

Warren County Early Childhood Committee

Minutes/Notes

August 7, 2013

10:00 A.M.

515 North Jefferson Way

Wells Fargo Building

Indianola, Iowa 50125

Attendance

Val Cameron, Janelle Peiffer, Bonnie Forsythe, Shelly Jensen, Colleen Reisener, Myra Willms, Leslie Stonehocker, Angela Carlson, Tina Gordiner, Sara Deppe, and Debra Schrader.

Announcements and Information

First Five - Shelly announced that Warren County Public Health will be submitting an expansion grant for First Five. Additionally, Pamela Bruce has recently been hired and will be the social worker that will work with the grant along with new hire Angela Carlson.

Rhode Island - Deb provided information regarding recent legislation that was passed in Rhoda Island that will provide up to 4 weeks of partial wage replacement for workers who take time off to bond with a new child or care for a seriously ill family member. It will be funded by approximately 64 cents a week to everyone's paycheck. They are the 3rd state to invest in TCI.

CCRR - Leslie announced there is a consultant position available that will serve Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren County as well as part of Polk County. More information is on the Orchard Place website.

Fundraiser - *There will be a 5K Walk/Run fundraiser for Wee Care August 24th at 8:00 at the First United Methodist Church.*

Stewards of Children - This will be offered to all Winterset School employees and will be part of the required professional development for any school personal in the future. Barb Ramos, Dena Owens, and Bonnie Forsythe will be doing the training. This is a huge step in policy and practice change and can be used as an example for other schools, businesses, or agencies.

Data - Deb provided the group with data that was obtained from the State Data Center of Iowa on foster care, Medicaid, Food Assistance, and population estimates. It was noted that the State Data Center has an abundance of information but the website is difficult to maneuver.

Conference - The Prevent Child Abuse Conference will be April 14-16 and the cost will be \$50 as a grant was obtained to defray much of the costs.

United Health Care - Tina announced there are grants available from UHC.

ACES Summit - The summit will be October 14 from 9:00-4:30 at the Sheraton in West Des Moines. There will be a fee to attend and registration is limited. More information will be available August 19th.

Iowa Revenues - Deb provided information about Iowa's revenues, which will top a surplus of more than \$1.6 billion by the close of the state books. More information will be available in October. Personal income taxes was the main source of revenues of Iowa that grew by 12.4%. Corporate income tax receipts grew by 6.6% and sales and use tax by 1.7%.

Legislative Agenda - There was much discussion regarding legislative talking points for this next legislative session. Deb also provided information regarding the decrease of funding since 2008. Statewide ECI has suffered a 42.7% reduction in school ready funding and 13.52% in early childhood funding. Locally, 4 R Kids have suffered a 36.9% reduction in school ready and 22.9% reduction in early childhood. After much discussion it was consensus to ask for a restore to the 2008 funding levels as well as have flexibility. It was also discussed if a restore is asked for, that the early childhood formula would be put on the back burner. Deb will be taking the input to the 4 R Kids Board in September. Deb also learned a tip - when a legislator asks you where should the money come from to fund/restore a program that the response can be it is legislators job to find the money as they are elected to watch over the states checkbook, it is our job to tell them of the needs. This came from a retired legislator.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15. The next meeting is September 4, 2013.