

Early Childhood Iowa: Lakes Region Board Minutes
Thursday, September 2, 2010
Hartley Public Library
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. Pam Jordan
3. Rob Olsen
4. Arlene Roemmich
5. Daryl Streng
6. Jean Severson
7. Connie Olhausen
8. Emily Waund
9. Joe Skow
10. Joyce Kruse
11. Barb Wilkerson
12. Mary Sloan
13. Darwin Beltman
14. Paula Heckenlively
15. Cindy Barwick
- 16.
- 17.

Voting Members Absent

Dave Norgart

Others Present (Nonvoting)

Travis Edwards
Cyndee Dather
Betsy Moritz
Audrey Hansen
Linda Littlefield
Jeanine Hough
Connie Siebenbruner
Bill Glienke
Phyllis Slawson

Quorum present. Rob Olsen left the meeting at 10:30; quorum maintained.

*Recorded absence

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

Chair Leroy Riemer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Mary Sloan made a motion to adopt the agenda. Second by Jean Severson. All ayes. Motion passed. No comments from the public.

Approval of Minutes:

Barb Wilkerson made a motion to approve the August 5, 2010 minutes. Second by Connie Olhausen. All ayes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Travis Edwards reported on FY10 Empowerment financials and Decat funds/contracts which were emailed to Board members prior to the meeting. Travis reviewed empowerment and Decat expenditures. Cyndee reviewed additional decat expenditures. Darwin Beltman made a motion to accept the treasurer's reports. Second by Rob Olsen. All ayes. Motion passed.

Director's Report – Distributed and Given by Cyndee Dather

- A. Early Childhood Advisory Group – Cyndee updated the Board on the EC Advisory Group. Members will attend Board meetings as available, and the committee will meet after Board meetings. The immediate plan is to meet with local legislators to educate and inform them on early childhood issues. ECI: Lakes Region training collaborations have been strong, but the group sees the need to more effectively coordinate local training with the goal of jointly providing trainings and including staff from the various programs and agencies. The need to market/promote early childhood activities was also discussed.
- B. Marketing Plan – Cyndee attended the ECI marketing meeting. A professional marketing firm provided a free marketing session on how to best market Early Childhood Iowa (for example, logo, tagline). The importance of statewide coordination of the ECI message across local ECI areas was emphasized.

- C. Computer/Copier Issues – Cyndee explained the problems with her computer and the office copier. Repair costs may be totaling more than replacement. Copier estimates range from \$1,000 to \$2,450. No action requested at this time.
- D. Decat Coordinator Updates – Cyndee and other decat coordinators met with Tom Bouska, DHS Service Area Manager, on August 24. The group reviewed an increase in funding of \$60,000 which is to be spent by June 30, 2011. The decision was made to allocate the funds to Family Team Meetings and Child-Family Advocate services. Cyndee met with Jeanne Feeck and Keisha Neton, DHS social work supervisors for O'Brien and Osceola counties, to give them an update on services available in and the process for Lakes area decat programs.
- E. Drug Court – Cyndee attended Cherokee Drug Court and found it to be extremely proactive and recognizing/requiring client accountability regarding their strengths and concerns.
- F. Travel Request – Cyndee requested Board approval for Betsy to attend the “Early Developmental Disorders Resulting from Abuse” seminar to be held in Sioux Falls, SD on September 11. Mary Sloan made a motion to approve Betsy’s attendance. Second by Barb Wilkerson. All ayes. Motion carried.
- G. Annual Report – The annual report was emailed to board members. Please contact Betsy if you would like a hard copy. Project directors then provided FY10 annual report summaries and answered questions from the Board.

Old Business:

- A. Decat Funding – Daryl Strenge made a motion to accept transfer of \$60,000 in decat funds to be designated for family team meetings and child-family advocates. Second by Pam Jordan. Further discussion about how the funds became available. All ayes. Motion carried.
- B. By-laws Review Second Reading – The statement: “The board may appoint ad hoc and/or standing committees to advise the board on matters of interest as necessary” was added to Article II, Section 1. Jean Severson made a motion to accept the wording and first reading of the by-laws. Second by Mary Sloan. All ayes. Motion passed. The phrase: “at the last regular meeting of each fiscal year for Early Childhood Iowa funds” was added to Article VIII, Section 1, third paragraph. Motion to approve the language and first reading made by Pam Jordan. Second by Jean Severson. All ayes. Motion carried. There was discussion of adding another health representative to the Board membership; no decision was made. Barb will follow up with Avera-Spencer for a health representative and report back at the October Board meeting. Connie Olhausen made a motion to approve the second reading of the by-laws (with the exclusion of the two new language items) as read at the August 5, 2010 Board meeting. Second by Joyce Kruse. All ayes. Motion carried.

New Business:

- A. Donation – Mary Sloan questioned if the Board should make a donation to the library for the use of the conference room.

Other:

- A. DHS Informational Updates – Paula and Phyllis reported they are still struggling to fill frontline staff vacancies.
- B. Parent Partner – Bill Glienke reported on the first annual northwest Iowa Substance Abuse Recovery Walk and Celebration to be held September 26, 2010 from 1:00 – 7:00 in Spencer. Bill also gave a program update and numbers of families served.
- C. Voluntary Preschool – At the Board’s request, Jeanine provided an ECI: Lakes Region voluntary preschool summary document.

Adjourn:

Darwin Beltman made a motion to adjourn. Second by Jean Severson. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Betsy Moritz
 Service Coordinator Assistant

**The next board meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.
 at the Hartley Public Library.**

Board members are encouraged to access the community empowerment website at www.empowerment.state.ia.us.