



## Ida County Early Childhood Committee Meeting

### Siouxland Human Investment Partnership

Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday June 8, 2022 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Meeting Site: ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89201386487?pwd=T2UrV2tQNHVpTk5hbEVBWTJRdG5Qdz09>

Attendees: Shelley Conover – Northwest AEA (Ida County Chair), Kendra Rensink – Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Rebecca Burns – Horn Memorial Hospital, Linsey Gilbert – Community Action Agency (CCNC), Bailey Hill – Child Care Resource & Referral

Staff Present: Kerri Hall

- Legislative Updates
  - HHS
  - CC Update
  - State Board. (see attached slides)
    - Beginning July 1, initial front door eligibility is increased to 160% FPL from 145%. House File 707.
    - Increases for CCA reimbursement rates.
    - CCA Pilot, 1 year- waiting for “green light”
    - Other childcare initiatives discussed also
      - Included discussion on the importance of filling out the 2023 Market Rate Survey! It’s the only data source to find the gap to give legislators accurate information.
    - CC Bureau
  
- Early Childhood Iowa
  - Fiscal Year 2024
    - Updates
  - **SF561 - Health and Human Services Budget.**

This bill was passed and now contains all ECI funds for local areas (both Early Childhood and School Ready). Which means:

    - **100% of ECI funds, beginning in FY24 will come out of the HHS budget - there will no longer be funds coming into ECI from the Dept. of Education (DE).**

- **Funding categories are still listed in the budget.** Since there is no language change, expect to follow the same rules for each of the following categories:
  - Admin
  - Quality (formerly SR - from DE)
  - General (formerly SR - From DE)
  - Early Childhood
- **Funding for State level ECI has not changed (professional development, I2D2, etc.).**
- **NO changes to Chapter 256I, which establishes ECI, of which I am aware.**

**Decategorization related:**

- **[SF561](#) - Health and Human Services Budget.**
  - Decat allocation \$1.7 million

**Child Care related:**

- **[HF 707](#) - Child Care Assistance**
  - CCA eligibility increases to 160% of the Federal Poverty Level(FPL).
  - Work requirements increase to an average of 32 hrs/wk/mo.
  - Requirements for special needs children: 200% FPL and 28 hrs/wk/mo for work.
  - Increases child care provider payments.
  - Prohibits HHS from increasing rates or changing eligibility without legislative action.
- House File 561, there are (University of Iowa) funds available for vision screens. Other ECI areas are tapping into the Lion's Club for that.

**ECI Guiding Principles**

- Children and families are our 'North Star'
- Equity
- Brain science
- Data is a valuable resource
- Diverse partnerships
- Accountability

**Goals and Strategies**

- **GOAL 1: Promote a coordinated infrastructure to advance the early childhood system.**
  - 1. Expand collaboration and coordination among state and local programs and agencies serving young children and their families.

- 2. Develop and nurture effective public-private partnerships at a state and local level.
- 3. Infuse data-based discussions and decision-making processes throughout the early childhood system.
- Goal 2: Build public will for investing young children and their families
  - 1. Communicate the value of The First 2,000 Days as the most critical stage of the human lifecycle.
  - 2. Partner with families and communities to improve communication about what young children and families need and how the system responds.
  - 3. Engage families as leaders and advocates for a comprehensive early childhood system.
- Goal 3: Transform the early childhood workforce through formal education, great professionalism, increased skills and competence, and new approaches to implementing best practices.
  - 1. Create a larger, more skilled early childhood workforce.
  - 2. Provide new or expanded early childhood workforce supports to enhance the quality of early childhood programs and services.
  - 3. Support existing child care to achieve full enrollment and full fee collection, generating revenues that cover per child costs: Opportunities Exchange, Iron Triangle\*
  - 4. Continue to support statewide T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Iowa and Child Care and WAGES® Iowa
  - 5. Implement an aligned salary scale for early childhood system adopted career pathways for the early childhood workforce sectors; inclusive of levels tied to increasing skill in the field
- Goal 4: Ensure that young children and families receive the services they need when they need them.
  - 1. Improve equitable access to high quality early learning opportunities and services for vulnerable and underserved children and families who have at-risk factors.
  - 2. Expand and improve access to high quality early learning opportunities and services for young children and their families; with intentionality to better serve vulnerable and underserved populations.
  - 3. Improve transitions among early childhood programs and between the early childhood and K-12 education systems.
- Goal 5: Improve the quality of early childhood services for young children and their families across early care and education; health, mental health, and nutrition; and family support services.
  - 1. Promote and incentivize the use of evidence-based programs and services across the early childhood system.
  - 2. Adopt a collective impact approach to investing in high-quality, evidence-based services, programs, and activities across the early childhood system.
  - 3. Incentivize programs to transition from implementing promising practices to the adoption of evidence-based strategies and program delivery

- Ida County
  - Future of Kidsfest
    - Updates

There was brief discussion and then the item was tabled.

- Ida/Woodbury County/SHIP
  - ECI Grant Review
    - Updates
      - The Ida/Woodbury Co. ECI Grant Review Committee convened in May and made a motion to the SHIP Board to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> for their recommendations. Board approved committee recommendations May 19, 2023. There was an increase in funds due to the funding formula and all applicants received amount requested.
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      - 5% of the appropriation is distributed among all 99 counties
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      - 35% of the appropriation is distributed based on the population in the ECI Area that is age 0-5
      - 
      - 60% of the appropriation is distributed based on the population in the ECI Area that is age 0-5 and at or below 185% of poverty
- Ida County
  - Early Childhood Programs
    - Updates

Shelley Conover (NWAEA): They have been working on their professional Development Plan for this next year. Shelly is currently in ‘Summer mode’ working less hours but still available.

Bailey Hill (CCR&R): Some child care centers have started the process for IQ4K and may have a new home provider soon.

Lindsey Gilbert (CCNC): She has been working with providers to train them on CPR and children with special health needs.

Rebecca Burns (HMH): They have a sunscreen grant for the pools and child cares.

- Preschool Scholarship Guidelines
  - Updates

Kerri shared changes suggested for the Preschool Scholarship Program. Ida Co. ECI Committee has recommended the final draft for approval

- Agency Updates / Other Business

- Next Meeting is TBD