

Dallas County Early Childhood Committee

Minutes

November 9, 2011, 1:00

902 Court Street

Adel, Iowa 50003

Attendance

Christy Hillman, Dawn Holt, Pam Ellis, Carolyn Myers, Myra Wilms, Jean Yanders, Stephanie Goodrich, Paula Klocke, Chris Lee, Stephanie Heitman, Connie Jackson, Val Cameron, Leslie Stonehocker, Shirley McAdon, Peggy Stecklin, Janice Jensen, Jennifer Downs, and Debra Schrader

Announcements

A New Beginning – Stephanie Heitman shared information about the agency she is working for called A New Beginning which is located in Perry. They offer behavioral health intervention, children's mental health waiver, supervised visitations, and individual therapy for the incarcerated.

Lunch and Learn – Eyerly Ball will be having a free lunch and learn Monday November 14th from 12-1 at 109 S. 9th Street in Adel to learn about the IPR program for Dallas County. They are located where the Storks Nest was once located.

Lead Grant – Dallas County has received a grant to assist homes that have been affected by lead. This is a collaborative grant with Polk County. Approximately 20 homes received financial assistance to remove lead in the past year. It was also noted that the 4 R Kids ECI board has allocated funding to conduct preschool lead screenings.

Appreciation Reception

The 4 R Kids ECI board and the Polk County ECI board are collaborating together to offer an appreciation reception December 1 from 5:00-7:00 at Rookies in Clive. It is a come and go event with free appetizers and drinks. This will be a great opportunity to network with early childhood partners and elected officials.

Teach

Pam Ellis provided the group with an overview of the TEACH program. TEACH scholarships are available by contacting the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children, 8001-469-2392. The retail value of the scholarship is up to \$4,000 a year for two years.

4 R Kids ECI Board Update

Shirley provided an update regarding the 4 R Kids Board. The board continues to work on policies and procedures along with review progress of funded programs. The board made adjustments to the preschool funding and allocated additional funding for dental and lead screenings. The next board meeting is November 17th at 6:30 in Winterset at the Sports Page. The board rotates meetings in Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County.

Child Care Nurse Consultant

Chris Lee from New Opportunities provided an overview of the child care nurse consultant duties. She is still in training and is hopeful to start serving child care providers the first of the year.

Preschool Experience Data

Deb shared information related to the preschool experience rate. Data is currently being collected from all schools in the 4 County area. There are still a few Dallas County schools to get the data from. Currently, the preschool experience rate is 81.3% in Dallas County, with Dallas Center –Grimes being the lowest at 62.5% and Adel-Desoto-Minburn with the highest at 91.7%. Deb explained that this is local indicator chosen by the 4 R Kids Board and it assists the board with decision making. A detailed report will be drafted after all the data has been submitted.

4 R Kids ECI Area Board Evaluation

Deb explained as part of the levels of excellence the 4 R Kids ECI Board is required to conduct a board self evaluation as well as have community stakeholders from all 4 county's conduct the evaluation and asked for at least 3 volunteers. Deb will provide the evaluation tool. Connie, Peggy, and Leslie volunteered to assist.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30. The next meeting will be March 14, 2012 at 1:00 at the Dallas County Board room.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Schrader, Executive Director 4 R Kids ECI Area