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

**Friday, Oct. 1, 2021**

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

**Via Zoom Link**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84238279165?pwd=MGt3b2lqZnI0eFRacFZuVUw2cXoyZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 3827 9165

Passcode: 359098

1. **Introductions and Agency Sharing**

Linda Jacoby, Cedar Valley Preschool & Child Care, we are continuing with masks for staff and children 3+ at the child care. Lots of cases of RSV at the center. Two new board members for the center. Both are former parents of children who attended the center. Preparing to send in their QRS Level 4 application. Also just submitted their ten-year renewal application for Nature Explore outdoor classroom.

Diane Hoffman, Child Care Nurse Consultant, echoed Linda in that RSV is increasing at many programs. Nearby counties have had chicken pox outbreaks; we are on the lookout in case it comes to Black Hawk. Chicken pox is preventable with the varicella vaccine. Immunization audits are happening right now in schools and will move onto the child care centers next. Still having outbreaks of COVID in child care. Virus transmission can be lessened with more outdoor play time.

Ashley Meinhart, Family & Children’s Council, shared that they are having a Prom fundraiser November 12 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Falls. Tickets are available now. They are updating the What’s Where in Parenting directory and they are also in need of funding for printing. The cost of printing is 2-3X more than last time it was printed. Two Strengthening Families sessions are happening in person with masks. Megan is back in schools with Take Charge Of Your Body. PPF is going well with families at the hospital.

Ed Gruenwald, Grin & Grow, struggling with hiring staff in the past but have hired 3-4 people in the last couple of weeks. Hoping that hiring problem is waning.

Mindy Dolan, Operation Threshold, NEST is operating, reach out to Mindy with questions as Rachel is pregnant and due any day. Still have openings for PAT. They are also planning a drive through baby shower in Buchanan County for October 19.

Brooke Olson, YPT, education groups are still through Zoom and had a session with one of the doctor’s from People’s Clinic. She dispelled some myths about the COVID vaccine. Lots of grandparents have been coming as a support person and YPT will be supporting them and surveying their needs. Will be surveying families about “Parenting It’s a Life” with ISU. Planning on going back to in person once a month starting November 1.

Amanda Kirchhoff, OT, open to the public and doing breastfeeding support virtually. Energy assistance begins today for folks with disabilities or over 65+, everyone else will be November 1. The increase in WIC benefits will remain with a vote yesterday at the federal level.

Liz Melcher, LSI, in person visits if positivity is less than 10% in the county. Community baby shower will be happening October 26 at Waterloo Center for the Arts 4-7 pm. Want it to be a parenting education fair not just resource fair. Partners can sign up to teach different mini-lessons. Items will be given to go into a diaper bag. First 40 will get a free diaper bag. LSI needs referrals for families and hope to get some from the baby shower for their program but also other community-based programs.

Jessica Ruiz, YWCA, trying to get fall Wize Girls started but are down a staff person right now. Jessica may run it starting mid-October. Would like to have PASS happening in person but need people to provide child care in order to meet in person. English class is operating as normal but attendance is lower due to lack of child care. Multi-cultural case management is going well too.

Jay Mattson, Community United, have also done some hiring of staff recently.

Sarah Boleyn, CCR&R, can do face to face or virtual visits based on what the providers want. Only had 2 face to face trainings so far. Still seeing a steady increase of people who want to open a child care center. Los of interest from people to start family child care too but lower follow through and actually getting registered. IQ4K (new version of WRS) will start 4/1/22. CCR&R is moving forward with training for staff and then will start sharing with child care programs.

Traci Smith, 1st Five, steady flow of referrals from doctor’s offices. Goal to increase the number of children being screened. Newcomer groups for refugees meets regularly, reach out to Traci if you would like the link. Traci will be doing some training on ASQ for child care providers soon.

1. **Additions/ modifications to agenda**

None

1. **Approval of minutes of August 6 meeting**

Motion by Linda to approve minutes and seconded by Brooke Olson

1. **CVP report and update**

Brenda shared that first quarter reports are due October 20. The ECI areas that belong to the Association of ECI Boards and Advocates (CVP is a member) will be having a conference in Des Moines on November 4. Each contractor has been asked to present to the CVP board one time annually. If you haven’t confirmed your date with Brenda, please do that. Iowa Department of Education will be hosting The **Iowa BEST: Behavioral, Equitable, Social-Emotional, Trauma-Informed Health in Schools Summit** on November 2 and 3 in Des Moines at the Iowa Events Center. If you’d like more info, email Brenda. Preschool scholarship money has all been allocated for the year. Families can still apply in case families move away or stop attending preschool. There are 10 preschools approved to accept scholarships. The annual report for CVP was shared electronically. If folks have questions about anything in it, reach out to Brenda.

1. **MIECHV update**

Tri-County has not renewed their MIECHV contract. Will try and schedule a meeting with providers and the state to talk about what can be done locally with those spaces.

1. **Shared Visions-update**
2. **Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy**

Lots of conversation about workforce issues.

1. **Early Childhood Health-update**

Get vaccinated!

1. **Campaign for Grade Level Reading**

The local campaign, Cedar Valley Readers, steering committee continues to meet monthly. Our next meeting, we will be focusing on our CSAP which is the goals and strategies document. We are focusing on what we can do as a campaign with no paid staff currently.

**Next Meeting**

**Dec. 3**