

## **LEAN Design Event for Empowerment Summary for Tama County Empowerment Board**

The LEAN event was held June 15 – 19<sup>th</sup> with a report held June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**WHO ATTENDED:** Empowerment staff, 5 local coordinators, state department directors, various agencies, and legislators attended this event.

### **PURPOSE:**

- Look at the empowerment structure and determine what works and what doesn't
- Determine recommendations for the 2010 legislative session
- Focus on what will propel empowerment and other early childhood initiatives to be the best system for all children in Iowa

### **RESULTS:**

- **Levels of excellence**
- **Regionalization**
- **State Structure**
- **Marketing**

**TIMELINE:** Initially a map was presented to be recommended to legislature, with changes going into effect 7/1/2010.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

It was the intention of the team to have the necessary legislative changes take place during the 2010 legislative session.

A tiered system will be established for local empowerment areas to work towards higher levels of quality. The current system identifies each area as either being in compliance with regulations or not. Designated or Conditionally designated. The new system would offer specific criteria for reaching a new level of excellence. There would be incentives attached such as flexibility with funding, priority consideration for additional funding opportunities, access to national system of quality Early Childhood programming and mentoring.

The number of local Empowerment areas will be reduced from 58 to approximately 35. Of those 35, 20 areas remain unchanged. Some criteria considered in the process were:

- Create no new area larger than four counties,
- Single county areas with greater than 5,000 children 0 – 5 would remain single,
- Do not split existing multi-county areas,
- Do not combine counties that do not share a border.

The concept of regionalization is still being considered for fiscal, legal and auditing purposes.

The state structure of Empowerment (and the Early Childhood system) will be reorganized to increase efficiency, create one unified Early Childhood organization with one message that is easily recognized. The leading movement in this effort will be the blending of Early Childhood Iowa and Empowerment.

The Technical Assistance team will be examined.

Also discussed was the need for a full-time legislative liaison for Early Childhood.

Marketing is also a piece of the big picture to be examined.

#### **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Why a Review of Community Empowerment?
- How was the Lean Event conducted?
- Coordinators that attended were:
  - LeeVan Buren
  - Polk
  - Linn
  - Decorah
  - BeunaVista
- What priorities were Identified
- What Were the Recommendations?
- Recommendations for Levels of Excellence
  - Emerging – this level would reflect those areas that need additional support
  - Capacity Building – this level would reflect areas that are meeting the required expectations
  - Model – this level reflects an area that is surpassing the required expectations and would allow them to have additional flexibility and possibly offer various incentives.

It was agreed that Community empowerment Area boards should maintain the local/community planning piece.

- Recommendations for the State Structure
- Recommendations for Marketing
- What are the Next Steps?

#### **Opportunity for Feedback**