Woodbury County Early Childhood Committee Meeting

Siouxland Human Investment Partnership

Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:30am – 12:00pm

Meeting Site: Northwest AEA – Room F

Attendees: Kim Schroeder (Committee Chair), Jocelyn Flattery, Kim Burrack, Linsey Gilbert, Rachael Ostermyer, Erika McWell, Terri Binneboese, Mona Scaletta,

Staff present: Matt Ohman, Kerri Hall

- Early Childhood State Budget
    - Impending estimates for ECI budget cuts

Iowa Department of Management is anticipating cuts to be between 4.25% - 5% in the ***School Ready*** funding category to be made before the Fourth Quarter. SHIP currently has two funding streams:

School Ready(Family Support/Preschool Scholarships/Quality Improvement/General Use/Administration)
And
School Ready/Early Childhood

Department of Human Services (DHS) is taking a voluntary reduction in funding so that the ***School Ready/Early Childhood*** funding category will not have to take a cut in fiscal year 2017. DHS will NOT be able to take that same reduction in fiscal year 2018. Thus, Early Childhood Iowa Areas across the state will need to anticipate up to a 5% budget cut in both ***School Ready(Family Support/Preschool Scholarships/Quality Improvement/General Use/Administration)*** and ***School Ready/Early Childhood*** funding streams for year two of the two-year funding cycle. Committee does not have any recommendations of how these cuts should be made and unanimously believe it should be left solely up to the Area Board of Directors.

- Levels of Excellence
    - Community Priorities and Indicators
        - Screenings for Developmental Delays

The sixth indicator under Healthy Children Priority - **% of children screened for developmental delays that are referred on for additional services** is currently under development. Committee had determined that an outcome and measurement tool will need to be confirmed by the end of this fiscal year – June 30, 2017. Committee is considering several different assessment tools. Kim Schroeder has suggested research into a CDC online screening tool *Milestones in Action* and Linsey Gilbert has suggested *Ages and Stages Questionnaire*. This agenda item was tabled. Members will research both assessments as well as bring other ideas to the next committee meeting where a more in depth discussion will take place.

- Community Partners Meeting
  - State requests a meeting with ECI Community Partners

Members from the Iowa Department of Management (IDOM) will be conducting their 3-year Site Visit for the SHIP Early Childhood Iowa Area in concurrence with the Levels of Excellence Designation. IDOM is requesting a Community Partners Meeting to gather information, thoughts, and input from community partners, and discuss partners' participation and collaboration with the ECI Area. This meeting will be mandatory for all grantees receiving ECI funds. The meeting will take place on March 17, 2017 at the Northwest AEA in Sioux City in Room B. Must RSVP by February 28th.

- Request for Application (RFA)
  - Year 2 of 2-Year Grant Cycle (Renewal Year)

Committee reviewed and approved Tentative Timeline of Submission and Grant Review Process as follows:

- Monday, February 27, 2017 – **Tentative** RFP Release Date
- Friday, March 31, 2017 - **Applications Due to SHIP Office by 4:00 PM**
- Monday, April 3, 2017 – Grant Review process begins
- Tuesday, April 25, 2017 - Grant Review Meeting @ Northwest AEA
- Friday, May 19, 2017 - SHIP Board of Directors meeting with final approval of committee recommendations
- Monday, May 22, 2017 - Funding notifications

  - Revisions to Application

Committee has reviewed and approved removal of specific language from RFA as follows:

"Programs receiving funding in the first year of a 2-year grant cycle may ask for no more than a 10% increase in funding from Year 1 to Year 2, with justification for the increase."

Programs may no longer request an increase in funds in Year-2. Allocations will now reflect the same awards in both years of the funding cycle, as the budget allows. Pending approval from Ida County Early Childhood Committee.

- Early Childhood Funding Formula
    - Formula Revision Options

Iowa Department of Management is requesting input regarding the revision of the Early Childhood Funding Formula. The state Early Childhood Funding Formula Committee has narrowed the new formulas down to two options. The committee has reviewed both options and has chosen to recommend Option 7 to the Ida/Woodbury ECIA Board for the following reasons:

> *Base provides stability as well as letting all areas know they will secure at least the 5% minimum. Less flexibility in the difference between the minimum/maximum cost per child.*
>
> *This option does not include those eligible for child care assistance - however, taking that participation fluctuation out of the formula creates more stability.*

- Early Literacy Proposal

Kim Burrack presented a plan to hire curriculum coaches for Preschools outside of the Preschool Initiative.

    - Coaches and Oversite

The coaches would provide professional development and coaching to childcare/preschool staff and directors toward implementing an identified research based curriculum with strong fidelity. (Fidelity Tool already exists.) Committee recommends that school districts have oversite over coaches.

    - Funding for Community Preschools and Child Cares

Request financial and resource support from all school districts within the ECIA. Must have buy in from center directors, owners, teachers, and parents. Research other outside sources of funding.

    - Training Requirements

ECI scholarship families as possible test sites with mandatory attendance at two yearly early literacy trainings at the center/preschool for parents and guardians.

Benefits: Accountability – work toward major quality improvement, kids coming to school ready to learn. Collaboration between coaches and Child Care Consultants.

Concerns: District Funds, Creative Curriculum, Investments, Incentives, Previous Data Sharing Challenges. Need monetary investment to produce the desired outcomes.

Next Steps: Meet with all school districts for input.

- Agency Updates / Other Business

Kim Schroeder updated the committee that the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children has received increased funding for the Child Care WAGE$® IOWA

program and can now provide salary supplements to early care and education providers in 30 counties in Iowa. Through federal funds associated with the new CCDF changes, the Iowa Department of Human Services is providing extra support to those working with infants and toddlers in high-poverty areas of the state. These infant/toddler dollars are being partially matched by funds from the Iowa Department of Management so that those working with children ages 3-5 can also be included in this WAGE$ pilot.

- Adjourn

Next Meeting is Thursday 3/2/2017