

**Corner Counties Early Childhood Area and Taylor County Early Childhood Area  
Public Forum Notes**

**Monday, May 18, 2010 5:00-6:00 PM  
Fremont County Courthouse Sidney, IA**

**Early Childhood Board Members Present:** Mel Hurst and Margaret Johnson

**Early Childhood Staff Present:** Pam Herzberg/Corner Counties Early Childhood Director and Jenny Ernst/Taylor County Early Childhood Director

**Public Present:** Angie Lutt/Stork's Next Program and Heidi Lowthorp/Growing Strong Families, Fremont County

The purpose of the Public Forum was to inform community partners and members of the general public of the merge process that is taking place between the Corner Counties Early Childhood Area and the Taylor County Early Childhood Area to form a new Early Childhood Area.

After the welcome and introductions were complete the language within Senate File 2088 that identifies the criteria for establishing community early childhood areas (formerly known as empowerment) was reviewed. A chart that contained the 0-5 population statistics for all three counties: Fremont, Page and Taylor was shared with the group in attendance.

Jenny and Pam provided those in attendance with an update in regard to what had been done locally to move toward a merger thus far:

- A Similarities and Dissimilarities Chart was developed last fall.
- The Taylor County Board voted in January 2010 to proceed with merger process with Corner Counties.
- The Corner Counties Board voted in March 2010 to proceed with merger process with Taylor County.
- A joint Board meeting was held on April 29, 2010 to allow both boards an opportunity to discuss the merge process and how to proceed.
- Committees have been identified: Bylaws and Community Plan Committees
- A timeline is in place for items that need to be taken care of in order for the merge to take place on July 1, 2011.
  - By-laws are to be in place by July 1, 2010.
  - Letter of Intent to the Office of Management during the month of July 2010.
  - Community-wide assessment to be dispersed July 2010 through September 30, 2010. The results will be compiled by October 31, 2010. The Early Childhood Committee met on May 4, 2010 and identified questions to be included on this assessment.
  - Community Plan to be in place by January 2011.
  - New Board to be in place by January 2011. The new board will be responsible for processing the proposals and determine award of funds for SFY' 12. The current boards will remain intact until July 1, 2011.

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Jenny and Pam also informed those in attendance that they had proposed to both Boards to employ both directors at the time of the merge with each working 20 hours per week. Pam explained that each director had different strengths and weaknesses and the two would work together to identify individual job duties.

There were no general concerns or questions from the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Herzberg  
Corner Counties Early Childhood Area Director