

Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington Early Childhood Area

January 20th 2015

Winfield City Hall

Minutes

Members Present: Stan Stoops, Mike Steele, Sergio Ayala, Mary Campbell, Tricia Lipski, Tasha Beghtol, Rashawn Logan, Dave Helman, Stephanie Snyder, Allison Bergman, Julie Ledger, Rachel Paterson-Rahn

Merger Process

Tasha Beghtol provided information about the concerns and anxieties that have been shared with her from other board members and contractors about the merger. Tasha noted that the process needs to move quickly in order to get all the components of a merger application completed and turned in to the state ECI office by April 1st. The Board's liability insurance is not yet effective and Tasha recommended that the Board wait on making formal decisions until insurance was in place. Members agreed by consensus to take action on any agenda items. The issue of executive officers and specific representations be re-visited at a later date. Decisions and action items will be moved to March.

Members discussed the process of the merger and considered the feedback that Tasha has received from contractors and other members. Sergio Ayala noted that he had concerns about how fast things were moving. Mike Steele shared examples of other consolidation efforts and government reorganizations that he has been a part of. Mary Campbell shared that given the discussions and conversation she still feels the merger is a valid to do. Dave Helman shared that he was concerned about the effect of a merger on the passion of board members. Consolidation into one 4-county board feels to be a dilution of the connection to programs.

Tasha noted that if the merger process is to continue and programs not suffer from a break in funding, then the new board must begin making decisions soon. Members agreed by consensus to continue the process of completing a merger.

Meetings

Members discussed an email from Matt Latcham, Henry/Washington ECA Board member, about the meeting day and time that was established by the new board in December. Matt has asked the group to reconsider and choose a day and time that is more conducive to the schedule of working parents. Matt also requested that the new board consider rotating meeting location. Members agreed that having parents and young professionals is important to the success of the new board. It was agreed by consensus that the meetings will continue as scheduled for February and March and then a new schedule will be implemented. The DHLW Early Childhood Board will begin meeting every 3rd Tuesday at 5pm and rotate locations between the 4 counties. Tasha will look for appropriate locations in Mt Pleasant, Washington, Burlington, Columbus Junction and Wapello to hold meetings and work on a calendar that reduces the need for monthly meetings.

Bylaws

Members reviewed and discussed the second draft of bylaws for the HDLW Early Childhood Area. No additional changes or corrections were identified. The Bylaws will be on the agenda in March as an action item for final adoption.

Insurance

Tasha shared information about the current insurance quote from ICAP. Horak Insurance is the local agency helping to secure the quotes. The quote has an effective date of 2/1/2015 and is retroactive to 2008 for the purpose of covering the DSM/Louisa Board and the Henry/Washington Board for their activities' prior to the merger. The annual quote is \$2,356.10. Tasha noted that the Henry/Washington ECA Board does not have enough extra administrative funds to cover half of the bill. She has asked that the quote be revised to cover only the months remaining in FY15. Once the revised quote is received then each 2-county board will need to approve payment.

Membership

Details of the membership matrix including representation for education, health, human services, faith, business, and parent/grandparent/guardian will be determined in March along with Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Tasha noted that based on the information they reviewed in December the board is in need of person to fill the parent/grandparent/guardian position.

Community Plan

Members reviewed the vision and mission statements of the 2-county boards. Based on commonalities and considering the work of the DHLW Early Childhood Area members agreed on the following:

- Vision statement: Every child beginning at birth will be safe, healthy, and successful.
- Mission statement: Our Early Childhood Area community works together to maximize the health, safety, care, and education of children prenatal - 5 years of age and their families.

Tasha handed out and reviewed data for all four counties on population & diversity, district enrollments & diversity, unemployment, median household income, child poverty, and childcare registration/licensing numbers. Louisa County is notable for a higher diversity with a Hispanic population of 16.2%. Des Moines Co is notable for highest child poverty rates and lowest median household income. Columbus Junction CSD is notable for a majority of students being non white. Discussion was held regarding the average cost of childcare in each county the lack of licensed centers in Henry County.

Information and feedback was also shared from the 4 community childcare conversations held in each county. Tasha noted that a common theme heard from participants was that providers do not see a need to participate in quality initiatives because they are full and parents don't care. Most providers who attended the events agreed that all providers should be registered and follow the same rules and that parents need to be educated about childcare rules and quality initiatives.

Tasha handed out and reviewed Tool G (pages 3-5.) Members identified priorities for the Early Childhood (EC) funding based on data presented, community feedback, and the regulations noted in Tool G. Members noted the following priorities/information to consider as they finalize the new community plan:

- Access to childcare
 - need to look at a percentage of slots vs the population 0-12
 - use the CCR&R reports to calculate the percentage of slots in each county
 - Formula =
$$\frac{\text{total children 0-12}}{\text{total spaces listed with CCR\&R}}$$
- Professional development for providers → consultation
- Encourage registration → increase slots
- Marketing efforts for parent education about childcare, registration, and quality initiatives
- Incentives → targeted to providers who are registered or getting registered
- need a board member from Burlington

Next meeting will be February 17th 1pm in Winfield