

# TAMA COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA

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Tama County Early Childhood Iowa Board Meeting  
Tuesday, November 23, 2010 – 12:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.  
ISU Extension Office Meeting Room

## **Voting Members Present:**

Rick Vesely, Clergy/Citizen  
Larry Vest, Board of Supervisors/Citizen  
Darla Thiessen, proxy for Deb Schlichting

Joyce Legg, Tama County Public Health  
Karen Christensen, Citizen  
Jenn Stover, Consumer/Citizen

## **Others Present:**

Lori Johnson, Empowerment Coordinator  
Royce Hickie, Mid-Iowa Community Action  
Laura Kopsa, Tama County Auditor  
Alicia Janke, Kids Corner  
Kate Pergande, Mid-Iowa Community Action  
Frank Albertsen, ISU Extension of Tama County

Angela Dreesman, Child Care Resource & Referral  
Heidi Schminke, Benton ECI  
Kristi Daniel, Kids Corner  
Cathy DeBondt, STC Elementary  
Jana Enfield, Child Abuse Prevention Services

**Apologies:** Teresa McCall                      Deb Schlichting                      Jill Herink                      Richard Arp  
                    Becky Roe                                      Mandy Lekin                      Rachel Porath

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

One additional agenda item under new business, Approve and Recommend to Board of Supervisors, Cathy DeBondt, as the STC Education Representative, replacing Angie Knowles, was added.

**Introductions** – were done

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** –Empowerment meeting minutes for September 7, 2010 were reviewed. Jenn Stover made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Joyce Legg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report** – was disbursed. We should be at 67% of the funding unexpended. Several program lines are below that. Rick Vesely made a motion to approve the report as presented. Karen Christensen seconded the motion.

**Public Input** – none noted.

**Provider Reports** – *Child Consultant*–Angie Dreesman shared with the new system being initiated out of Polk County, providers have to register for training on line and not through Child Care Resource & Referral. There have been glitches with the system and registered providers are being missed. She is currently working with 36 providers. Her processes have changed with the DHS restructuring and she can no longer do the check list, it has to be done by a DHS employee.

*Nurse Consultant* – Ms. Legg met her. She will be providing 7 hours of service in Tama County per month.

*QECE (Quality Early Childhood Environments)* – see Board Professional Development below. Question was asked if the Board would like the stipends to remain at \$500, even though it appears not all of the mileage amount requested will be utilized. Karen Christensen made a motion that the stipend amount remain at the \$500 limit. Joyce Legg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

*Nest (formerly Stork's Nest), Public Health Home Visitation, etc.* – Joyce Legg shared that things continue to go well. Home visits are provided after a family/hospital contacts her that client's baby has been delivered. They struggle with having an interpreter readily available, since current staff have positions elsewhere and are very prn. High lead levels were found in 1 child recently. They screen 20 – 40 children each month for high lead levels. Lead process was shared.

*Coordinator* – Ms. Johnson shared response from Letitia Williams (who took Annette Dunn’s place), DHS, regarding being able to attend ECI Meetings. From the State ECI Board meeting: Education/Health & DHS representatives can finish out current terms, but after term is done, and they are receiving funds, they can not remain on the board. Levels of Excellence will be done every 5 years. Waiver policy and timeline for merger process was sent via e-mail. 7 letters of intent to merge 19 areas had been received by the state. From the Coordinators meeting suggestions were: each area to provide a table of contents for policies & procedures manual; 50% of the areas did not have their financial forms match their annual report. The area that “supposedly” received over \$100,000 for her duties was Adair & Warren County, all of which was miss information provided to legislators. Social Networking ideas were discussed. Levels of Excellence was updated and is available for review. The Levels of Excellence will be piloted with Polk and Lakes Area (Osceola, Dickensen, O’Brein, Clay). FAWG update e-mail reviewed and comments shared. Statutory Responsibilities of ECI Area Boards (Tool GG) and Requirements for Fiscal Agent (Tool HH) were reviewed with Beth Miller, CPA for county and she felt we are in compliance with our current processes. Our ECI Area is audited as part of Tama County’s audit.

*Care for Kids* – Jana Enfield shared that Esmeralda Ramirez has been hired and is currently scheduling child presentations in 3 counties. She has scheduled with Pied Piper, MICA Head Start, Meskwaki Settlement, and STC Elementary. Raggedy Ann & Andy are not interested this year and have not been able to make contact with Crayon Corner. Ms. Johnson will send contact information for Crayon Corner to Ms. Enfield.

*Infant Toddler Specialist and Dental Hygienist*–Royce Hickie shared that Anna Lee will be leaving and that they hope to interview for this 24 hour a week position next week.

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> at ISU Extension at 12:00 Noon.