

Dallas County Early Childhood Committee

Minutes/Notes

March 23, 2016

Lutheran Church of Hope Waukee

Adel, Iowa 50003

9:45 A.M.

Attendance

Debb Franz, Lisa Mickelson, Myra Willms, Danielle Cusack, Diane Heidorn, Colleen Theis, Stephanie Potter, Kendra Balief, Megan Fooker, Hannah Vander Schel, Emily Brott, Michelle Greenough, Dawn Love, Chris Lee, Christy Welenboros, Susan O'Brien, Jovanka Westbrook, Karlee England, Diane England, Beth Snyder, and Debra Schrader.

Announcements and Information

Legislation - SF2299 provides for language cleanup and has yet to be debated by the Senate or the House.

4 R Kids Board - The Board is still looking for a board member for Dallas, preferably a male as they are seeking gender balance.

4 R Kids Survey - Every three years the 4 R Kids ECI Board is charged with updating the community plan and conducting a community survey. The is available by hard copy as well as a link on the website.

Toddlerfest - The 3rd annual Toddlerfest will be May 7, 2016 at the Dallas County Fairgrounds. If you want a table contact Paula James at the Adel Library.

Family Story Teller - will be offered April 5-May 10 and will be offered in Spanish and English at Perry Head Start.

Child Abuse Data - Data was shared regarding U.S. data and Dallas County data.

Dallas County Strengths and Areas of Improvement - The 4 R Kids Board will be updating the community plan and requested input from the group regarding strengths and areas of improvement in Dallas County.

Strengths

- Collaboration , coordination and connection among agencies
- Resource directories - DCAT/CPPC hard copy directory and Dallas County Public Health online directory.
- Dallas County continues to grow in population and can affect funding in a positive manner
- Two hospitals -United Point and Dallas County Hospital
- Supportive faith community

Areas of Improvement

- Quality child care, losing providers
- Getting information to the general population about resources
- Disparity among different parts of the County, rural versus more populated - towns are siloed
- No statewide voluntary preschool funding for Waukee, Van Meter, and ADM
- Growth of the county has increased demand of services such as emergency and public safety but tax dollars are slow to follow
- Parent engagement

Child Abuse Awareness Activities - the committee worked on brown paper bags donated from Hy-Vee and Farway for child abuse awareness month in April. A light lunch was provided by Debra Schrader.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30

There will be no April meeting. The next meeting is May 25, 2016.