

**PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP
CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
APRIL 6, 2010 5:00 PM
PAGE COUNTY WEST BLDG., 615 NW ROAD, SHENANDOAH, IOWA**

Present: Penny Bredensteiner/Chair and Farragut Preschool; Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director; Allyson Forney/Fremont-Mills Preschool; Deb Nelson/Clarinda "Garfield" Preschool; Sherry Hamsch/South Page Preschool; Renee Bond/Page County Extension – Growing Strong Families Program; Terri Henderson/Turnbull Child Development Center; Kelli Moore/Great Beginnings Preschool-Sidney, Jenny Ernst/Taylor County Empowerment Director; Jess Rand/Tinker Tots-Bedford; Beth Mason/Tinker Tots-Bedford

CALL TO ORDER

Penny Bredensteiner called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS

Penny began this evening's meeting with individual introductions and noted that we had guests in attendance from the Taylor County Empowerment Area.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Penny had announced at the last Preschool Exchange Group Meeting that she would be retiring at the end of this school year and would also be vacating the position as Chair of this group. Pam presented Penny with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Corner Counties Empowerment Board and thanked her for all she had done for the Empowerment Area. Sherry Hamsch had made arrangements to have a cake in Penny's honor for this evening's meeting. Sherry will begin serving as the Chair of this group for the 2010-2011 school year.

MERGING OF EMPOWERMENT AREAS

Pam provided those in attendance with information pertaining to a merger that will take place between the Corner Counties Empowerment Area and the Taylor County Empowerment Area effective July 1, 2011. Pam and Jenny Ernst shared commonalities the two areas have at this time and are looking forward to a new area being formed. Pam shared that Corner Counties Empowerment Area and Taylor County Empowerment Boards will have a joint meeting between the Boards on April 29, 2010 at 6:00 PM in Clarinda at the Courthouse in the Page Room. She also shared that there would be a public forum scheduled for the month of May.

- Pam and Jenny both felt it would be a good idea for the Preschool Exchange Group Meetings for SFY'11 to include the Taylor County Preschool folks and to be held in Clarinda. After discussion the group felt this would be appropriate. It was determined that the first meeting for SFY'11 would be held on September 7, 2010 at 5:00 PM at the Clarinda Foundation Office.
- For the benefit of the Taylor County folks in attendance Penny provided an overview of the accomplishments that the area had achieved in part due to this group. Penny also provided an explanation of the purpose of this group.

BOOK DRIVE – COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Pam provided the group with an update in regard to the Book Drive Project for the week of April 12th thru the 16th asking each of those individuals in attendance if they had gotten the flyers sent home with students. All preschools represented at this meeting had sent the flyers home. Pam provided all in attendance with a copy of the minutes from the March 29, 2010 Book Drive Committee meeting and went over the manner in which the books would be collected.

GROWING STRONG FAMILIES PAGE COUNTY PRESENTATION

Renee Bond with the Page County Growing Strong Families program gave a brief presentation of the program and provided examples of some of the activities she conducts with the families she serves.

VOLUNTARY 4-YEAR OLD GRANT

Penny stated that Farragut, Fremont-Mills and Sidney are waiting on word as to whether or not there will be a grant process for the Voluntary 4-Year Old Preschool Project this year. She stated they have heard that the process may be done differently this year than in the past. Sherry stated that South Page would apply if it is an option, but would not put too much work into it.

BUDGET WOES FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

- Carleen shared that the employees at Noah's Ark Day Care and Preschool have been informed there is a salary freeze.
- Allyson shared that Fremont-Mills will not be replacing anyone that retires and that they could actually use another ½ time preschool teacher as they had 55 3 and 4 year olds at roundup.
- Sherry shared that South Page has 2 teachers leaving by choice and they will not be replaced she also shared that the ½ time guidance counselor has been reduced to ½ of that time and that the music teacher will go from full-time to part-time.
- Kelli shared that Sidney is currently hiring another preschool teacher for next year that has a special education endorsement. Kelli also shared that they have good student numbers for next year.
- Jess and Beth shared that enrollment at Tinker Tots for next year looks good. Jess shared they are extremely thrifty and receive donations of different types.
- Penny shared that not only will she be retiring, but two other teachers will be as well. She is not sure what they are planning on doing with her position as of today, but the other two teachers will be replaced.

EMPOWERMENT UPDATE

Pam informed the group that as of July 1, 2010 Empowerment would be known as Early Childhood Iowa and Corner Counties would go by Corner Counties Early Childhood Area. Pam also stated that she had heard unofficially from the State in regard to cuts and it appears the Corner Counties area will receive a cut somewhere around \$85,000.00. Pam states these numbers were not official and could change.

Pam also distributed a document for preschools to complete and return to her by April 19, 2010 in order to determine whether or not the preschool meets the eligibility criteria to receive tuition grants for the 2010-2011 school year.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at The Clarinda Foundation Office in Clarinda.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director