

**CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA**  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITTEE**  
**January 5, 2010 2:00 PM**  
**Page County West Building – 615 Northwest Road – Shenandoah, Iowa**

- Call to order/Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Pam Herzberg. All were welcomed to the meeting and a sign-up sheet was sent around for everyone to sign.
- Introductions/Updates: Those present were asked to introduce themselves, state what program they are from, and some hope or dream for 2010.
  - Belinda DeBolt – Page County Public Health, new child care nurse consultant, Becky Morrison, will be up and running in March. Hope or dream for 2010- “Creative Ideas with Less Money”
  - Julie Streitenberger – Grandma House – it is their 5th year Anniversary and they having a “coffee” to celebrate and they are getting the community involved in the celebration. Hope or dream for 2010- they will continue to transport children.
  - Linda Heywood from Headstart – They will be in the Clarinda School right now they are serving just the parents. They are not sure if there will be a wrap around program or not. Their hours are: 8:30 to 4:30.
  - Kathleen Keefer – Positive Family – Hope and dream for 2010 – more outside funding sources to keep the program up and running and serving our families.
  - Karen Bodwell, area coordinator for Headstart
  - Heidi Lowthorp – From Growing Strong Families – Fremont County. They are starting the credentialing process. They currently have 34 families enrolled and are looking for more
  - Angie Lutt – Stork’s Nest – the enrollment up 28 since last quarter, TA assigned for credentialing.
  - Linda Orme – Welcome Baby – lots of new babies born the end of Dec. Hope or dream for 2010- see all the newborns in Page and Fremont Counties.
  - Janet Linnenburger – CCR&R- Hope or dream for 2010- looking for better weather
  - Amy Faust – Waubonsie – she is counseling ages 3 to 85; Hope or dream for 2010- working more on the Parent-Child Interaction Therapy part of her practice.
  - Kathy Boyson – Clarinda Schools
  - Debra Morrison – CCR&R from Harlan
  - Deb Martens – CCR&R
  - Terri Henderson – Turnbull Child Development Center
  - Carleen Smith – Noah’s Ark Director, she just started there and is learning the ropes
  - Lois Jean Ellison – board member CCEA
  - Pam Herzberg – CCEA – Hope or dream for 2010- we will carry on
- ❖ Minutes from the Nov 3 meeting were sent out by email and read prior to the meeting. They were approved.
- ❖ Day on the Hill – February 3, 2010: Early Childhood Congress canceled due to funding. Pam is going to attend Day on the Hill, she has room in her car if anyone would like to accompany her. The schedule consist of a morning training with the opportunity to meet with legislators in the afternoon. Pam has asked for testimonials to put together in booklet form: How Empowerment impacts the lives of children and their parents. Pam developed a one sheet document for legislative persons to take away. The sheet is very informative, attractive and colorful. Pam suggested that we

call or email our Legislative persons about supporting funding for empowerment and supporting our children.

- ❖ Legislative Coffees - January 30, 2010 – 8am Bricker Room in Shenandoah, 10am Clarinda Library.
- ❖ DHS has drafted a proposed RFP for CCR&R. The RFP will have smaller areas for CCR&R to cover, thus limiting administrative costs and “windshield” time. DHS is also realigning their areas in an effort to save money.
- ❖ Taylor County Empowerment Board meeting was canceled last night. The Corner Counties Empowerment Area has initiated conversations with the Taylor County Empowerment Area in regard to the possible merging of Fremont, Page, and Taylor. However, Taylor County has also been invited to join Adams, Ringgold and Union County Empowerment areas. No decision has been made at this time.
- ❖ RFP for Empowerment will be ready in March...anticipating another 25% cut in funding for 2010-2011;
- ❖ Testimonials are being written by parents.

Collaborative Project – The Question was raised: What can we do in conjunction with the Preschool Exchange Group and the CCEA for children and their families sometime this spring?. Joan Gallagher emailed two ideas 1. Food Drive in the spring, 2. Remind individuals that even if the LIHEAP program runs out of funds they should still apply as if they are eligible the utility companies cannot shut them off until sometime in April. A Third idea: 3. Book drive gently used books...or new books for children ages zero through 5 that could be distributed to families with small children. A committee was formed with members being Kathleen Keefer, Pam Herzberg, Julie Streitenberger, Terri Henderson, Kathy Boysen, Karen Bodwell, and Debra Morrison. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to make further plans. The book drive will be held during the week of the young child which is April 12-15; Fremont County Extension will be drop off place as will the Centers. Home visitation staff may come and pick out books for their families and take them to the homes. Parents will be invited to choose some books as well.

Amy Faust – Gave a presentation on Parent-Child Interaction Therapy. It is a well-researched program for children with behavior problems, 2 to 7 years old. First, parents come without the child to talk about what is going on, the next 6 sessions will include the child. The therapist sits behind one way mirror, with ear bud for parents. The therapist coaches the parent in order to nurture the relationship, after these 6 weeks the therapist adds discipline strategies. It is always child directed play, and teaches parents how to relate, praise, reframe, and ignore bad behavior. Each parent has to master the skills before they are able to move on. There is homework – 5 minutes per day – child directed play. Unfortunately, there are no one way mirrors installed at the sites, so Amy is sitting in the room with the parents coaching them quietly. Amy hopes that the mirrors will be installed soon.

- ❖ Mental Health Services booklets distributed to those present.
- ❖ The Next Meeting of the Early Childhood Committee will be on March 3, 2010 at 2pm at the Page County west Building in Shenandoah.
- ❖ The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Keefer