

**CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITTEE**

March 2, 2010 2:00 PM

Page County West Building – 615 Northwest Road – Shenandoah, Iowa

Those present: Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director; Jeanette Linnenburger/CCR&R; Rebecca Morrison/CCNC; Julia Cavin/Clarinda Community Preschool; Joan Gallagher/Maternal Child Health of Southwest Iowa; Heidi Lowthorp/Growing Strong Families Fremont County Extension; Julie Streitenberger/Grandma's House Day Care; Jerri Leighton/Citizen; and Angie Lutt/Southwest Iowa Families, Inc.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Pam Herzberg. All were welcomed to the meeting and a sign-up sheet was sent around for everyone to sign.

INTRODUCTIONS

All individuals in attendance introduced themselves and stated the agency that they were representing.

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 5, 2010 EC MEETING

Minutes from the January 5, 2010 Early Childhood Committee meeting were reviewed and approved.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Pam provided the group with a legislative update. Pam had participated in a conference call that was facilitated by Shanell Wagler/Office of Empowerment/Department of Management on March 1, 2010 and the information Pam shared came from that conference call. Pam shared that the Empowerment name will officially change to Early Childhood and that she feels this will be a good thing as it should increase awareness. Empowerment will remain under the Department of Management. Reporting will be looked at as far as data and fiscal accountability. The State Board as well as all local boards will not be allowed to have any providers that receive empowerment funds sitting on the board. Pam also shared that 60% of the family support funds must be spent on programs that have a home visitation component. An earlier version of SF 2088 had stated the School Ready childhood would be 5%, in the version that passed it is 3%. Local boards will be required to have periodic financial audits and the directors will be required to monitor and audit programs. Shanell stated there would be training and tools provided to the directors. Transition time for empowerment areas to merge will be July 1, 2011. At this time it does not appear there will be any state professional development funds. Credentialing will be impacted by this, but Shanell said she can't say for sure as to how at this point. Heidi Lowthorp shared that the GSF TA had told them that those who have been assigned and started the process would be able to continue because those funds had already been set aside.

MHI and DHS cuts were also discussed. Joan Gallagher talked about pre-approval for Medicaid stating if a pregnant woman comes to her she can give them a number and have services started. However, the individual still has to fill out all DHS paperwork after that to find out if they are truly eligible.

CORNER COUNTIES BOOK DRIVE

Pam handed out meeting minutes from the Book Drive Committee meeting held on March 1, 2010. Books from the book drive will be disbursed on Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 9:00-11:00 AM for families and 11:00 AM-12:00 pm for providers. Boxes will be provided to all drop off locations. Pam also informed the group that if anyone has paper boxes they don't need that she could use those for the paper drive. It was also mentioned that anyone donating books would also be invited to include a sticker on the inside of the book that stated who the book was donated by or given in memory of. Pam stated that volunteers will be needed for a couple of dates. Julie and Pam will be bringing books to the Page County West Building on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 and Angie will try and line up some volunteers

to help unload. Setup for the book drive will be Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 4:00 PM at the Page County West Building. Volunteers will also be needed for the distribution event that will take place on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

Pam also discussed the possibility of doing a Tab for the Clarinda Herald Journal and the Valley News that would serve as a resource directory for families. Something would also be done within the weekly times but under a different format. Pam wondered if schools would be able to do an advertisement. Elaine suggested more pictures and less text would be good.

PROGRAM SHARRING

Julia mentioned the Clarinda Community Preschool will be holding an open house on April 18, 2010 and anyone having information they would like to get it to her and she would set it out on a table. Julia also shared that this is the first time ever that she has been able to get every child that was on her waiting list in a class and she presently has some openings. She thinks one reason for the openings is due to some children moving to another community and since the Clarinda Head Start opened a couple of children have transferred there. She states Clarinda Community Preschool has served 71 children so far this year.

Angie reported on Stork's Nest and the Positive Family program. Angie stated that the Positive Family folks had gone through the Healthy Families America accreditation visit the week of February 8th and it had gone very well.

Jerri reported on her history as a CCR&R staff and is now doing PITC program for infant and toddler caregivers.

Julie stated Grandma's House enrollment had stayed steady however; she was disappointed that the turnout for the open house had not been as good as she had anticipated.

Heidi stated the Growing Strong Families numbers in Fremont County had been steady. She also shared that the Technical Assistance for the Iowa Family Support Standards Credentialing had started and she plans for a visit late spring 2011. She says she thinks it will be helpful.

Joan shared that Maternal Child Health was busy as it is grant writing time.

Elaine shared that the Leave A Legacy organization was hosting a Wills Seminar on March 23, 2010 at the Garrison House in Clarinda. She also stated that the first 25 individuals to call the Clarinda Chamber for reservations would receive a free meal and others would receive \$2.00 off their meal and free coffee or tea. Dinner will be at 5:30 PM with the seminar at 6:30 PM.

Lois Jean Ellison stated she had nothing to report at this time.

Jeanette reported that the spring CCR&R training conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2010 at IWCC in Clarinda.

Becky stated she had been making contacts with the Page County providers and will now be getting into Fremont County.

Pam shared that the Taylor County Empowerment Area Board had voted to pursue merging with the Corner Counties Empowerment Area. If the Corner Counties Board agrees to pursuing a merge then a new Board will be formed.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Lutt and Pam Herzberg