

Dallas County Coalition

Minutes

By Zoom

10:30am – 11:40 am

Wednesday February 23, 2022

Meeting Handouts

A [Dallas County Meeting Folder](#) has been implemented for meeting handouts and other agency information. Go [here](#) to access the information and it is open to the public. Meeting agendas and minutes are located at www.4rkids-eci.org.

Attendance and Introductions

Val Cameron (Dallas County ISUEO), Rachel Bardwell (Short Years Partnership), Karen Goff (Broadlawns WIC Polk/Dallas), Myra Willms (Dallas County ISUEO), Christina Schalk (New Opportunities), Jeannette Luthringer (Every Step), Stephanie Redig (New Opportunities), Kirsten Johnson (American Lung), Michelle Greenough (CCR&R), Hannah Vander Kopsa (CIAC), Lisa Carstens (Zion), Kandi Hensel (Waukeel Schools), Lyndsie Mount (Waukeel Schools), Linda White (Iowa Total Care) and Debra Schrader (4 R Kids)

Presentation

The Waukeel Community School provided an overview of the expansion of 4 year old preschool slots. For more information contact Ms. Kandi Hensel at khensel@waukeelschools.org.

Agency and Other Information

- Lisa Carstens, certified prevention specialist, shared that so far this fiscal year as part of the Iowa Provider Network Grant (IPN) they have presented to students in two driver's education classes in Area 12 to increase the awareness of the dangers of driving while under the influence of prescription medication other substances. One presentation was at Fremont Mills and the other at Nodaway Valley. Combined, there were 35 students. They are also working with a group of homeschoolers to meet in Dallas County in March. Students always enjoy the hands-on learning with the fatal vision goggles. So far this year, prevention staff have done drug free workplace trainings on the dangers of marijuana use in the workplace with three businesses in Area 12, where they met with 65 participants total. They saw an increase in knowledge of 95-100%. Zion prevention staff are wrapping up the initial round of the planning deliverables, including a logic model, action plan and strategic plan for each county served.
- Registration is open to join Julia Cook, national award-winning author, counselor, and child development expert March 23rd from 12:00 P.M. – 1:30, there is no cost to attend. To Register email Jenny Felt, DCAT Coordinator jfelt@dhs.state.ia.us
- DHS is providing recruitment and retention bonuses of \$1,000 for child care providers.
- New Opportunities has funding available for LIWAP – low income water assistance program – and families can automatically qualify if they are receiving LIHEAP, up to \$2500 per household QRS.
- The IQ4K system is beginning to roll out for child care providers, the last day to submit for QRS is March 1, after that providers will use the IQ4K system.
- Broadlawns will be applying to IDPH for the WIC program and it will include Dallas, Madison, Polk and Warren County.
- There was an infant formula recall more information is [here](#).
- Dallas County ISU Extension had a meeting with Senator Sarah Trone Garriott about the needs of child care. An future in person meeting may get scheduled and bring other early care providers together to provide more education.

Early Childhood Updates/Information

- The 4RKids Board has filled all positions on the board.
- Data from school districts was shared regarding the preschool experience rate. The average rate for the 4 Kids Area is 80.7% and Dallas County is 88.8%.
- An update was provided on bills alive in the Iowa legislature, there are a few child care bills.
- Kids Count Data was reviewed.
- The FY23 Dallas County meeting map was reviewed and changes made where necessary.
- The FY23 Dallas County Coalition meeting dates were reviewed. Discussion was had regarding electronic meetings and face to face meetings.

Dallas County Children's Advocacy Council Updates/Information

- There is a vacancy on the Dallas County Children's for a Vice President.
- Child Abuse Prevention 2nd Quarter highlights - 50% of the \$16,000 grant award has been expended in the first six months, there were 2 sexual abuse prevention classes held serving 14 participants.
- Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month – Prevent Child Abuse Iowa is encouraging all County Board of Supervisors to adopt a child abuse awareness proclamation; Val will be organizing this as well as putting articles in the news papers, putting pinwheel vases out and the banner on the courthouse lawn.

Next meeting: March 23, 2022 will be held by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Schrader