



Woodbury County Early Childhood Committee Meeting

Siouxland Human Investment Partnership
MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, March 3, 2022 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Meeting Site:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89904297029?pwd=MWlyczZRa283VE5MbZyRzB5dKxzZz09>

Attendees: Kim Schroeder (Chair), Erika Fuentes, Bridgid Strait, Mallory Berkenpas, Linsey Gilbert, Lexy Klemish, Jennifer McGregor, Rachael Ostermyer, Brenda Jenkins, Mallory Berkenpas, Bridget Strait, Terrie Binneboese, Jen Derby, Jennifer Weber, Stacy Eldridge

Staff Present: Kerri Hall

- Legislative Updates
 - Association of ECI Area Boards
 - Session Updates

This week [SF 2268](#) passed the Senate Chamber by a vote of 32-18. The bill requires the DHS to allow childcare centers to increase child-to-staff ratios to 7:1 for children 2 and under and to 10:1 for children 3 and older. The bill is now eligible for debate by the House because the companion bill, [HF 2131](#), has passed out of committee.

- Iowa Department of Management
 - Early Childhood Iowa
 - Future Changes
 - Director's Meeting Updates
- CCR&R Update:(Becky White) to demo of NDS 2.0 (new data system/child care search portal)
 - Parents and providers can utilize/add information now
 - Previously 2 different databases/area previously – now those 10 are combined into the new database

- Allows providers to update their information, including vacancies/openings – will be rolled out in the next couple of weeks. Becky walked through a view of the database from a provider level.
 - Providers can also upload pictures and documents
 - Parents can login as a guest or register as themselves; if registered, they can save items.
 - Parents will be able to easily see if in the QRS/QRIS - even in the listing of the program; also can see how far the program is from your address
 - Moves us towards real-time data
- CCNC Update - no update today
 - Shared Services/CCMS Update - (Tami, Amanda)
 - Survey summary results almost ready to share
 - Will walk through the survey summaries at 3-4-board meeting
 - Will be releasing 1-2 page updates at the beginning of every month
 - Co-Design team had first meeting on 2-9-22; began to share overview//as well as gather individual feedback after every meeting is planned
 - ECI Office- Update (Shanell, Amanda)
 - An Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was enacted on February 8, 2022 between the Iowa Department of Management (DOM) and the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) to transfer the administration of the Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) State Office duties, including 2 FTEs, to DHS from the date of enactment through June 30, 2022. During this period of time the 2 FTEs, Shanell Wagler and Amanda Winslow, from the ECI State Office will collaborate with DHS leadership and the Governor's office to discuss opportunities for new infrastructure developments within DHS to increase early childhood system connectivity; with an emphasis of stewarding large amounts of federal dollars that may impact child care in Iowa.
 - It is currently understood that ECI's mission, state and local authorities, funding allocations, public and private stakeholder collaborations, integrated data system work (I2D2), ECI statewide strategic planning, and all authorities identified within Iowa Code Chapter 256I will not change. The current MOU states Iowa law controls and takes precedence over the MOU terms. Our hope is that this will better place the ECI team to serve young Iowans. We will review its effectiveness prior to extending the MOU.
- Ed Approps – [presentation update](#) (Shanell)
 - [QRS/IQ4K](#) – updating your RFPs, expectations, etc.
 - We need a piece to share with child care center board to educate them on the change. – Shanell will work with DHS and QRIS Oversight Team to create a document to assist with education. QRS Specialists might also have.
 - Safety data – move to online format? (Jenny Robinson asked)
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 - Questions about submitting a [budget amendment](#).
 - Phones for Families (March 31, 2022 MIECHV only)- ECI Areas could include Phones for Families support to their programs & Risa from LSI can help with the US Cellular

connections & ISU has a data brief from the Phones for Families program:
<https://i2d2.iastate.edu/publications/>

- Woodbury County
 - Early Childhood Programs
 - Updates
 - Kim Schroeder shared that there are many updates- having difficulty keeping staff, finding staff, having to close rooms.
 - [Erika Fuentes](#) says it's "tricky" to find staff, however she has been able to match & be flexible with assigning them to buildings. The administrative board has been working to up the pay. Now at \$13/hour.
 - Building Blocks is struggling to find staff- universal across the state of Iowa.
 - Lindsay Gilbert- Covid has slowed down. Currently has 26 programs working on QRS so doing health & safety checks scheduled before May. It's been a rush to get everyone in the system before school is out. Mostly working on IQ4K.
 - Kim Schroeder- if still wanting to apply for QRS, has to apply before March 15th.
 - Stacy has increased staff wages also.
 - Rumors say if there is a merger with *IDPH & DHS*???, there may be \$\$ for nurse consultants.
 - Mallory Berkenpass: **very busy** with grants. Some grants are now competitive when they haven't been in the past. She listed the grants she has been involved with. Moving LSI to a new building due to expanding services with refugee resettlement. With all of the grants, LSI is helping families with things like car seats, groceries, and more.
 - Lexy Klemish- working on lots of grants as well. Looking for another staff person to assist. Siouxland District Health has a new website and asked us to review it and see if there is anything missing.
 - Brigid Strait: HOPES, ECI resource center- both hired family support workers. One position has been open since October and was just filled- so far working out well. This is Brigid's last meeting as she has accepted a position at Mercy working at the Child Advocacy Center.
- Ida/Woodbury County
 - ECI Contracts Changes
 - Amendments for IQ4K

- *IQ4K is not related to QRS, there are different requirements.* Looking at programs having a QRS rating or working towards an IQ4K rating.
- Reporting and Performance Measures
 - Kerri is working on revamping report templates for annual reports. In talking w/ other ECI directors, Kerri does it differently than most. They require monthly or quarterly reports. Kerri does less frequent ones because there has not been an issue. Committee is in agreement with what is currently being reported.
- Additional ECI/EC Updates
- Agency Updates / Other Business
 - [Northwest AEA notes](#)
 - Jennifer Weber, WITT: it is midterm time, finalizing data, last Friday met w/ Jennifer Jackie Smith to discuss working on.... childcare as a high need. Early childhood should not be left out, even though our wages do not match what others get. Wanting child care in Future Ready Iowa.

Next Meeting is May 5, 2022 @ 11:00 at Northwest AEA building, 1520 Morningside Ave., Room G (the board room)

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