

Dallas County Early Childhood Committee

Minutes/Notes

February 26, 2015

28059 Fairgrounds Road

Adel, Iowa 50003

9:45 A.M.

Attendance

Debb Franz, Lisa Mickelson, Myra Willms, Val Cameron, Bob Ockerman, Natalie Scarpino, Paula James, Dena Owens, Michelle Greenough, Jenny Felt, Janelle Peiffer, Peg Dohr, Ashley Webker, Chris Lee and Debra Schrader.

Announcements and Information

CHNA/HIP - Each public health department is charged with conducting a needs assessment every five years. Dallas County Public Health will be starting the process in the next few months. It is encouraged to be a part of the process.

Free Tax Preparations - There is free tax preparation for those who make \$58,000 or less. There are locations in Perry, Des Moines, Ankeny, and Indianola.

4 R Kids Board - The FY16 RFP will be released March 20, 2015 with a due date of April 20, 2015. Bob provided an update regarding the state ECI Board and the challenges with advocacy efforts, additionally the state ECI Board will be engaging with the ECI Stakeholders Alliance in drafting a new strategic plan. Deb disseminated participant stories that have been gathered by contractors.

Preschool Tuition Policy - The FY16 4 R Kids preschool tuition policy was disseminated. The major change was moving from \$150 to \$175 for a cap for preschools.

Legislative Update - Currently, ECI funds are status quo, however the formula to make funding allocated to local areas fluctuate. The Education Appropriates Subcommittee met 2/25/15 and ECI provided a presentation. Legislators questioned the support that the Iowa Department of Management provides to ECI. Additionally a legislator is drafting language to ease the burden of the categorical funds. Deb had visited the capital on February 17 and chatted with a few legislators about early childhood.

MIECHV - IDPH applied for \$6.6 million grant to continue with home visitation services for high risk families and the grant was denied. While the 4 R Kids ECI area did not receive home visitation funds, this will make a negative impact on the area.

Day on the Hill - ECI day on the hill is March 5. It was stated the current format for advocacy is not showing much impact and that something else needs to be done. Following United Way and the model they do the day would be more beneficial. Deb will attempt to work on something that will serve a better purpose for the future.

Toddlerfest - Paula James shared an update on the May 2 Toddlerfest. She has contacted the Board of Supervisors to see if they would attend and possibly hand out cookies. A petting zoo will be added this year and the Frozen princesses will be back as well. The Living History farm has also been invited.

Mental Health Resources - The final draft of the mental health resources was disseminated and will be posted on the 4 R Kids website.

Child Burial Fund - Page County Public Health has a grant to assist families with children under the age of 18 who need burial assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45

The next meeting is March 26, 2015 at 9:45.