



## Warren County Early Childhood Committee

Minutes/Notes

November 5, 2014

10:00 A.M.

515 North Jefferson Way

Wells Fargo Building

Indianola, Iowa 50125

### Attendance

Nanette Schroeder, Cathy Wheatcraft, Leslie Stonehocker, Shelly Jensen, Janelle Peiffer, Val Cameron, Myra Williams, Kim Post, Michelle Greenough, Colleen Reisener, Jovanka Westbrook, Colleen Thies

### Announcements

- Head Start has openings
- ISU Extension Measure A - won't know if the Measure was passed; absentee ballots have not yet been counted; as of today's meeting the Measure was at 50.06%
- New Parent Program/LSI – has completed their re-accreditation process; had a few minor corrections and response has already been completed; good for 4 years
- Warren county Child Abuse Prevention Council – Necessity Pantry is sponsoring Stewards of Children training on November 10, 2015 from 5:30 to 8 PM
- First Five – First Five Coalition Meeting; Tuesday, December 9, 2014 from 12 to 12:30 PM, Indianola Public Library, Indianola; Presenter will be Kim Kirkpatrick from Heartland AEA speaking about Early Access services available in Warren County
- Kim Post shared that the preschool will be back into their building in January; the early childhood playground has been completed; received a Reach for the Stars grant and a STEM grant for Pint-sized Science; numbers are down; transportation continues to be biggest challenge

**4 R Kids Board Update**-Annual Appreciation Reception December 4, 2014

**Family Support Coordinated Intake** – 140 referrals ytd – 8 enrolled into family support program; uses the Family Support Rubric to see which family support program is best fit for family ; shared the marketing piece given to families; doing outreach with preschool Director's, WIC, VNS, school open houses, etc.

**Blockfest Update**- Blockfest exhibit is now in Indianola. Team has been formed and the plan is to launch the exhibit in spring of 2015. Working out details in regard to cost, corporate sponsorships, etc.

**Candidate Forum** – only one question regarding cost of child care; two candidates did speak to the importance of early childhood and voluntary preschool

**FY 15 Preschool Experience Rate** – applications for preschool scholarships are down from previous year; no requests to attend preschools outside of the 4 R Kids counties; lost kids to voluntary preschool funding; State numbers are not out yet; reviewed report

**Mental Health Resource List** – reviewed document and no noted changes; Colleen R. will check into new therapist in with Bailey Saal; question as to whether Orchard Place offered children therapy in Indianola; wondered about Des Moines Resources – seems like a great deal to keep track of

### **Community Input**

**Necessity Pantry Open House** – December 9, 2014; Warren County Child Abuse Prevention Council participating; Val Cameron participating; CCR&R participating and PFD participating

**General discussion around low number of families, people participating in services;** Colleen R. commented that they are getting some pushback from participants in regard to paperwork – feeling like it is not worth going through for the service; child care trainings numbers are down; preschool scholarships are down, family support enrollee numbers are down ; wondered about 0-5 population shifts or other things that might be impacting participation; general comments as to how this is an “odd” year; perhaps worth continuing the discussion into the next meeting

Meeting adjourned before 11:30 (did not note actual time). Reminder that there is not December or January meeting

Prepared by: Jovanka Westbrook