

Early Childhood Iowa: Lakes Region Board Minutes

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Hartley Public Library

91 1st Street SE

Hartley, Iowa

The mission of Early Childhood Iowa: Lakes Region is to provide services collaboratively to families and children birth to 18 years of age for the purpose of improving the quality of life for families with children.

Attending:

Voting Members Attending

1. Leroy Riemer
2. Connie Olhausen
3. Bill Glienke (Alternate for Tom Naviaux)
4. Emily Waund
5. Daryl Streng
6. Joe Skow
7. Joyce Kruse
8. Paula Miller
9. Pam Jordan
10. Jean Severson
11. Roger Sixta
12. Arlene Roemmich
13. Barb Wilkerson
14. Mary Sloan
15. Rob Olsen
- 16.
- 17.

Voting Members Absent

Cindy Barwick*

Others Present (Nonvoting)

Cyndee Dather
Phyllis Slawson
Travis Edwards
Linda Littlefield
Connie Siebenbruner
Melissa Juhl

Quorum present. *Recorded excused absence

Call to Order/Adopt Agenda/Comments from the Public:

Chair Barb Wilkerson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

- A. Adopt Agenda – Leroy Riemer made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Jean Severson. All ayes. No nays. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Comments from the Public – There were no comments from the public.

Approval of Minutes:

Board members reviewed the January 2011 minutes. Roger Sixta made a motion to approve the minutes with following changes- Old Business: A. Delete Phyllis Slawson and note that Cyndee Dather will be attending the Policy Committee meetings. Second by Mary Sloan. All ayes. No nays. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- A. ECI Financials – Travis Edwards reviewed the ECI FY12 financials and December expenditures, which were emailed to Board members prior to the meeting. Leroy Riemer made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Second by Joyce Kruse. All ayes. No nays. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.
- B. Decat Financials – Cyndee will provide a two month report in March.

Executive Director's Report – Distributed and Presented by Cyndee Dather:

- A. Legislative Updates- Governor Branstad delivered the Condition of the State speech and outlined two major priorities this coming legislative session: A 4-point jobs and careers plan of action and to again have the nation's best school system. The Governor also introduced his proposed budget for FY 2013. This is earlier than previous years. Children's programs are funded at last year's levels - no increases or decreases!

- B. Nature Connections- Is a collaborative of early childhood partners (Lakes Area being one of those), educators, professionals, naturalists and environmental educators in Northwest Iowa dedicated to introducing children to nature while meeting their physical, emotional and cognitive needs. Nature Connections is planning a professional development experience that introduces teachers and other staff to "project" work with an emphasis on projects which focus on nature. This collaborative training will take place on September 20-21, October 26 and November 30, 2012 and will focus on the newest trends in curriculum development.
- C. State ECI Board Meeting- Cyndee participated in the State ECI Board meeting on January 13th. Items most relevant to our area included:
- *Levels of Excellence*- Deb Scrowther and Marcus Johnson-Miller will be the reviewers. Date of on-site TBD
 - *Quality Improvement Formula*- For FY 13 the formula will stay the same for "Quality" funding. The FY 14 proposal was not approved.
 - *FY 11 State Report*- This year's report provides a new layout to ease in locating information of choice. http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/EC_resources/annual_reports/2011_annual_reports.html
- D. Community Needs Assessment- Cyndee met with the DHS Social Worker staff and explained how to complete and submit the Community Needs Assessment. Information from the assessments will be tabulated, shared with the ECI/DECAT Board of Directors and become part of the community plan and utilized for FY 13 funding decisions.
- E. Best Care for Better Babies – The Iowa Family Support Credential Program Withdrawal was completed by Cyndee on January 9th. The BCBB program can reapply in one year. Cyndee will meet with the Nurse Managers on February 14th to discuss transitions plans.
- F. Cherish House Collaboration- In partnership with Cherish House/Cherished Kids ECI: Lakes Region provided some age appropriate books for children 0-5 years. These books will be shared with their Cherished Women/Cherished Kids and DOCKS parenting groups during "Reading Month" in February.
- G. Board Insurance- Richard Closter, DHS Liaison has not come up with anything in current rules or legislation mandating Decat Boards to carry insurance
- H. Substance Abuse Protocol- Cyndee is serving on a committee of the Parent Partner Federal Advisory Board that is drafting some protocol for agencies/programs that assist/serve clients with substance abuse issues. The anticipated outcome will be to serve clients in a more efficient and effective manner.
- I. Training- Decat Coordinator Meeting – Cyndee attended the training on January 18th to review various aspects of contracting and other areas of coordination.
- J. Promoting Safe and Stable Families- Cyndee is going to pilot a form to track the required data that will comply with audit requirements.
- K. CPPC/Shared Decision Making Group- A Community Partnership Event will be held on April 26th in Spirit Lake. Sessions will consist of information on the organizational structure of the Department of Human Services, how Social Worker Case Management, Child Protection and Income Maintenance functions. Tentatively the afternoon will feature Upper Des Moines Opportunity and Seasons. They will share what services they offer, eligibility requirements, locations where services can be accessed etc...Several persons were identified and will be contacted to see if they would serve on the Shared Decision Making Group. Cyndee will be hosting a meeting of identified providers of parent education services in the near future. The purpose of the meeting will be to identify ways to increase effective communication, learn about the types of parent education services available in our area to include eligibility, gaps/needs and how we can work together more effectively to better serve children and families in our area.
- L. CHAPCO- Cyndee is serving a term on the Child Abuse Prevention Council in Dickinson County. The group wanted to know what they could do to support the physical and mental health of young children. Cyndee shared about the pilot project that ECI will be implementing in our area in the future called First Five Project. More information on this initiative will be shared as details become available.
- M. DID YOU KNOW- The key to the long-term effects of high-quality early childhood programs is that such programs don't just teach kids a few extra letters or numbers. The programs also provide kids with better soft skills – how to get along with other kids, how to get along with teachers, how to plan and wait their turn.

- N. Home Visiting Campaign- Cyndee reported that they are proposing to require 90 percent of all state general funds utilized to fund family support programs that target families with children 0 – 5, to be expended on programs meeting the definition of evidenced-based or promising program by July 1, 2016.

Old Business:

- A. Policy and Procedure Committee–The committee plans to have a proposal for the board to review in April. The committee will be using the S.H.I.P. Policies and Procedures as one of the resources to develop local policies.
- B. Tom Bouska, DHS Service Area Manager will be attending the April board meeting to discuss the aspects and operations of Decat and will be available to answer questions.
- C. Office Lease- Cyndee contacted the landlord in regards to amending the office lease that expires on April 1, 2012 and extending it till September 30, 2012. He declined to extend the lease. Cyndee notified Barb Wilkerson, board chair and the emergency plan was that Cyndee would work out of her home till a long term solution was decided. The landlord came back to Cyndee two weeks later and at that time was willing to extend the lease till September 30, 2012.

New Business:

- A. SEED Collaboration- Connie Siebenbruner presented information to the board about the Social, Emotional, Educational, and Developmental (SEED) group that has been meeting for the past several years. This partnership includes numerous organizations to include ECI: Lakes Region and has been looking at ways to assist behavioral challenged children. All of the partners have been trained in PITC and are using it in their programs. A Psychotherapist is facilitating groups with moms in the O'Brien and Clay area to help them with the challenging behaviors of their children. What they have learned is that parents need to be involved and have come up with some creative ways to engage them. The group is making plans to proceed with applying for a planning grant that could take this cutting edge initiative to the next level.

Other:

- A. DECAT/CPPC/– Paula Miller reported they are in the process of filling a CFA position and discussed the need for parent education classes that are intensive and include one on one mentoring for DHS clients.
- B. Parent Partners – Bill Glienke reported there are currently 45 active cases in the ECI: Lakes Region and Buena Vista county. They are planning a “Trauma Informed Services” workshop in the future with more information forthcoming. They also will be hosting a Lunch and Learn on February 29th in Storm Lake and Orange City to help persons understand the culture of poverty.

Adjourn:

Motion by Jean Severson to adjourn the meeting. Second by Leroy Riemer. All ayes. No nays. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cyndee Dather
Executive Director

The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.
at the Hartley Public Library, 91 1st Street SE, Hartley IA.

Board members are encouraged to access the Early Childhood Iowa website at www.earlychildhoodiowa.org
and the local website at www.ecilakesregion.com