

# Warren County Early Childhood Committee

Minutes/Notes

9-5-12

10:00

515 North Jefferson Way  
Wells Fargo Building  
Indianola, Iowa 50125

## **Attendance**

Leslie Elizalde, Jovanka Westbrook, Kim Kirkpatrick, Angie Reed, Dawn Holt, Abby Rei, Shannon Turner, Nicole Smith, Liz Young, Allison Moreland, Andrea Jimmerson, Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Val Cameron, Shelley Jensen, Connie Jackson, Janelle Stribe, Myra Wilms, Sara Tessmer, Kim Post, Tammy Engebretson and Debra Schrader.

## **Announcements and Information**

**Health Fair** – Warren County Health Services is sponsoring a health fair September 13 on the courthouse lawn. Contact Emmalee Bowline for more information.

**Family Nutrition Program** – Wee Care along with Extension will be sponsoring a nutrition parent education program starting October 1 from 12:30-2:00 and will run for 6 weeks. Interested families are to contact Lisa Gray or Sara Tessmer.

**AEA** – Ron Lorenz has taken a job with the Indianola Schools. There is a new speech therapist Jessica Wyler that will serve Norwalk and Martensdale St. Marys Schools.

**Preschool** – The Indianola Schools have 33 more preschool students than last year and they have 27 students in the transitional kindergarten class.

**Lifeline** – Shelly Stewart is the new therapist that will focus on age 10 and younger.

**4 R Kids Update** – The FY2012 annual report is complete and the executive summary was provided to the group. The new website is still under construction and it is scheduled to be up and running by the end of the month.

**New Therapist** – Bailey Sall is the new therapist in Indianola and she is accepting Medicaid and Hawk-i.

**Mental Health 1 pager** – Additions were made to the mental health 1 pager, which is now considered 2 pages. The final copy will be provided at the next meeting and will also be located on the new website.

**Community Assessment** – Much discussion was held regarding conducting a community assessment. The purpose of the assessment is gather insight from the community as to what the needs are; it doesn't mean ECI can address the needs as there are strict categorical funding that is to be allocated for programming. The last assessment was done through ECI in 2009 and it is needed to be conducted again. Angie and Andrea will work on a list of mental health questions, Shelly, Val and Connie will work on a preschool/childcare questions. Jeremy will work on transportation questions. It was consensus of the group that question 4 is to be utilized again, as this will assist in baseline data. It would be helpful to have no more than 8-10 questions total. This assessment will be utilized in the 4 R Kids service area and it is desired to be completed by spring. Craig Hertel may be able to provide assistance with an online survey through survey monkey.

**LSI** – Lutheran Services in Iowa provided an overview of mental health services they offer.

**Necessity Pantry** – It was noted that the Necessity Pantry offers gas cards/vouchers for families in need.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15. The next meeting is October 3, 2012. Tentative agenda items include last review of th