board has appointed Trisha Kennedy to represent the North Tama School District. These appointments are under New Business for today's meeting.

**New Business** – *Appoint New Funding Sub-committee Member* – with Rick Vesely resigning from the ECI Board discussion was held regarding a replacement for him on the Funding Sub-committee. This was tabled until the next meeting.

*Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve Trisha Kennedy, as the North Tama Education and School District/Citizen Representative and Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve Richard Arp, as the Clergy/Citizen, Required Faith Representative.* Motion by Jenn Stover to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve Trisha Kennedy as the North Tama Education & School District/Citizen Representative and Richard Arp as the Clergy/Citizen, Required Faith Representative. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Funding Sub-committee Recommendations from March 15<sup>th</sup>* – items included: Request from MICA; Request from Public Health; Request from AEA 267, re: Respite Services for child; Funding for Stork's Nest; Public Health Home Visits; Coordinator Position. Meeting minutes were disbursed. Discussion was held. Jenn Stover made a motion to approve the Funding Sub-committee recommendations as presented. Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Cindy Skopec and Joyce Legg abstained from voting. Motion passed unanimously.

*Funding Sub-committee Recommendations from March 22<sup>nd</sup>* – items included Getting Ready for Preschool/Kindergarten Resource /Activity Book. Jenn Stover made a motion to approve the Funding Sub-committee recommendations as presented. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Updates from the State** – ECI Legislative Update referencing Bills that have language referencing Early Childhood Iowa handout was disbursed.

**Correspondence** –

- E-mail from Rachel Porath stating she is no longer the Director for Tama County. Chad Hammer is the new Director. He also covers Marshall County.
- E-mail from Deb Scrowther - the Early Access Governor's Report FY 2011 – 2011 was available for review.
- E-mail from Laurie Kristiansen - Acronyms Relating to Early Childhood in Iowa was available for review.
- E-mail from Teresa McCall stating that she resigned and they are interviewing 3 people for her position.
- E-mail from Deb Scrowther regarding contracts with providers and they are strongly recommending that we add language to our contracts that allows us the option of requiring the provider to complete personnel activity reports (time studies).
- E-mail from Deb Scrowther regarding webinar for the 2011 ECI Annual Report Template to be held April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment** – Joyce Legg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jenn Stover seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County ECI Director

**Reminder:** Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Traer City Council Chambers at 12:00 Noon.