

**Early Childhood Iowa Local Area
Annual Report
State Fiscal Year 2011
July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011**

Name of Early Childhood Area: Tama County

Website: www.tamacounty.org

Counties/Area Served: 1. Tama 3. _____
2. _____ 4. _____

Current Board Chairperson: Name: Larry Vest
Address: P.O. Box 61, 104 W State St
Toledo, IA 52342
Email: ljvest@iowatelecom.net

Current Fiscal Agent: Name: Laura Kopsa, Auditor
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Toledo, IA 52342
Email: lkopsa@tamacounty.org
Tax ID #: 42-6005285
DUNS #: 050813427

Contact Person for the local ECI Board: (if different from Chairperson)
Name: Lori Johnson
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DUNS #: 967971693



Assurances: I hereby affirm and certify that:

1. The information in this annual report is accurate, to the best of my knowledge.
2. The Board reviewed all indicator data, trends and analysis during this fiscal year.
3. The local ECI Board has conducted an annual review of the ECI Area Director contract with regards to state required performance measures.
4. The Community Plan was reviewed by the ECI Area Board on _____ (date).
5. This Annual Report was approved by ECI Area Board on _____ (date).

Signature of ECI Board Chairperson

Date

Signature of Current Fiscal Agent

Date

Larry Vest
ECI Chairperson's Name (print or type)

Laura Kopsa
Fiscal Agent (print or type)

	& Lawn/grandmother/mother of 4	consumer/Citizen																	
Larry Vest, Chair	Board of Supervisors	Citizen	----	7/1/00	4	6/30/12	X	X	X	X		X							
Richard Arp, Vice-Chair	Self Employed Farmer/North Tama School Board Member	Citizen/North Tama School District	3/22/11	1/1/01	4	NA	X	X		X									
Trisha Kennedy	North Tama School Board Member	Citizen/North Tama School District	----	3/22/11	1	6/30/14						X							
Angie Knowles	STC Elementary School	Citizen/STC School District	9/7/10	7/1/06	2	NA	X												
Cathy DeBondt	STC Elementary School	Citizen/STC School District	5/24/11	9/7/10	1	NA				X	X								
Mary Sherwood	STC Elementary School	Citizen/STC School District	----	5/24/11	1	06/30/12						X							
Karen Christensen	Self-employed Elementary Speech/Language Therapist	Citizen	----	7/1/09	1	6/30/12		X	X	X		X							
Deb Schlichting	Pied Piper	Child Care Centers	----	5/26/09	1	6/30/12				X	X	X							
Proxy Votes:																			
Darla Thiessen filled in for Deb Schlichting	ISU Extension of Tama County	Proxy	NA	NA	NA	NA	X	X	X										
Cindy Skopec filled in for Karen Christensen	AEA 267	proxy	NA	NA	NA	NA					X								
Totals							7	8	6	8	7	9							

Community Plan Updates

Name of Early Childhood Area: Tama County Early Childhood Iowa

This section is used to provide updates or changes made to your most recently approved Community Plan in this fiscal year.

1. Board Operations

Our ECI Board is comprised of 11 voting members. Members represent the Board of Supervisors, Education, Human Services, Health, Education, Faith, Business, consumer, and local county citizens. Each person on the Board either lives or works in Tama County and is a representative/advocate of our county. The Tama County ECI Board meets every other month and as needed. The Board includes childcare providers, service providers, education, business, department of human service representatives, Board of Supervisors, Public Health, North Tama School District, Meskwaki Settlement School, South Tama County School District, clergy, and citizens from Tama County. The Board members work together to create new initiatives; strengthen existing programs regarding our initiatives, activities, and programs available for children and families in Tama County; to eliminate duplication of services and focus on our priorities. Sub-committees meet and make recommendations to the Board regarding funding, preschool scholarships, and professional development activities. The County strongly supports the ECI program by providing the Director through the Public Health Office; Fiscal Agent is the County Auditor (in-kind); and liability insurance for the ECI Board (in-kind). We utilize news articles, Preschool Readiness Calendar/Activity Resource Book, and our website to education our community about our board and its activities and community speaking engagements.

This year has been a year of broadening our horizons. We reviewed the surrounding areas strengths and weaknesses and determined that Benton County would be a “fit” to collaborate and start the process to merge the two areas. Each local area board will continue on as an Advisory Board. There will be a joint governing board that will be the decision making board, effective 7/1/12.

Each school district has representation on our ECI Board. This past year the Meskwaki school representative had changed responsibilities and was unable to attend the regular scheduled meetings, but she was able to attend the NAC Site Visit. This member has been contacted regarding their ability to continue on the ECI Board. The Tribal Council has to sanction their representative and the school superintendent appoints their attendee.

2. Community Needs Assessment

There were no changes or revisions to the current Community Plan, but as part of our merger process the following community needs assessments were shared by the following providers that are active on the local ECI Board to start compiling information to update our joint Better Tomorrows Community Plan.

Linda Rosenberger, from *Tama County Public Health*, came to the March 22nd Board meeting and presented results from their community needs assessment. High incidents of: high lead levels (for children ages 0-4), births to women age 18 or younger, no prenatal care the 1st tri-mester; infant mortality; lack of post-neonatal care; colon cancer; coronary heart disease; and a decrease in people reporting good eating habits were lower than state statistics.

Jana Enfield, from *Child Abuse Prevention Services*, came to the May 24th Board meeting and presented results from their community needs assessment. She reviewed Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics for Tama County. More are being identified with increased awareness and changes in policies and practices. It doesn't appear that kids are “being lost with the Department of Human Services changes”. Tama County is the 5th highest in the state for number of confirmed abuse. One hundred fifty-nine children (duplicated) were confirmed abused. One hundred forty children were unique children (counted once or unduplicated). Nineteen children were re-abused.

Ann Bacon, from *Mid-Iowa Community Action*, came to the May 24th Board meeting and presented results from their community needs assessment. She provided “Tama County Snap Shot” and “Data Charts and Tables 2010”. 18.4% of Tama County families with children under 5 are in poverty; Iowa = 12.7%. The percent of families with children under 18 in poverty Tama County is 13%; Iowa = 14%. The percent of families with female head of household with children under 5 in poverty in Tama County = 50.9%; Iowa = 46.1%. The number of limited English proficient students pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in Tama County = 159 (2008 – 2009 statistics).

Indicators currently tracked are: immunization compliance %; # of children tested for lead; # of children with high lead levels; low birth weight rate; % of obese/overweight population; # enrolled in preschools; # with a preschool/Head Start experience; incidence of founded child abuse; # of births to teens; # of licensed and/or registered child care providers; # of providers participating in a quality improvement plan; and # of slots available.

Tama County continues to have a high incidence of elevated lead levels, teen pregnancies, obesity, high infant mortality, no prenatal care in the 1st tri-mester, high number of confirmed abused children, high % of families in poverty and single female households than the state averages.

3. Fiscal Assessment

Funding is reimbursed to a provider after appropriate documentation, has been reviewed and verified. The ECI Director and Board Chair sign off on the reimbursement request. The requests are submitted to the Fiscal Agent for processing. A detailed spreadsheet by program and funding carve outs, tracks expenses/reimbursements by month, year-to-date, and remaining balance of funds appropriated are generated monthly. Weekly expense reports are reconciled with the Fiscal Agent, and monthly budget reports are reconciled with the Fiscal Agent to verify expenses, fund balances by program, and funding carve outs.

4. Priorities and Indicators

Priorities are: Healthy Children; Children Ready to Succeed in School; Safe & Nurturing Families; and Safe, Secure & Nurturing Childcare Environments. Indicators are:

- Immunization Compliance %
- # of children tested for lead
- # of children with high lead levels
- Low Birth Weight Rate
- % of Obese/Overweight Population
- # enrolled in preschools
- # with a preschool/Head Start experience
- Incidence of Founded Child Abuse – Rate of child abuse & neglect (0 – 5) as a % of all confirmed abused children
- # of Births to Teens
- # of licensed and/or registered childcare providers
- # of providers participating in a Quality Improvement Plan
- # of slots available

5. Support services to prevent the spread of infectious disease, prevent child injuries, health emergency protocols, assistance with medication and child care for children with special health care needs

Health Care Coordination, Lead Care Coordination, Home Visitation (pre & post natal), Dental Hygienist providers work collaboratively together to assure services are provided to prevent the spread of infectious

disease, prevent child injuries, health emergency protocols, and provide assistance as needed to families with children ages 0 – 5 years of age. Due to funding cuts for FY 12, we are no longer able to fund health care coordination, lead care coordination or a dental hygienist. It was felt that the home visitation (pre & post natal) as a valuable program and resource for families with a new infant.

6. Community Collaboration

Current providers work together to support each other, access and utilize the resources available in the county, while providing services without duplication. Current providers meet monthly and discuss what services could benefit the families the most.

7. Plan Evaluation

Annually the Board reviews where we are with our community plan and determine what is best for the families with children 0 – 5, and determine what programs should be funded by Tama County ECI. The ECI Director has an annual evaluation and the Board does a self-evaluation to see what our current strengths and weaknesses are.

8. Other (please describe)

We have had merger talks with Benton County and have submitted our Letter of Intent. A Transition Plan, Board Roster, By-laws, Community Plan, and roles of the Advisory Boards, Governing Board and local ECI Directors will be established. Each area will collaboratively jointly review and revise the documents.