

**CORNER COUNTIES EARLY CHILDHOOD AREA FAMILY SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE
MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 1, 2010 10:30 AM
114 EAST WASHINGTON STREET, CLARINDA, IA
THE CLARINDA FOUNDATION OFFICE**

Present: Pam Herzberg/Early Childhood Director; Kathleen Keefer/Positive Family; Joan Gallagher/Maternal Child Health of Southwest Iowa; Cathy Stockwell Early Head Start; Heidi Carter/Growing Strong Families, Page Co.; Linda Orme/Positive Family; Heidi Lowthorp/Growing Strong Families, Fremont Co. and Angie Lutt/Stork's Nest.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:30 AM. Pam welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

PROGRAM UPDATES PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

- Kathleen reported that the Positive Family workers have a full case load. She also shared that the funding they had received from First Years First and the Iowa West Foundation has all been expended. Kathleen states she will be taking a reduction in hours. The Positive Family program will be accredited by HFA in January 2011. Kathleen also stated that she had recently been in Chicago for training and is now a National Peer Reviewer for HFA (Healthy Families America) and she will be conducting her first site visit March 2011 in New Jersey.
- Joan reported that she had done a presentation to a group of physicians and medical staff on November 30, 2010 in regard to the First Five and she also had Pam Herzberg and Belinda DeBolt attend this meeting with her. Joan felt the Drs. that were in attendance expressed an interest.
- Cathy reported that Early Head Start is now serving seven (7) families in Page County and they have the capacity to serve up to twenty (20) families. They are serving five (5) families in Fremont Co. and can serve up to twelve (12). Cathy is currently serving the families in Page County however they are still in search of an individual for this position. An individual by the name of Lori Howery has been hired to serve the families in Fremont County.
- Heidi Carter reported that the Growing Strong Families Supervisors from Adair, Fremont, Page and Taylor counties have completed the criteria for the Iowa Family Support Standards. Donna Donald had compiled the materials worked on into a Policy and Procedure Manual. Heidi states that they still need to complete some legal training. Heidi also shared that the November 18th training entitled "Check It Before You Chomp It" had been well attended with individuals from Fremont, Page, Montgomery and Taylor counties in attendance.
- Linda had nothing to add to the update Kathleen had provided on the Positive Family program.
- Heidi Lowthorp reinforced the information Heidi Carter had shared in regard to the four (4) Growing Strong Families programs working toward accreditation. Heidi shared that she had seven (7) families that had either cancelled their appointments or were not present at their homes for their scheduled visits this past month. A little discouraging, but the Thanksgiving Holiday could have been a factor.
- Angie reported that she and Bernie had been working on the accreditation for the Stork's Nest Program. Angie stated she has some concerns as a program in another southwest Iowa area recently went through this process and that staff from that program did not feel it had gone all that well.

- Pam shared an updated “Corner Counties Early Childhood Area” brochure and an “Acronyms Relating to Early Childhood Iowa” document, giving those in attendance copies of both. Pam stated she had reviewed the “Levels of Excellence” document and had some concerns as to the amount of work this would be for Board members. Pam informed everyone that the January 11, 2011 Corner Counties Early Childhood Area Board meeting would be held via teleconference and that she would have the dial in information posted on the website as well as e-mail out the call in number and password as it gets closer to the date. Pam also stated that this office would serve as the public meeting place that evening for anyone wishing to attend in person would be welcomed.

STATE ANNUAL FAMILY SUPPORT REPORT

Pam provided those in attendance with the copy of the “Family Support Data – Early Childhood Iowa – The Year 2010 In Review” document that Janet Horras had shared with the Early Childhood Iowa State Board on November 5, 2010.

The group then reviewed a document that was specific to the Family Support Services in the Corner Counties Area. Pam had sent an e-mail to the providers earlier in the week that included a questionnaire that was to be completed. This document was a compilation of all responses Pam had received to date. Pam noted that she still needed information from Early Access, FaDSS and Stork’s Nest and that we needed to get them involved in this collaborative as well. Kathleen stated that she thought we should also get the information on Boys Town services added and invite them to also be a part of this collaborative.

THOUGHTS ON ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FAMILIES WE SERVE

Pam shared that the State Board was looking into the possibility of developing eligibility criteria that families would need to meet in order to be served with family support funds. Much discussion took place. Several individuals were very opposed to any such guidelines. Others felt that there should be some national risk assessment tool utilized in addition to any income guidelines that would be put into place.

HOW CAN WE COMMUNICATE BETTER TO PROVIDE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH THE SERVICES THEY NEED?

Those in attendance felt that communication had improved since the initial meeting that had been held with the family support providers on October 13, 2010 and that it would improve as time goes on. Utilizing a “central intake” was also discussed. It was mentioned that perhaps Joan Gallagher/Maternal Child Health would be a possible entity to serve as central intake. Joan responded positively.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 AM. The next Family Support Collaborative meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 10:00 AM at The Clarinda Foundation Office located at 114 East Washington Street in Clarinda.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Herzberg
Corner Counties Early Childhood Area Director