



**Warren County Early Childhood Committee
Draft Agenda**

Wednesday May 6, 2020

10:00

Held by

Zoom

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tZQkd-GpqTMtkNBg-n9dunPn2PVqUTb6YQ>

This meeting is in coordination with the Warren County Cares meeting that starts at 11:30 using the same Zoom link

Agenda

- Introductions
- What did you do for [May Day](#)?
- Announcements
- 4 R Kids Board Update
Board Membership
Assets and challenges in Warren County (see attached)
- Child care survey results
- Pandemic policies
- Community Input

FY20 Meetings

May 6, 2020

June 3, 2020

FY21 Meetings

July 2020 No meeting

August 2020 No meeting

September 2, 2020

October 7, 2020

November 4, 2020

December 2020 No meeting

January 2021 No meeting

February 3, 2021

March 3, 2021

April 7, 2021

May 5, 2021

June 2, 2021

The Warren County Early Childhood Committee shall be the standing advisory committee for the 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area Board. Community partners, agencies, citizens and Board members may participate; participation is not limited to any agency or person. The 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area Board may refer specific issues/tasks to this committee. Tasks may include but not limited to, provide expertise in fields of health, human services, early care and education; suggest public policy; provide guidance on community needs and issues; and advocacy for the early childhood Iowa area.

Assets and Challenges

The 4 R Kids ECI area board is greatly interested in the perception at the grassroots level and depend on community partners to provide input and feedback into the community plan. During the spring of 2016 more than 50 community partners from each of the four early childhood committees provided input as to what they felt were strengths/assets and challenges/areas of improvement to the ECI service area. It's time to review the below assets and challenges to update the community plan.

4 R Kids ECI Area Strengths/Assets

- There is an active child abuse prevention council in each county and all have been awarded Prevent Child Abuse Iowa funding.
- The overall population has grown in the 4 county area which can affect funding in a positive manner.
- There is collaboration and coordination among service providers. (This was overwhelmingly mentioned multiple times)
- There is a high level of trust among service providers.
- There is a sense of innovation and proactive thinking.
- High quality child care and preschool settings.
- Food resources have increased over the past few years.

4 R Kids ECI Area Weaknesses/Challenges

- Due to the rural nature of the area, transportation is necessary to access services.
- Increasing demands due to population growth.
- Meeting the needs of an increasing diverse population in some communities.
- Retail leakage - community spends money outside the county.
- People travel outside the area to work and may not be invested in the community.
- Availability (capacity) of quality child care.
- Economic impact on the business community regarding the importance of early childhood.
- Care giver/parent engagement in parenting education.
- Limited availability of 2nd and 3rd shift as well as weekend child care.
- There is a gap in regards to [statewide voluntary preschool program](#) funding in Iowa. There are only 7 school districts in Iowa that do not participate and Dallas County has three of the seven school districts no participating.
- Growth of some of the areas has increased demand of services rich as emergency and public safety but tax dollars are slow to follow.