

Warren County Early Childhood Committee

Minutes/Notes

April 3, 2013

10:00

515 North Jefferson Way

Wells Fargo Building

Indianola, Iowa 50125

Attendance

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Nicole Smith, Liz Young, Colleen Reisener, Val Cameron, Jovanka Westbrook, Allison Moreland, Bonnie Forsythe, Shelly, Jensen, Colleen Theis, Myra Willms, Janelle Peiffer and Debra Schrader.

Announcements and Information

Child Abuse Prevention- April is Child Abuse Prevention month and Warren County is conducting several awareness activities. It was noted that more than 1800 people volunteer to assist with activities.

New Parent Program - Colleen announced a new family support worker has been hired and she is bilingual.

Toddlerfest - The Warren County Toddlerfest is April 6 from 9:00-11:30 at the Middle School.

Health Screenings - Dental, Lead, developmental and other screenings will be held for preschool aged children April 23 at the Methodist Church in Indianola.

Head Start - The Norwalk Head Start program will finish the FY2013 year, but for F2014 they will no longer be located in Norwalk. The Indianola Head Start site will still be available.

Apple Tree - Apple Tree in Norwalk has lost their building lease and it is undetermined as to what will happen to the child care center.

Happy Trails - Happy Trails child care center has closed and will not be reopening.

HIRTA - HIRTA is offering extended transportation hours on Wednesday from 4:00-9:00. A 24 hour notice is requested.

Hearing Screenings - Jovanka attended a webinar regarding hearing screenings in Iowa. Iowa has EHDI - Early Hearing Detection Intervention services available. There is also a Guide by Your Side program that is a peer support group for parents with children that have been diagnosed with hearing challenges. Iowa also has 1, 3, and 6 protocol, which translates that children at birth, age 3 and age 6 are to have hearing screenings by their primary care doctor.

Peer Review - Partners in Family Development went through the peer review process and will be receiving the Iowa Family Support Credential which is good for 5 years.

Mental Health Redesign - It was noted that it would be helpful to have Kristi Dierking attend the next meeting to provide an update with the mental health redesign.

Legislative Update - several advocates attended The Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill March 12. It was noted that it has been unusually quiet at the legislative level. It was noted that Scott Ourth proclaimed support for early childhood in a flyer that was posted around Indianola.

Home schooling - The 4 R Kids ECI board has inquired if there was any data regarding home schooling. Deb contacted the Dept of Education and they said they have no such data. Kim Post will check to see if there is some data locally.

4 R Kids Community Plan - Pieces of the community plan were reviewed and valuable feedback was provided. It is a goal to have a draft ready in May for approval by the board in June. It was noted that community partners could use this information with other grants and community planning initiatives.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 The next meeting is May 1, 2013