**MEETING MINUTES:**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Cedar Valley's Promise Early Childhood Coalition**

**Friday, December 4, 2020**

**Via Zoom Link**

**9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**In Attendance:** Mindy Dolan, William Aukes, Jay Mattson, Jacy Chiaramonte, Amanda Kirchhoff, Jamie Clancy, Linda Jacoby, Lindsey Neessen, Charletta Sudduth, Joni Spencer, Stephanie Shavers, Chris Izer, Ed Gruenwald, Shontell Matlock, Jaynie Mason, Ashley Meinhart, Carolina Canas, Sarah Boleyn, Brenda Loop

**Agenda:**

1. **Introductions and Agency Sharing:**

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| Mindy Dolan, Operation Threshold | LIHEAP applications being accepted now. Apps are in a box outside their door or available on their website. |
| William Aukes, 1st Five | Still business as usual and accepting referrals for families. Waverly Health Center staff being trained in ASQ SE by Traci today. |
| Jay Mattson, CUCCC | Still chugging along, all sites remain open. |
| Jacy Chiaramonte, YWCA | New Youth and Family Services Assistant Director at the YWCA. The PASS program and English program are still operating. Will be restarting Wize Girls in January. Cyndi Ritter will be leaving YWCA 12/22 and relocating to Minnesota. Pass is being offered in 3 ways: in person, phone and virtual. |
| Amanda Kirchhoff, OT | Still offering all services virtually. Contact Amanda if you need promotional materials for any of the OT programs. [akirchhoff@operationthreshold.org](mailto:akirchhoff@operationthreshold.org) |
| Jamie Clancy & Linda Jacoby, Cedar Valley Preschool & Child Care | We are doing a new fundraiser and would love for anyone to join in. It is with Texas Roadhouse. Fresh rolls by the dozen $5.00 and gift cards in denominations of $10-100. The link is https://na.eventscloud.com/cvpcc |
| Lindsey Neessen, LSI | Working in the MIECHV program for about 2 months. Home visits still happening virtually at least through March, 2021. Referrals are down so still accepting referrals for new families. For more information about/for referrals, flyers about our program. please contact me at: Lindsey.Neessen@lsiowa.org |
| Charletta Sudduth, Waterloo Schools | Things are going really well, very pleased with health of children and staff at the district. Will start enrolling for next fall on February 1. WCS does one application in partnership with Tri-County Head Start. 433-2661 is Charletta’s direct telephone line. sudduthc@waterlooschools.org Worried about funding for next year since it comes based on per student population and with numbers down this year, that could affect next year. WCS still partners with some community-based programs also and is willing to have conversations with more programs. |
| Joni Spencer, Together for Youth | Young Parents Together is a young pregnant/parenting program. They are doing curbside pickups for supplies like diapers and formula and then doing virtual sessions and telephone sessions. Programming has tripled in size since COVID started. Jill White is the coordinator for TFY. A volunteer made 15 quilts for the families and someone else donated hooded towels for the babies. Health educators had been doing 800-900 sessions for students and that has transitioned to virtual through a variety of mediums like Kahoot. Joni is also part-time with Success Street in the Waterloo Schools. Services are available for youth that need vaccinations or well child checks. To refer pregnant or parenting teens to YPT, schedule an appointment for wellness or vaccinations for young children or schedule an in-person/virtual sexual health presentation with participants please contact me Joni@successlink.us or my cell is 319-269-9089 |
| Stephanie Shavers, Operation Threshold | Cedar Valley Readers has been really busy. Recently partnered with the food bank for their holidays meal food boxes and provided 500 books and information about WIC. Last week they also received a big donation of books from the Exchange Club. Over 4000 books have been provided in the last 14-16 months. 244 kids were served in person and another 60 were served virtually for the Jump Start Summer Academy. A book box was also provided outside in partnership with the Cedar Falls Public Library for children in the academy plus families in that neighborhood. There were lots of activities in the Jump Start Academy around kids’ mental health also and safe outdoor activities since kids had been outside so little since COVID started. Stephanie will share the link to the video that was created during this year’s summer academy. Still promoting the VROOM app as well with families. <https://youtu.be/JsX2TLBy4YQ> is the Jumpstart Academy video. |
| Chris Izer, Early Head Start | Three new home visitors have been hired bringing the total to 13 non-MIECHV and 3 MIECHV home visitors. They are accepting new families and continuing to do virtual visits. The classrooms for preschool age children with wrap have been closed for a few weeks due to staffing at Lily, EMA, and Maywood. They will be closed through the end of December for sure. |
| Ed Gruenwald, Grin & Grow | Grin & Grow is at 90% of their pre-COVID capacity. Have done recent expenditures on classroom activity centers, bonuses, and staff training and education. Also looking at an insurance package for staff. Parents have been great with COVID protocols. |
| Shontell Matlock, Waterloo Schools | The community has really come together and a grandma just showed up with 200 scarves for students. There will be a virtual holiday sing-along with folks wearing the scarves. |
| Jaynie Mason, PAT Operation Threshold | Continuing to do virtual visits and numbers of families are good. Home visitors spending more time with families as they have more needs right now. They are providing activities for the older children in the household too. |
| Ashley Meinhart, Family & chidren’s Cpncil | Almost finished with one of the Strengthening Families series and will be starting another one in January. It will be held virtually. It’s a 14-session parenting program. Megan is doing TCOYB sessions on Zoom. Ashley is still doing hospital phone calls with new parents. They are still doing drop-offs of baby safety items. Children’s drama troop is continuing. FCC also delivered meals to families participating in programming. |
| Carolina Canas, Iowa Total Care | This is Carolina’s first meeting. She works with an emphasis in multi-cultural relations at Iowa Total Care. They offer several programs. My Health Pays health rewards program is offered. Smart Start for your Baby program provides food, diapers, etc. Transportation services available to get the medical appt and pharmacy. Also provide translators in person or on phone for medical appt. Partnering with food banks and did a comic book with Doc the Dog. Packets are available with the literacy information, crayons, and the comic book. In the spring, they will be doing another book with Doc the Dog about community gardens. Carolina.canas@iowatotalcare.com; 515-564-9404 |
| Sarah Boleyn, Child Care Resource & Referral | Planning for Spring 2021 training is ongoing. They will mostly be virtual but a few socially distanced face to face trainings. The calendar will be sent out soon. Survey to BH child care programs about mask needs since masks are required now for staff. Limited face to face visits happening and still at 50% office capacity. Most assistance being provided by phone, text and virtual platforms. Still providing information about grants from DHS, only guaranteed through December. There have been 74 people since July that have inquired about becoming a registered home provider versus 80 for the whole 12 months last year. Child Care Ready has been offered here to bring people through classes in order to get registered as a group cohort. The Child Care Ready opportunities were funded through a grant that the Iowa Women’s Foundation received. Reach out if you hear of businesses needing assistance for their staff related to COVID and child care. |

1. **Additions/modifications to agenda –** none.
2. **Approval of minutes from October 2** Motion to approve minutes made by Ed Gruenwald and 2nd by Joni Spencer.
3. **CVP report and update –** Brenda shared that quarterly reports for the second quarter are due January 20. Reminder that the community partner redesignation meeting will be held December 15 from 11:30-12:30. Please attend! Cedar Valley’s Promise has joined both the association of ECI areas as well as Metro Funders. Brenda will share the FY20 statewide home visiting report that Janet Horras from IDPH provided to ECI directors. The office at Quakerdale has been vacated. All required dead storage items including invoices, contracts, etc. are being stored at the Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center in Eldora who is the employer of record for Brenda. The new preschool scholarship process was approved by the board and will go into effect 7/1/21. This is a summary of the guidelines:

* Cap of $300 a month per child
* No additional fees covered (i.e. supply, book, registration etc.)
* Program must participate at ANY level of QRS
* Prioritize 4-year old’s and can accept 3-year old’s if funding allows
* Cannot supplant other funding like head start, voluntary preschool
* Start 7/1/2021, will accept applications when preschools start enrolling for fall 2021 and families will be approved pending funding availability
* Income up to 200% of federal poverty

1. **MIECHV update –** Nest sessions have been having guest speakers relating to literacy and other early childhood initiatives. Rachel is the person from OT that will reach out for guest speakers. Car seats and mini-grants are still being provided as well. Lisa Ahern has been hired to take Tamika’s former position. She will start on Monday, December 7. Tamika is now working for the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.
2. **Shared Visions-update –** none
3. **Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy –** Cedar Valley Nonprofit Association had their legislative meeting this morning at 8 am. Jay shared about potential changes to requirements for voluntary preschool teachers. That could have impacts on staffing as well. Charletta sees marginalized children coming into preschool in double digit gaps and need that financial support at the same level as K-12. $7000 for K-12 vs $3500 for preschool age. Joni shared about distinct needs in our community that are different than the rest of the state. Amanda shared that WIC is considering changes to cover children up to age 6 and post-partum mothers for 1 year instead of 6 months. Virtual BH CCR&R Child Care Legislative Event Dec. 16th 6:30 RSVP to Mary Janssen [mary.janssen@episervice.org](mailto:mary.janssen@episervice.org) The Iowa Women’s Foundation is starting a new advocacy network at the local, state and national levels. They also have begun a campaign to have more men join.
4. **Early Childhood Health** – Child care programs will be getting new guidance from the CDC related to quarantines. Diane Hoffman is the Black Hawk Child Care Nurse Consultant from BH County Public Health. She’s been extremely busy with COVID related issues.
5. **Campaign for Grade Level Reading –** Gearing up for afterschool activities in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club. Can only enroll 10 children per 3 sites starting January 15. Will also begin working on summer academy plans. The Early Childhood Coalition acts as the advisory group for Cedar Valley Readers.

**Next Meeting February 5 –** \*Still meeting 1st Friday of every other month: Feb. Apr. June, 2021