

MADISON COUNTY ADVISORY ECI COMMITTEE
April 9, 2013

PRESENT: Joyce Kooker, Julie Feirer, Deb Schrader, Val Cameron, Lynette Judd, Yvonka Westbrook, Myra Wills, Hollie Fairholm, Jessica Snow, Kristin Fairholm, Barb LaGrange, Janelle Peiffer, Sara Gross, and Erin Porter.

Introductions were given by those present.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as written.

Winterset Mayor Jim Olson was present and signed the Year of the Young Child proclamation. Hollie Fairholm will try to get a story in the Madisonian.

Hollie Fairholm spoke about her experience with Day on the Hill held in March. She was able to speak with Rep. Julian Garrett and spoke with Senator Kent Sorenson at the legislative forum later that month. She felt both heard her message and were willing to help on early childhood issues.

Hollie also shared a video from the Day on the Hill highlighting speakers who support early childhood education. She also spoke on the classes and scholarships available to providers through Teach Iowa.

Hollie stated she would like to find a way for all providers from pre-school teachers to kindergarten teachers to collaborate in ways to support early education. The committee will pursue this in the future.

Myra Willms announced that a CDA 101 class will be held on June 11, 2013 from 6:30 p.m. til 8:30 p.m. at the Extension office in Winterset.

Erin Porter stated that PAT had been cut in Madison County. Jovanka Westbrook, director of Partners in Family Development answered that there were still slots available in Madison County. An effort to match up those needing PAT will be made with Sara Anker located in Winterset.

It was discussed that available resources in our county need to be more visible. Lynette Judd stated she has someone working on compiling a current list of Madison County Cares resources that will soon be ready. It was mentioned that some don't know where to find resources. Deb Schrader stated that a list of resources is also on the 4RKids website listing the resources in each county.

Erin Porter expressed her concern that transportation will not be available next year for pre-school students. This was news to most of those present. It was noted that the Winterset Schools business manager received information from Jeff Berger, Dept of Education, that transportation for preschool students is not an allowable expense with state

wide voluntary preschool funding. It was also noted that the school board had voted to approve to not allow transportation for preschools students and that letters will go out to parents this week notifying them that transportation will not be offered for the new school year. Options for transportation was discussed and currently, the 4RKids board doesn't currently offer transportation assistance but it is an allowable expense with the preschool support funding allocated to ECI. After much discussion, Deb Schrader volunteered to research the issue and send an e-mail when she has the information.

Deb Schrader passed out copies of pieces of the community plan. The parent survey was provided in detail, and transportation was not considered a problem with those who responded to the survey. Deb will be attending a HIRTA summit soon and will provide them with the survey data as well as the issues with transportation of pre-school students.

Lynette Judd suggested that we invite HIRTA to a future meeting for their input.

It was also mentioned that Head Start is was not included in the state wide voluntary preschool plan for the fall. It was also discussed if those students were not counted in October when the school count was last taken.

It was suggested that we host a meeting with Winterset School officials - Dr. Susie Meade, Gina Robinson, and Gary Anker to discuss the transportation issue sometime soon. The dates of either April 30th or May 7th were suggested. Hollie Fairholm will call those officials and set up a meeting. Everyone will be notified by e-mail. Julie Feirer stated the Lutheran Church could be obtained for that meeting. Jessica Snow will ask HIRTA and pre-schools to attend. Deb and Julie will work on questions and agenda for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.