

## Dallas County Early Childhood Committee

### Minutes/Notes

September 25, 2014

28059 Fairgrounds Road

Adel, Iowa 50003

9:45 A.M.

#### Attendance

Jenny Felt, Debb Franz, Lisa Mickelson, Val Cameron, Michelle Greenough, Leslie Stonehocker, Janelle Peiffer, Stephanie Potter, Michelle Leonard, Dena Owerms, Kimberly Wente, Christia Schalk, Terra Frank, Eric Wagner, Natalie Scarpino, Erin Bowers, Myra Wilms, Ashleigh Wiederer, Rachel Bardwell, Jovanka Westbrook, Ann Cochran and Debra Schrader.

#### Announcements and Information

**4 R Kids Legislative Talking Points** - The 4 R Kids ECI area board has approved their FY15 legislative talking points, with an emphasis on restoring funding to the FY2008 funding levels.

**4th Annual Appreciation Reception** - The reception will be December 4, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 at Summerset Winery just north of Indianola. There will be testimonials from a family support participant, a child care provider, a preschool and preschool parents. It is a come and go event and the public is invited to attend.

**Coordinated Intake** - Val Cameron provided an update regarding coordinated intake, to date more than 100 referrals have been provided to family support programs.

**Preschool Tuition** - Preschool tuition scholarships are down from this time last year. It is unclear as to why.

**Libraries and Literacy** - Jovanka Westbrook provided an overview of a presentation that was provided at the ECI Stakeholders Alliance meeting regarding the involvement of libraries in early childhood.

**Child Care Development Block Grant** - The House has passed the reauthorization of the child care development block grant that provides child care assistance and child care quality improvement funding. The bill calls for stronger health and safety regulations, more technical assistance for child care business, 12 month child care assistance eligibility standard, and increased investment for child care quality.

**Ranking for Quality Child Care** - Iowa ranks 43rd in the nation for quality child care. The number one state is Oklahoma.

**Quality Rating System** - Deb shared QRS numbers and percentages for Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County. Dallas County has a QRS rate of 28.0% and Iowa is 20.7%.

**Domestic Violence** - October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

**Technology** - Different technology ideas were shared such as online collaboration tools, email marketing, phone conferencing, and fund raising tools.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45

The next meeting is October 23, 2014 at 9:45. Unity Point will be presenting.