

**PRESCHOOL EXCHANGE GROUP
CORNER COUNTIES EARLY CHILDHOOD AREA**

JUNE 7, 2011 5:00 PM

PAGE COUNTY WEST BUILDING

615 NORTHWEST ROAD

SHENANDOAH, IA

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Sherry Hambsch.

Present: Sherry Hambsch/South Page Preschool; Pam Herzberg/Corner Counties Early Childhood Area Director; Angela Blair Wallick/Southwest Iowa Families, INC.; Julia Cavin/Clarinda Community Preschool; Allyson Forney/Fremont-Mills Preschool; Carleen Smith/Noah's Ark Preschool and Angela Havener/Shenandoah Head Start.

- ✓ Sherry Hambsch called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
- ✓ Introductions took place. Pam shared that Lyndsie Wagoner and Laura Bowen with Early Head Start were not going to be able to attend the meeting as had previously been thought. Also, due to the flooding in Fremont County Kenn Wathen was unable to attend. Linda Spencer had also contacted Pam prior to the meeting as she was having issues with her well and would not be in attendance. Pam stated Lori Gibson from Turnbull and Judy Foutch from Essex Child Care Center had contacted her with conflicts as well.
- ✓ Pam shared that for SFY'12 the Early Childhood Advisory Committee and the Preschool Exchange Group would merge. Pam stated the Board had taken action on this at the May 24, 2011 Board meeting. The primary purpose for merging the two groups was to eliminate time being required for meetings and should also assist in conserving funds due to high gas prices. Pam shared the dates and times that the Early Childhood Advisory Committee had set for SFY'12 meetings and all in attendance felt the dates and times would be workable.
- ✓ Angela Wallick shared that she would like to tweak the mental health screens for the 2011-2012 school year by taking more preschool time for 1 day that which would result in less time needed throughout the school year. Those in attendance were very receptive to Angela's proposal and shared times of the year that would work best. Angela also distributed a pamphlet on Early Childhood Mental Health to those in attendance.
- ✓ Those in attendance discussed enrollment numbers for the upcoming school year. Allyson Forney reported that Fremont-Mills will be hiring a part-time teacher to work with the full-time teacher. Allyson also shared that right now they are projected that the number of preschool children at Fremont-Mills will remain high, right around 55 children. Sherry Hambsch reported that South Page has all 3 year olds returning in the fall. Julia Cavin with Clarinda Community Preschool reported that she is aware of a definite 25 children that will be attending preschool in the fall. Julia also reported that it is still early and that she had had a good turnout for the open house. Carleen Smith with Noah's Ark also stated they were anticipated quite a few children this next fall, but that it was still a little early to provide definite numbers.
- ✓ The group discussed funding cuts for SFY'12 and how those would impact their facilities. With no formal State Budget at this time there is a lot of anxiety. Pam did share how difficult it had been for the Board to make their funding decisions this year as they have been told by the State Team to go with the Governor's proposed numbers for the School Ready funds and then the numbers the State Team had provided for the Early Childhood (TANF) dollars. Together these figures mean the Board is roughly looking at a \$107,000.00 cut from SFY'11 to SFY'12.
- ✓ The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM. The next meeting will be held on August 9, 2011 at 1:30 PM at the Page County West Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Herzberg/Corner Counties Early Childhood Director