

# TAMA COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA

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Tama County Early Childhood Iowa Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 24, 2011 – 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
Traer City Council Chambers

## **Voting Members Present:**

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health  
Darla Thiessen, Human Services/Citizen  
Deb Schlichting, Pied Piper  
Karen Christensen, Citizen  
Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors

Cathy DeBondt, South Tama Education/Citizen  
Michelle Evans, Consumer/Citizen  
Richard Arp, Clergy/Citizen  
Trisha Kennedy, North Tama Education/Citizen

## **Others Present:**

Mary Sherwood, STC Elementary  
Lori Johnson, ECI Director  
Jana Enfield, Child Abuse Prevention  
Laura Kopsa, Tama County Auditor  
Ann Bacon, Mid-Iowa Community Action

Heidi Schminke, Benton County ECI  
Jolynn Stoneking, Tama County Public Health & Home Care  
Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action  
Michelle Gethman, Pied Piper

**Apologies:** Wendy Jenkins      Jill Herink      Angela Dreesman      Mandy Lekin  
Frank Albertsen      Cindy Skopec

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

One additional agenda item under New Business – “Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve Mary Sherwood as the STC Education and School District Representative” And under Board Professional Development “MICA Community Needs Assessment – Anne Bacon”, was added.

**Board Member Recognition** – Certificates of Appreciation were given to the voting board members and Fiscal Agent and Director. All in attendance received candy bars for their dedication for children 0 – 5 in Tama County. Larry Vest read appreciation notes that Ms. Johnson had prepared, thanking members for their support and participation this past fiscal year.

**Introductions** – were done

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** –Tama County Early Childhood Iowa meeting minutes for March 22, 2011 were reviewed. Richard Arp made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Cathy DeBondt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The March 22, 2011 meeting minutes from the ECI Home Provider Sub-committee were disbursed for Board review. No action was taken.

Better Tomorrows Meeting Minutes for April 27, May 2, May 16 and May 18<sup>th</sup> were disbursed for Board review. No action was taken.

**Financial Report** – was disbursed. With April’s expenses, we should be at 17% of the funding unexpended. Several program lines are below that or have exhausted all of their funding. Richard Arp 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*–February, March & April 2011 report of number of providers per type, slots filled, QRS levels information was disbursed.

*Nurse Consultant* – No update provided.

*QECE (Quality Early Childhood Environments)* – Quality Early Childhood Environments Spring Assessment Findings and Progress Report was disbursed. Two centers participated and improved their scores from fall to spring.

*Nest (formerly Stork's Nest), Public Health Home Visitation, etc.* – Joyce Legg shared that 34 people attended the last Nest Class. Since the funding is exhausted for the home visits that are provided by Public Health, the county is subsidizing this program. She is anticipating with spring, they will see an increase in lead follow-up.

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

- Several merger meetings have been held with Heidi and Larry. Have requested technical assistance/clarification from the state. The response has been slow, but are working with Shanell to assure accurate information is obtained.
- No updates on the school ready funding.
- Early Childhood Funding will be reduced by \$5,716.
- RFP's were sent out, even though no final funding allocations are known.

*Care for Kids* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report was disbursed. Jana Enfield shared Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics for Tama County. More are being identified with increased awareness, changes in policies and practices. It doesn't appear that kids are "being lost" with the DHS restructuring. Tama County is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest amount Iowa Counties in Rate of Confirmed Abuse. One hundred forty children have been confirmed abused; nineteen were re-abused.

*Infant Toddler Specialist and Dental Hygienist*—no report given for Dental Hygienist. Royce Hickie shared the March and April Tama Healthy Families handout. Public Health hired a new interpreter to assist with home visits. A referral was made to the Cedar Falls/Waterloo AEA team for an infant that was not making a lot of sounds. Follow-up is being done with 2 mothers whose newborns were concerned with their hearing. OAE hearing screens were done and they passed. They continue to monitor their hearing.

*Respite Scholarships* – no report given.

**Old Business** – *Appoint New Funding Sub-committee Members* – Richard Arp made a motion to have Michelle Evans and Karen Christensen replace Rick Vesely & Jenn Stover on the Funding Sub-committee. Joyce Legg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Both consented to serving on this sub-committee.

**New Business** – *Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve Michelle Evans, as the Consumer/Citizen Representative and Mary Sherwood as the STC Education and School District Representative.* Karen Christensen made the motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors, Michelle Evans as the Consumer/Citizen Representative and Mary Sherwood as the STC education and school district representative. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Michelle is replacing Jenn Stover and Mary is replacing Cathy DeBondt.

*Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve terms to run July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014* – Joyce Legg made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the following names, whose terms would run July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014.

- Trisha Kennedy, North Tama Education and School District/Citizen Representative
- Joyce Legg, Department of Public Health/Required Health Representative
- Mandy Lakin, Business & Industry/Citizen/Required Business
- Richard Arp, Clergy/Citizen/Required Faith Representative
- Darla Thiessen, Department of Human Services/Required Human Services Representative

Cathy DeBondt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Recommend to Board of Supervisors to approve, Laura Kopsa as the Fiscal Agent* – Darla Thiessen made the motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve Laura Kopsa as the Fiscal Agent. Richard Arp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve, Lori Johnson as the ECI Director* – Karen Christensen made the motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve Lori Johnson as the ECI Director. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Approve and authorize Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign Fiscal Agent Agreement* – Joyce Legg made the motion to approve and authorize Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign the Fiscal Agent Agreement. Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Approve and authorize Board Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign Compliance Assurances* – Darla Thiessen made the motion to approve and authorize Board Chair and Fiscal Agent to sign the Compliance Assurances. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Approve and authorize Board Chair to sign Agreement between the Iowa ECI Board, the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, Department of Management and Tama County ECI Board* – Richard Arp made the motion to approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Agreement between the Iowa ECI Board, Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Management and the Tama County ECI Board. Karen Christensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Meeting Date* – because of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and the FY 12 Budget being due July 15<sup>th</sup>, Joyce Legg made a motion to change the July meeting date to July 12<sup>th</sup>. Deb Schlichting seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Funding Sub-committee Recommendations* – none at this time.

**Board Professional Development** – *Child Abuse Prevention Needs Assessment Results* – Jana Enfield reviewed Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics for Tama County. More are being identified with increased awareness and changes in policies and practices. Doesn't appear that kids are "being lost with the Department of Human Services changes". Tama County is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the state for number of confirmed abuse. One hundred fifty-nine children (duplicated) children were confirmed abused. One hundred forty children were unique children (counted once or unduplicated). Nineteen children were re-abused.

*Mid-Iowa Community Action* – Anne Bacon provided "Tama County Snap Shot" and "Data Charts and Tables 2010". 18.4% of Tama Counties families with children under 5 are in poverty; Iowa = 12.7%. Percent of families with children under 18 in poverty Tama County is 13%; Iowa = 14%. Percent of families with female head of household with children under 5 in poverty in Tama County = 50.9%; Iowa = 46.1%. Number of limited English proficient students pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Tama County = 159 (2008 – 2009 statistics).

**Tama/Benton Merger Update** – Ms. Johnson shared an update on the merger activities with Benton County. The following items were disbursed for review: Governing Board Member List; Transition Plan; and Meeting Schedule.

**Updates from the State** – none noted.

**Correspondence** –

- E-mail from Shanell Wagler (dated 4/1/11) – Jeff Anderson was hired as the project coordinator for the state's early childhood advisory council.
- E-mail from Cathy DeBondt (dated 4/28/11) – that she will be resigning from STC at the end of June.
- E-mail from Jessica Gituma (dated 4/28/11) – that she is now the central point of contact for CCR & R, until their office is officially closed.
- Wendy Jenkins is the new DECAT Coordinator for Jasper Poweshiek & Tama.
- E-mail from Jessica Gituma (dated 5/18/11) – CCR & R Administrative Services bid for our service area was awarded to Community Action of Eastern Iowa (Region 5).
- Jodie Rowe is the Assistant County Director for MICA for Tama County.

**Adjournment** – Larry Vest adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County ECI Director

**Reminder:** Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be July 12<sup>th</sup> at ISU Extension Office at 12:00 Noon.