

Dallas County Early Childhood Committee

Minutes

Tuesday August 10, 2011, 1:00

902 Court Street

Adel, Iowa 50003

Attendance

Carolyn Myers, Myra Wilms, Jean Yanders, Bob Ockerman, Stephanie Goodrich, Kelly Jamie Wehlert, Joyce Miller, Karen Doughn, Connie Jackson, Val Cameron, Leslie Stonehocker, Jovanka Westbrook, Laurie Wernli and Debra Schrader

Data

Data regarding prenatal health care in Dallas County was shared. It was noted that Dallas County had 17% compared to 38% for Iowa that utilized WIC services and 39% compared to 36% for Iowa used birth control at conception.

Information was shared regarding the costs to society for teen childbearing. It cost Iowa tax payers \$99 million in 2008, of those cost 48% were federal costs and 52% were state and local costs. Iowa has seen a 20% decline in teen birth rate from 1991 -2008, which is an estimated \$34 million savings.

Information was shared regarding the percent of preschool Dallas County kindergarteners with a preschool experience which was 79.8%. New data will be available October 1, 2011.

Legislative Update

The session ended June 30 and the Governor has signed the Education as well as the Health and Human Services bills. The 4 County ECI area will have an overall reduction of 22.6%, the biggest reduction is in the quality funds at 59.7%. ECI statewide had a reduction of 10.55%.

Information was shared regarding Race to the Top, federal funds that is for early childhood programming. Due to the lack of quality and regulation for child care in the Iowa, it's possible that Iowa may not receive many funds or will be last to receive them.

Early Childhood Resource

A Dallas County one page early childhood resource was disseminated and changes were made. Deb will email this out to the distribution list.

Fetal Alcohol Training

There will be a free training on fetal alcohol on September 16th in Des Moines at the Airport Holiday Inn from 8:30-4.

4 R Kids ECI Board Update

Bob Ockerman provided an update to the group regarding recent board action. The board amended the preschool tuition policy and the family support income verification policy. A list of funded programs was also disseminated.

Storks Nest

Jovanka provided an update regarding Storks Nest. The Storks Nest has been rebranded and will be called Nurturing Fathers in Action and will move toward the model of an Early Childhood Resource Center. VNS family planning utilizes the space as well. Group parent education will be offered with incentives just in a different manner. It was noted that Partners in Family Development embraced the challenges in a funding shortfall. It was noted that Boone/Dallas DCAT funding, Prevent Child abuse funding, and partnering with Visiting Nurse Services are being quilted together to make this transition.

Child Care Resource and Referral

Connie and Leslie provided an update regarding the changes at CCRR. Connie will now be the child care consultant for Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County through Orchard Place. CCRR will work in cooperation with ISU Extension Dallas County with the quality improvement project. CCRR will focus on entry level providers and levels 1 and 2; the Quality Improvement project – Carolyn and Myra – will focus trainings and technical assistance for levels 3, 4, and 5. It was noted that is a great example of collaboration and there is enough work for everyone.

Prevent Child Abuse

Dallas County Prevent Child Abuse Council applied for funding for Prevent Child Abuse Iowa funding and will receive approximately \$42,000 for parent education and child abuse awareness. It was noted that 3 of 4 four counties in the 4 R Kids area will receive funding totaling over \$100,000.

It was discussed about possibly meeting more often such as every other month.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30. The next meeting will be November 9, 2011 at 1:00 at the Dallas County Board room.

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