



**Woodbury County Early Childhood Committee Meeting**  
Siouxland Human Investment Partnership  
MINUTES

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, May 6, 2021 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Meeting Site:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88145714895?pwd=N1NvZGIBRi8yVEIRUExnaUw1ZWc0UT09>

Attendees: Kim Schroeder, Terri Binneboese, Erika Fuentes, Mallory Berkenpas, Linsey Gilbert, Lexy Klemish, Jennifer McGregor, Jennifer Weber, Becky Carlson, Brenda Jenkins, Rachael Ostemyer, Bridgid Strait, Mallory Berkenpas

Staff Present: Kerri Hall

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

Bills that committee is following;

HF230 - Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Cliff  
HF260 - Number of Children in a Child Care Home  
HF292 - Child Care Provider Rate Increase  
HF301 - Child Care Workforce Grants Program  
HF302 - State CCA Phase-Out Program  
HF370 - Employer Child Care Tax Credit

The Iowa House of Representative has proposed a bill that would increase ECI dollars by 1% and the Iowa Senate has proposed a 2.4% increase in ECI funding. The increases are still being debated.

It is anticipated that the Iowa Legislative Session will not end on time this week and will go into week one of overtime next week.

- Agency Updates / Other Business

**Erika Fuentes – Crittenton Center Early Childhood Programs**

Governor's Child Care Task Force: Still catching all task force members up to speed. House File 302 (addressing the child care cliff effect when a family that is on state child care assistance takes a raise at work that drops them from assistance, they can no longer afford to send their child/children to child care) is still being debated.

State is still paying unlimited absences due to the pandemic.

Child Care Task Force does not fully support House File 260 which would increase the number of children that child care providers are allowed to care for at once.

Stella Sandford Child Development Center East Side: new space is at half capacity. It has been a challenge to get it staffed but it is going well. Crittenton Center has been slowly enrolling students following slowly staffing it.

### **Jennifer McGreggor – Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)**

Investing in Child Care Funding: child cares can apply for expansion and start-up, but they need to receive permission to open to be eligible. Started with \$12 million / \$2 - \$3 million per county for all 23 counties for the Mid-Sioux Child Care Resource & Referral Region. Funding is first-come first-serve. DHS may have more funding set aside that they may allocate in the future.

### **Lexy Klemish – Siouxland District Health Department (SDHD):**

HOPES and MIECHV staff attended the virtual 2021 Prevent Child Abuse Conference and found it very informative. Looking forward to it being in person next year.

Mass vaccination clinics are wrapping up.

Although Early Childhood Iowa has given permission to return to in person home visitation, Iowa Department of Human Services (IDPH) has not yet changed their protocol for MIECHV funding and so they are still providing services virtually.

### **Mallory Burkenpas – Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI):**

In home visitation: They too are following state guidance from IDPH and are still providing home visitation services virtually even though most of the staff has been vaccinated.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention is being provided in person in the schools and virtually. LSI usually sees 500+ students a year.

LSI provides refugee and immigration services in their Des Moines location as well as child care programs, as well as a Global Greens Program (they provide farmland for new comers to work the land and sell the yield).

LSI is submitting a grant to provide refugee services in Siouxland (they used to provide these services here about 20 years ago). Right now, they are determining which

communities would be align with the grant and they are considering Siouxland as one of the areas. They are speaking with employers, housing, area school districts, local healthcare providers, local government, police and sheriff's departments, as well as community partners. If they are awarded the funding for Siouxland, they could potentially be resettling 150 people (40 families per year) with potential new comers beginning this fall/winter.

**Becky Carlson – Mary J. Treglia Community House:**

MJT Board of Directors is hoping to collaborate as much as possible with LSI for their refugee and immigration grant.

MJT will hold a Summer Preschool Program and applications are out. Summer session will run June 7, 2021 to July 1, 2021 and then from July 12, 2021 to August 5, 2021. These sessions will run concurrent with ELL classes. Full and part-time slots are available.

MJT is remodeling their lobby and will have a dedication ceremony. They are planning a tree and raising a flag to dedicate the lobby to Hung Cuc.

MJT just received a Little Free Library and Becky said that the neighborhood kids are very excited about it and they stop on their way to and from school daily. It is being utilized day and night.

**Brenda Jenkins – Northwest Area Education Agency (NWAEA):**

Currently working on their Professional Development Plan.

Finalizing the details for Centering on Centers Conference to be held January 28 & 29, 2022. They are pretty excited about the speakers they have booked.

Unless they receive special permission, Early Access services are still being provided virtually.

**Jennifer Weber – Western Iowa Tech. Community College (WITCC):**

Classes are wrapping up. Online classes ended Sunday May 7, 2021 and on campus will end May 13, 2021.

Graduation will be held in person at Tyson Event Center and they will be split up by program. They are inviting last year's graduates to attend since they were not able to walk due to Covid-19.

WITCC Campus will be closed on Fridays June through July.

Jennifer will come visit any site that requests a visit from her this Summer.

Early Childhood program revision will be implemented next school year 2021-2022. She is hoping to be able to get her students in classrooms for supervision this fall.

**Rachael Ostermyer – Community Action Agency of Siouxland (CAA):**

Early Head Start (EHS): CAA are working on our return to in-home visit policy for EHS families. Wrapping up Head Start - last class day May 20th. EHS last class day is August 3. May is Mental Health Month

**Bridgid Strait: Crittenton Center Early Childhood Programs**

Resource Center is now holding Family Meetings in office and following CDC Guidelines for Covid-19 protocol. Will be starting to do in person Group Meetings at Rosecrants Jackson's Woman and Children

**Linsey Gilbert – Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC):**

CCNC has received permission to go on some in person visits as long as she is not around the children and adheres to protocol. She has been receiving many calls as the QRS (Quality Rating System) deadline for child care programs is approaching.

Request for assistance from CCNC with Covid protocols has slowed way down in the last few months.

**Kerri Hall – Siouxland Human Investment Partnership:**

SHIP Early Childhood Iowa Grant Review Committee Meeting will be held May 13, 2021. SHIP ECI funding recommendations for fiscal year 2022 will go before the SHIP Board for approval May 21, 2021.

- Adjourn: Next Meeting is Thursday June 3, 2021