

TAMA COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA

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

Voting Members Present:

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health
Michelle Evans, Consumer/Citizen
Karen Christensen, Citizen
Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors

Darla Thiessen, Human Services/Citizen
Mandy Lekin, Business & Industry/Citizen
Trisha Kennedy, North Tama Education/Citizen
Jill Herink, Meskwaki Settlement School

Others Present:

Lori Johnson, ECI Director
Angela Dreesman, Child Care Consultant

Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action
Jodi Rowe, Mid-Iowa Community Action

Apologies: Wendy Jenkins Michelle Gethmann Richard Arp Deb Schlichting
Frank Albertsen Cindy Skopec Mary Sherwood

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

Introductions – were done

Minutes of Previous Meeting –Tama County Early Childhood Iowa meeting minutes for May 24, 2011 were reviewed. Joyce Legg made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Karen Christensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report – was disbursed. With June's expenses, we should be at 0% of the funding unexpended. We are at 9% of the budget remaining. No detail information was disbursed. Jill Herink made a motion to approve the report as presented. Joyce Legg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input – none noted.

Provider Reports –*Child Consultant*–May 2011 report of number of providers per type, slots filled, QRS levels information was disbursed. Their office in Mahaska County will be closing. There will be 4 new consultants out of the Davenport Office at a district level. Angie will be working with Child Net. There will be lots of restructuring. If Angie were to continue with Child Care Resource & Referral, she would have to start her day in Davenport. There may be things that she will not be able to access like she currently is able to. Providers are panicking and feel they will not be able to access things as before.

Nurse Consultant – No update provided.

QECE (Quality Early Childhood Environments) – No update provided.

Nest (formerly Stork's Nest), Public Health Home Visitation, etc. – Joyce Legg shared that there were 52 Stork's Nests in the state, now there are 10 or 12 due to more stringent guidelines by the Zeta Sorority and March of Dimes. Premature birth prevention was the initial focus. The Nest of Tama County is the new name. She had 28 mothers attend last night. They are cutting the points earned because of funding cuts by 50%.

Home Visits are status quo. Lead care is a public health function and will be funded by the county. A new Interpreter was hired and is working out well.

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

- From the ECI Directors Meeting the following handouts were disbursed (changes were highlighted): Tool FF – School Ready Funds - Family Support & Parent Education; Tool U – Process for Boundary Change; Tool TT – Funding Process for Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards; ECI Budget Policies and Procedures; Tool SS – Quarterly Financial Reporting; FY 12 Statewide Performance Measures;
- Marion, Poweshiek & Jasper are conducting merger discussions.

- Quality Improvement dollars was to remain level, but since we are not merging or haven't already merged, we will see a reduction, \$500 - \$1,000, in this funding.
- Has contacted Tama County Treasurer and is working on getting ECI account set up so it is an interest bearing account.
- Copies of Current Quality Rating System Levels, Licensed Child Care Centers, Preschools, and School-Based Programs for the State of Iowa; Tama Early Childhood Iowa Board Members Recognized news paper article; and Tama County Preschool Scholarships are Available news paper article; were available for review.

Care for Kids – 4th Quarter Report was disbursed. Sixty-seven (objective was 50) child education sessions were held with 231 (objective was 160) children participating. Both of these exceeded expectations.

Infant Toddler Specialist and Dental Hygienist—no report given for Dental Hygienist. Royce Hickie shared the May Tama Healthy Families handout. Training was held with ITDS staff regarding the importance of dental care and educating families about dental hygiene. Their staff has been doing hearing screenings and had identified children that needed further follow-up. June's socialization was conducted at a park and July's was held at the Tama-Toledo Aquatic center with a picnic in the park.

Respite Scholarships – no report given.

Old Business – none noted.

New Business – *Election of Officers* – Ms. Johnson referenced wording in By-laws regarding the chair. Motion by Mandy Lakin to have current officers remain. Joyce Legg seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously. Larry Vest will serve as Chair with Richard Arp serving as Vice-Chair.

Conflicts of Interest - were signed by those present.

Recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve Anne Paullus, as the Meskwaki Settlement School Representative. Ms. Herink is currently the high school principal and is unable to attend the meetings. Their superintendent is recommending Anne Paullus take her place on this board, since she is the Elementary principal. Darla Thiessen made the motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors, Anne Paullus, as the Meskwaki Settlement School Representative. Mandy Lakin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Anne is replacing Jill Herink.

Funding Sub-committee Recommendations –June 21st Meeting Minutes and color coded spreadsheet were disbursed. Total requests received = \$325,721.78; total draft allocation = \$178,549. After review Jill Herink made a motion to approve the Funding Sub-committee's recommendation. Darla Thiessen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Joyce Legg abstained.

Approve FY 12 Budget – Early Childhood Funding Budget; School Ready Budget; and Director Budget was disbursed. After review it was noted that Stork's Nest should be referenced as Tama County Nest. There was a dollar difference on the spreadsheet verses the budget reports. Ms. Johnson will review and correct error. Michelle Evans made a motion to approve the FY 12 Budget as presented, with needed corrections. Mandy Lakin seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Joyce Legg abstained.

Request from Public Health – requests to move \$192.58 from travel expenses for the coordinator to salary; and \$100 from training & tuition to salary, thus spending out all of the quality improvement dollars. Jill Herink made a motion to approve this transfer of expenses with in their budget allocation. Karen Christensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Joyce Legg abstained.

Board Professional Development – none

Tama/Benton Merger Update – Ms. Johnson shared the following items regarding merger activities with Benton County. The following items were disbursed: June 9th & June 30th Meeting Discussion Minutes; Updated Transition Plan noting red are completed items; green 1st meeting action items, yellow 2nd meeting action items; Revised Meeting Schedule with additional meetings in March, May and June; Organizational Chart; and Governing By-Laws.

Updates from the State – none noted.

Correspondence –

- E-mail from Deb Scrowther (dated 6/17/11) – their website has been updated.
- E-mail from Shanell Wagler (dated 7/5/11) – Legislative Update appropriations summary.
- E-mail from Shanell Wagler (dated 7/8/11) – updated School Ready FY 12 funding amounts.
- E-mail from Deb Scrowther (dated 7/6/11) – Child Care Congress February 8 – 9, 2012

Adjournment – Motion by Darla Thiessen to adjourn the meeting. Michelle Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Johnson, Tama County ECI Director

Reminder: Next Regular Empowerment Board Meeting will be September 5th at ISU Extension Office at 12:00 Noon.