

CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP AGENDA
January 27, 2009 – 5:00 PM
Page County West Building – 615 NW Road - Shenandoah

- Welcome – Penny Bredensteiner
- Introductions
- Mental Health Task Force Report – Penny Bredensteiner and Allyson Forney
- Statewide Voluntary Four Year Old Preschool Grant
- Next meeting scheduled for _____

**PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP
CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
JANUARY 27, 2009
PAGE COUNTY WEST BLDG., 615 NW ROAD, SHENANDOAH, IOWA**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Penny Bredensteiner.

Present: Penny Bredensteiner/Chair, Elaine Armstrong/DCAT Board member, Sherry Hamsch/South Page Preschool, Deb Nelson/Clarinda Garfield Preschool, Allyson Forney/Fremont-Mills Elementary Principal, Amy Resh/Essex Community Schools, and Carolyn Maher/Sidney Community Schools.

- ✓ Carolyn Maher made a motion to approve the agenda. Sherry Hamsch seconded. Motion carried.
- ✓ Introductions of all in attendance took place.
- ✓ Penny and Allyson provided an overview of the work the Mental Health Task Force had done and provided the Task Force recommendation in regard to a mental health screening within the preschools. If there are funds that the Corner Counties Board allocates SFY'10 toward mental health screenings the Task Force had come to the conclusion that the Ages and Stages would be the most suitable tool.
- ✓ Discussion surrounding the Voluntary Four-Year Old Preschool Grant took place, noting that the application will be available early February.
- ✓ Conversation took place regarding the allocation of preschool tuition funds for SFY'10 and what the legislators would possibly do with those funds.
- ✓ Conversation took place regarding collaboration with Head Start. Two major concerns are with the most recent Head Start changes in the area. Those being the cuts with wrap around services and transportation. It was determined that the group needs to continue to explore collaboration needs with Head Start.
- ✓ The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 5:00 PM at the Page County West Building.
- ✓ Carolyn Maher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deb Nelson seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Allyson Forney/Fremont-Mills Elementary Principal

***CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP AGENDA
April 28, 2009 – 5:00 PM***

Page County West Building – 615 NW Road - Shenandoah

- Welcome – Penny Bredensteiner
- Introductions
- Voluntary Four Year Old Grant – Report from those that applied on how the process went and any updates
- Early Childhood Institute Funds - Are you planning on having your funds expended by May 30, 2009? – Pam Herzberg
- Empowerment Funding Cuts for SFY' 10 – Pam Herzberg
- Dinosaur School – Update from Southwest Iowa Families
- Preschool Mental Health Screenings for 2009-2010 School Year – Update from Southwest Iowa Families
- Next meeting scheduled for _____

**PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP
CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
April 28, 2009
PAGE COUNTY WEST BLDG., 615 NW ROAD, SHENANDOAH, IOWA**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Penny Bredensteiner.

Present: Penny Bredensteiner/Chair and representing Farragut Preschool, Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director, Elaine Armstrong/DCAT Board member, Sherry Hambsch/South Page Preschool, Julia Cavin/Clarinda Community Preschool, Allyson Forney/Fremont-Mills Preschool, Berneeta Wagoner/Southwest Iowa Families, Lori Gibson/Turnbull Child Development Center, Terri Henderson/Turnbull Child Development Center, Carol Bellairs/Southwest Iowa Families, and Shirley Wittmuss/Noah's Ark.

- ✓ Penny announced that the school districts that had applied for the Voluntary Four-year Old Grant are tentatively scheduled to hear whether or not they will be receiving this grant on May 14, 2009. Penny stated Farragut, Fremont-Mills, and Sidney collaboratively applied and that Clarinda and South Page has applied as well.
- ✓ Pam reminded the group that they needed to be purchasing materials with the funds that had been awarded to them for the Early Childhood Institute and then get their billing submitted as soon as possible.
- ✓ Carol Bellairs provided a report on the Dinosaur School program that she had been conducted at the Farragut and Turnbull Preschools this year. Carol shared that at Turnbull she had started with 20 students and they are now at 18, at Farragut she started with 10 students and they are now at 9. She also shared that each student will receive a binder with all of the assignments that had been done this year. Carol also stated that there will be a one day training provided for preschool and daycare staff that is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2009.
- ✓ Penny asked for a report from Pam Herzberg as to where the Empowerment Board was at in relationship to funding mental health screenings within the preschools for the 2009-2010 school year. Pam stated that Southwest Iowa Families had submitted a proposal to conduct the ASQ:SE in the preschools, but the Board would need to determine whether or not they would fund this. Bernie Wagoner with Southwest Iowa Families reviewed what had been submitted within the proposal and answered a few questions.
- ✓ The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 5:00 PM at the Page County West Building in Shenandoah.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director

CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
PRECHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP AGENDA
September 15, 2009 5:00 PM
Page County West Building – 615 NW Road - Shenandoah

- Welcome – Penny Bredensteiner
- Introductions
- Child Care Nurse Consultant – Becky Morrison
- Quality Rating System Updates and Congratulations – Pam Herzberg
- Preschool Tuition Grants for 2009-2010 School Year – Pam Herzberg
- Preschool Enhance Project – Pam Herzberg
- Social Emotional Screenings – Bernie Wagoner and Angela Wallick/Southwest Iowa Families, Inc.
- Dinosaur School – Update from Bernie Wagoner/Southwest Iowa Families, Inc.
- Next meeting scheduled for December 1, 2009 at 5:00 PM, same location.

**PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP
CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
September 15, 2009
PAGE COUNTY WEST BLDG., 615 NW ROAD, SHENANDOAH, IOWA**

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by Penny Bredensteiner.

Present: Penny Bredensteiner/Chair, Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Coordinator, Shirley Wittmuss/Noah's Ark Director, Stephanie McManigal/Fremont-Mills Preschool, Deb Nelson/Clarinda "Garfield" Preschool, Becky Morrison/CCNC, Julia Cavin/Clarinda Community Preschool, Angela Wallick/Southwest Iowa Families, Carol Bellairs/Southwest Iowa Families, Berneeta Wagoner/Southwest Iowa Families, Sherry Hamsch/South Page Preschool, Kelli Moore/Great Beginnings Preschool in Sidney, Lori Gibson/Turnbull Child Development Center, and Terri Henderson/Turnbull Child Development Center.

- ✓ Penny Bredensteiner called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Penny began the meeting with individual introductions.
- ✓ Shirley Wittmuss announced that she has resigned her position as Director of Noah's Ark effective December 15, 2009.
- ✓ Pam Herzberg provided the group with the Corner Counties Empowerment Area Calendar of Events for SFY'10.
- ✓ Becky Morrison introduced herself as the new Child Care Nurse Consultant for the Corner Counties Empowerment Area and provided her cell phone number to those in attendance. The cell number is 712-370-6038.
- ✓ Pam Herzberg updated those in attendance on the QRS status of preschools: Noah's Ark @ Level 1, Essex Child Care Center @ Level 3, Farragut @ Level 4, Sidney (Great Beginnings) @ Level 3, and Turnbull Child Development Center @ Level 3. Clarinda Community Preschool submitted the paperwork to be a Level 3 in June, Fremont-Mills submitted their paperwork and thinks they will receive a Level 4, and South Page submitted their paperwork in May and thinks they will definitely be a Level 3 and possibly a Level 4.
- ✓ Pam Herzberg informed the group that she had all of the preschool applications she had received thus far processed and 83 children have been approved for tuition grants. She also distributed billing invoices and a reporting matrix that preschools serving children that receive tuition grants must complete. Pam provided explanation as how to complete these forms. Pam stated that she will not know if or how much funding will be available for transportation assistance until after October 1st.
- ✓ Pam Herzberg shared that the Empowerment Board had allocated approximately \$10,172.39 to be used for Preschool Enhancement Projects and that the Empowerment Board would be voting to approve the RFP at the October 13, 2009 Board meeting. Pam passed around the DRAFT of the RFP for the group to look at and gave examples of a few projects that could be considered.
- ✓ Pam stated that the Empowerment Board would be having their Redesignation Visit from the State on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 1:00 PM @ this site and invited all interested individuals to attend. Pam also shared that she and Lois Jean Ellison would be going to the Page County Preschools and Centers on September 30, 2009 and the Fremont County Preschools and Centers

on October 1, 2009 to take pictures that would be used for this year's Give Thanks Reception to be held in November. The pictures will be put into a power point presentation with music added and will run throughout the reception.

- ✓ Bernie Wagoner gave a brief background in regard to the Social Emotional Screenings that her agency is doing within the preschools this year. Bernie stated that she was very appreciative of the opportunity to be able to do this project. Bernie stated that Angela Wallick has been taking the lead on this project and that she would provide more information to the group.
- ✓ Carol Bellairs provided the group with a brief overview of Dinosaur School stating last year she had co-taught Dinosaur Classrooms at the Farragut 4 year old classroom and the Turnbull 4 year old classroom. Carol shared pictures from past Dinosaur classrooms. Carol reported that this year she was doing a classroom at Clarinda Community Preschool and Great Beginnings Preschool in Sidney.
- ✓ Angela Wallick spoke in regard to the Social Emotional Screenings project stating that she had started receiving the assessments. The preschool staff in attendance indicated they are getting a good percentage of the screenings completed and returned by the parents. Angela's goal is to have all of the assessments scored within one week of receipt. Angela shared that after the assessments are scored she will schedule visits with the schools. Angela also showed the group a DRAFT copy of the resource directory that will be provided to the parents of preschoolers needing further assessment or services. Bernie stated they will also provide copies of the directory to Doctor's offices.
- ✓ Penny adjourned the meeting at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director

CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP AGENDA
December 1, 2009 5:00 PM
Page County West Building – 615 NW Road - Shenandoah

- Welcome – Penny Bredensteiner
- Introductions
- State Budget Cuts to School Districts – How is this impacting your preschool?
- Empowerment funding cuts – how is this impacting your preschool?
- What are the current needs of the preschool children and families you serve?
- Who will apply for the Voluntary Four-Year Old Preschool Grant?
- Next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2010 at 5:00 PM, same location.

**PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP
CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
DECEMBER 1, 2009 5:00 PM
PAGE COUNTY WEST BLDG., 615 NW ROAD, SHENANDOAH, IOWA**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Penny Bredensteiner.

Present: Penny Bredensteiner/Chair and Farragut Preschool; Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director; Erin Smith/Empowerment Board Representative; Shirley Wittmuss/Noah's Ark Director; Carleen Smith/Incoming Noah's Ark Director; Karen Bodwell/Head Start; Allyson Forney/Fremont-Mills Preschool; Deb Nelson/Clarinda "Garfield" Preschool; Julia Cavin/Clarinda Community Preschool; Angela Wallick/Southwest Iowa Families; Sherry Hamsch/South Page Preschool; Terri Henderson/Turnbull Child Development Center; and Christina Zaruba/Shenandoah Public Preschool.

- Penny Bredensteiner called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Penny began the meeting with individual introductions.
- State Budget Cuts and how they have impacted the individual preschools.
 - Deb Nelson shared that the Clarinda Community School District teachers had had to take a reduction in salary.
 - Christina Zaruba stated that the Shenandoah Public Preschool no longer is able to have Associate substitutes. If an associate is absent they have to cover. Christina also informed the group that they are still waiting for playground equipment.
 - Sherry Hamsch stated that South Page staff is constantly being reminded to not be wasteful.
 - Julia Cavin with Clarinda Community Preschool states they have not been impacted by the State budget cuts to public preschools as they are a private preschool.
 - Penny Bredensteiner stated that Farragut Schools are tightening their belts, not purchasing extras and may see a reduction in activities.
 - Shirley Wittmuss/Noah's Ark Daycare and Preschool shared that they are private, not public and have not been impacted by the State budget cuts.
 - Terri Henderson with Turnbull Child Development Center stated they were also a private entity.
 - Allyson Forney with Fremont-Mills Preschools stated that they were not able to have Associate substitutes. Allyson also shared that since they had received their QRS Level 4 this year they are now working to obtain a Level 5.
 - Karen Bodwell with Head Start shared that they have gone to two staff in the classrooms as opposed to three, but they are still in compliance. The cuts have been really rough and all of the centers have gone to all day centers, keeping the kids through naptime.
- Empowerment Budget Cuts and how they have impacted the preschools.
 - All staff in attendance representing preschools that participate in the Corner Counties Empowerment Area's Preschool Tuition Grant Program report that the unavailability of more tuition grants has been felt due to children enrolling in preschool after the announcement that there was no more available funding for tuition grants. However, throughout the discussion it was stated several times that the preschools were thankful the awarded tuition grants that had not been cut.
- What are current needs?
 - After discussion it was a general consensus that the most needed assistance at this time to the preschools was monetary assistance for transportation.

- The group discussed what possible individual needs for the preschool children might be and what could be done as a collaborative effort within the Empowerment Area to provide some form of assistance to families with small children. Those in attendance were to e-mail Pam any ideas they might have in regard to a collaborative effort that could be done to benefit the families with small children within Fremont and Page Counties. Several wondered if the coat drive in Shenandoah was being done this year. Pam was to contact KMA to find out and then get an e-mail out to the preschools.
- Who will apply for the Voluntary Four-Year Old Preschool Grant?
 - Deb stated that she did not believe Clarinda would apply. Christina stated that Shenandoah would not apply. Sherry did not know if South Page would apply or not. Further discussion made it clear that there was a lot of uncertainty as to whether or not the Four-Year Old Grant would even be made available for SFY'2011. Fremont Mills and Farragut at this time do not know, but will probably work together if they decide to apply.
- Angela Wallick with Southwest Iowa Families, INC. provided an updated report on the social emotional screen being conducted with Empowerment funding this year. Angela reported that at this time 243 children had been screened in both counties. Out of the 243 children screened 22 children screened above the cutoff indicating the need for further assessment or services. Angela shared that the preschool teachers serving those 22 children have been contacted. Angela said six parent meetings have been held so far and that follow-up would be done with the families to determine whether or not the family had followed through with recommendations. Angela stated that a survey was sent out to the teachers.
- Pam Herzberg provided the group with a document she had received from the State that could be posted within the preschools or copied and sent home with the children entitled "Important Information for *hawk-l* Families!". Pam also provided the group with an informational sheet she had compiled in regard to charitable Christmas services that were being provided within Fremont and Page Counties.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM with the next Preschool Exchange Group meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2010 at 5:00 PM at the same location.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director