

**PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP
CORNER COUNTIES EMPOWERMENT AREA
FEBRUARY 2, 2010 5:00 PM
PAGE COUNTY WEST BLDG., 615 NW ROAD, SHENANDOAH, IOWA**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Penny Bredensteiner.

Present: Penny Bredensteiner/Chair and Farragut Preschool; Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director; Allyson Forney/Fremont-Mills Preschool; Deb Nelson/Clarinda "Garfield" Preschool; Julia Cavin/Clarinda Community Preschool; Angela Wallick/Southwest Iowa Families; Sherry Hamsch/South Page Preschool; Elaine Armstrong/Page County Supervisor and DCAT Board member; Christina Zaruba/Shenandoah Public Preschool; and Linda Spencer/Great Beginnings Preschool.

- Penny Bredensteiner called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
- Individual introductions were done with each individual providing an explanation as to what their highest priority need is at this time.
 - Penny Bredensteiner stated that program funding and transportation funding continue to be a concern for Farragut.
 - Pam Herzberg provided an overview of Senate File 2088 and an amendment that would change the entire look of empowerment as we know it.
 - Allyson Forney stated that transportation is still a priority need and also shared that they may need a ½ time teacher, but may not be able to hire one.
 - Elaine Armstrong asked if anyone in attendance had updated information in regard to the Clarinda Head Start Program.
 - Julia Cavin stated they need money for tuition assistance and that many parents are at least making attempt to pay tuition.
 - Christina Zaruba shared that they are still in need of a playground. She also shared they are trying to make sure all kids have a slot in school as she currently has a 2 page waiting list for next year. The tuition is \$50.00 per month for ½ days and \$100.00 per month for all day preschool.
 - Sherry Hamsch has gotten a couple of new students that were previously Head Start students.
 - Linda Spencer stated that they are currently working on raising their QRS rating from a Level 3 to a Level 4 and that her teachers are starting to work on ECERS.
 - Angela Wallick shared that the screenings had been complicated at all preschools with 264 children being screened. Out of the 264 children screened 19 children were identified as needing further assessment and 10 of those children are receiving services from someone. Angela shared that at this time 50% of the families are following through with further assessments.
- The Voluntary 4- Year Old Grant for SFY'11 was discussed. Allyson, Penny, and Linda have discussed this but are not sure at this time what they will do.
- Pam shared that the Early Childhood Group, Preschool Exchange Group and the Empowerment Board will collaborate on a book drive the week of April 12, 2010. This is also the week of the young child. More information will be provided as details become available.
- Penny shared with the group that she would be retiring at the end of this year and Sherry Hamsch had agreed to chair this group next year.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2010, 5:00 PM, same location.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Herzberg/Empowerment Director