

**Mental Health Task Force**  
**Subcommittee of the Preschool Exchange Group**  
**Corner Counties Empowerment Area**  
**October 29, 2008 12:00 PM**  
**Godfather's Pizza, Shenandoah, Iowa**

Present: Mary Anne Gibson, Pam Herzberg, Penny Bredensteiner, Allyson Forney

Absent: Lori Gibson and Bernie Wagoner

The purpose of this subcommittee is to study two different types of mental health screenings as possibilities for the Fremont and Page County Preschools to implement during SFY'10. The two screenings are the "Ages and Stages" and the DECA. Pam provided materials on the Ages and Stages that Bernie had asked her to share with the committee. Mary Anne provided materials on the DECA.

Penny stated that Farragut currently uses the Connors Rating Scale. The question was asked as to what the Child Health Specialty Clinics uses. Pam will contact the Child Health Specialty Clinics to find out the answer.

Allyson stated that Fremont-Mills utilizes the "Ages & Stages", but only on those children that raise red flags.

Mary Anne stated that the DECA would need to be at least one month after the child had been in preschool and concentrates on the child's initiative, self-control, and behavioral concerns. The DECA also needs to be preceded by a classroom assessment such as the ECERS. The DECA may indicate that a clinical follow-up is necessary, not treatment, but an additional assessment. Pam stated she would ask the State team if an additional assessment was needed if the Preschool Tuition and Support funds could be used for that additional follow-up. A question was brought up by Allyson and Penny as to how in depth the scoring would be for the teacher, how time consuming.

As Bernie was not present it was determined that she be allowed time at the next meeting to provide a verbal overview of the Ages & Stages and address any questions.

The group also discussed that it would be beneficial to ask Karen Spawn and Ami Leath/AEA Early Childhood Specialists to attend and take part within the next two meetings. Pam is to contact Ami and Karen to see if Wednesday, January 7, 2009 and Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 12:00 Noon would work for Ami and Karen. If so, the meetings will be held at the Page County West Building with each individual bringing their own lunch.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director