

## Dallas County Early Childhood Committee

### Minutes/Notes

September 24, 2015

28059 Fairgrounds Road

Adel, Iowa 50003

9:45 A.M.

#### Attendance

Debb Franz, Lisa Mickelson, Jovanka Westbrook, Ashleigh Weiderin, Myra Willms, Ann Cochran, Val Cameron, Penny Estrada, Danielle Cusack, Diane Heidorn, Dara Madigan, Josey Kelley, Colleen Theis, Jenny Felt, Christina Schalk, Stephanie Potter, Erin Bowers and Debra Schrader.

#### Announcements and Information

**4 R Kids Board** - The Board is still looking for a board member for Dallas, preferably a male as they are seeking gender balance. The Board is following up to a potential lead that was recommended from the committee.

**1st Five** - New Opportunities hosted a Blockfest conducted by Partners in Family Development in Carroll on 9-19-15 and it was well received. Funding is being sought to conduct one in Dallas County.

**Head Start** - Head Start is taking applications for eligible students.

**Dallas County Public Health** - The agency has received a grant to purchase books which they will use with the "Nest Program" which is an incentive based parent project.

**Family Support Map** - A revised family support map was provided to the group. It has been added to the 4 R Kids website.

**Child Care Data** - Dallas County child care was shared using the CCR data sheet, as well information from Child Care Aware and data collected on the four county area. Current data indicates that the average cost of infant care in a child care center is \$206 a week and in a child care development home is \$152 a week. The percent of family income that is spent in a child care center is 12% and 9% in a home. The median family income is \$1,733 per week. There are 7,391 children ages 0 through 5.

**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 survey from FY13 was reviewed and changes were suggested. It was noted that the transportation questions could easily be removed, and that some of the employment questions could be deleted and or changed. It was also suggested that the survey be completed at each of the four Toddlerfests and add a literacy question. Utilizing a readability level website would be helpful as well.

**CHNA/HIP** - County public health's are required to conduct a community health needs assessment and health improvement plan every five years and Dallas County Public Health is in the process of doing the assessment. The health department is collecting data, conducting windshield tours with city leaders, interviewing business leaders, recruiting community members for focus groups, and gathering needs assessments from other organizations. DCPH will submit a plan in February and reveal it at a kickoff meeting in March 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45

The next meeting is September 24, 2015 at 9:45.