

Virtual Meeting of Cedar Valley's Promise Early Childhood Coalition
Friday, April 1, 2022
9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83660624797?pwd=YUZiZzVTL3Qyd2doa2hHRWdDS2tJZz09>

Meeting ID: 836 6062 4797

Passcode: 931452

Purpose: To assure a full continuum of quality, inclusive early care and education opportunities (for young children birth-8 years and their families) are available within the community. The means for us to accomplish this is through collaboration (to maximize community resources in three primary focus areas).

- (1) Early intervention and health
- (2) Parent education and support services
- (3) Early care and education

This coalition serves as the community advisory committee for Shared Visions, Cedar Valley Readers, MIECHV, and Early Childhood Health.

In Attendance: Mellina Wrage, CCR&R; Brenda Loop, Cedar Valley's Promise; Amanda McKee and Lindsey Lauck, LSI; Melissa Edwards and LaTisha Smith, Tri-County; Jamie Clancy and Linda Jacoby, Cedar Valley Preschool; Ashley Meinhart, Family & Children's Council; Brooke Olson, SuccessLink; Mindy Dolan, Operation Threshold; Jessica Hemmen, YWCA; Traci Smith, 1st Five; Ed Gruenwald, Grin & Grow.

Agenda:

1. Introductions and Agency Sharing

Ashley-FCC- April 8 Throwback Prom 1984, tickets available from the Facebook page through EventBrite at Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Falls. The Coordinated Intake process was recently going through the accreditation process as a short term home visiting program. The state office determined that PPF does not meet the criteria for short term home visiting so the accreditation process was stopped.

Mellina-CCR&R-child care consultants are continuing to work with homes and centers and are being trained in the new IQ4K system. That system launches today and replaces the previous QRS program. Trainings that are being held in person have an increased capacity now of up to 25 child care providers.

Brooke-SuccessLink Together for Youth-we have started offering dedicated support for the grandparents and dads. The teen parent groups are offered at the Food Bank but the educational pieces have been on Zoom. Some educational pieces are starting to meet in person. Jill, the Coordinator, has an office at the high school which is really beneficial. Amanda-LSI-still enrolling families, have seen an increase in referrals lately. Next Tuesday is the Community Baby Shower. Enrolled 45 so far and the first 50 will get a free diaper bag. There will also be 3 raffles. Some home visits are happening in person now. For some home visitors, these are their first in person visits since they started their roles during the pandemic.

Mindy-OT-Nest Parenting Fair is available for sign-ups. It will be April 20 and 21. Contact Rachel to sign up if you haven't already. OT will be starting some in person classes in May. Tamika Fisher returned to OT in February.

Traci-1st Five-still seeing a steady stream of referrals; The health department is hiring for a Child Care Nurse Consultant, Public Health Nurse and a Community Health Worker. ASQ

trainings are being offered. Some healthcare providers are moving to the SWYC (Survey of Well Being in Young Children) tool which is easier to administer electronically. It's embedded in the MyChart app. Traci recently gave a training to about 20 child care providers about the ASQ and ASQ-SE. This is health fair season also so many events coming up.

Melissa-Tri County-interim program manager for Home Based Early Head Start. They are back in person and have space to enroll more families. Currently hiring teachers, assistant teachers, and home visitors.

LaTisha-Tri-County-Educational Services Director-hiring for lots of positions and several classrooms have been closed due to low staffing. Tri-County recently completed the purchase of the Hawkeye Community College Building on West Fourth Street. There is some remodeling going on, but the administrative staff will be moving there and vacating the EMA building. Eventually, there will be several classrooms for children as well. They will be hosting a Kindergarten kickoff event coming up at the end of April and it is the first in person event for parents.

Jessica-YWCA-Angela has left the YWCA and they are hiring for that position. The board approved pay raises for new employees recently and they are hoping to attract more applicants now. This would enable some programming to return in person. They would like to offer 1 PASS session in person and allow children or have families find their own child care. Even when classes return in person, they will likely be hybrid. Women of Persimmon is coming up on April 28 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Falls.

Jamie and Linda-Cedar Valley-getting ready to celebrate the Week Of the Young Child with gifts for staff and families. At the last board meeting, they voted to remove masks for everyone. They are also hiring staff. With sustainability money, they have made some upgrades to the building and offered staff bonuses.

2. Additions/modifications to agenda-none
3. Approval of minutes of February 4 virtual meeting-motion by Ashley and seconded by Mindy. All approved.
4. CVP report and update

Brenda shared that updated budgets for currently funded programs and applications for initiatives not currently funded are due 4/22/22. The plan is to make funding decisions at the May 22 board meeting pending funding allocation information.

Third quarter reports are due April 20.

The preschool scholarship process for funding beginning July 1 has been finalized. Programs that wish to participate should return the form to Brenda. Parents can apply for up to \$300 per month in funding. Parents that are receiving funding in the current fiscal year do need to reapply annually. Eligible children need to turn 3 or 4 by September 15. A child who turns 5 before September 15 and is in need of an additional year of preschool will be considered. All the details can be found at cedarvalleypromise.net

Brenda has recently joined the Oral Health Iowa advocacy group and was recently named Co-Chair of the Public Engagement Component Group. She is currently part of a Compensation workgroup through Iowa AEYC to make recommendations regarding raising wages/benefits for the child care field.

Conversations continue at the state level on two large projects. One is the merger of DHS and IDPH into Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. More information can be found at <https://hhsalignment.iowa.gov/> The second initiative is being called Shared

Services. Brenda is on the co-design team for this initiative as a member of the State Child Care Advisory Committee. This group is looking at ways shared services could assist child care programs is reducing administrative costs by being fully enrolled and reducing fees/tuition that are behind. Many other states are investing in the same way. Eventually this group will be looking at software packages and there will be an RFP to be the network hub organization for the state. It will be piloted first before being launched statewide. Opportunities Exchange led by Louise Stoney are the technical experts for this work.

At the state level for ECI, the two staff, Shanell Wagler and Amanda Winslow, have traditionally been housed within the Department of Management. There has recently been a MOU signed placing them within the Department of Human Services. It would take legislative action to permanently move them into DHS or any other state agency.

Dr. John Berry was approved to join the CVP board at our last meeting.

5. **MIECHV update**-none

6. **Shared Visions update**-none

7. **Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy**

Week of The Young Child (WOYC)-The schedule is below. There is information for each day on NAEYC.org if you'd like to do social media posts.

Saturday April 2 Kickoff

Monday April 4 Music Monday

Tuesday April 5 Tasty Tuesday

Wednesday April 6 Work Together Wednesday

Thursday April 7 Artsy Thursday

Friday April 8 Family Friday

Some things to add to the Week of the Young Child! CCR&R will be doing statewide social media things related to this but if any of you would want to share with us or tag them. We are happy to share things in our region as well.

Provider Appreciation Day-May 6, 2022 (Always the Friday before Mother's Day) information to share on social media can be found at childcareaware.org CCR&R will do some things locally and in our 19 counties for Provider Appreciation Day in May & will be sharing our appreciation on our social media page as well for Child Care Providers.

8. **Early Childhood Health**-Diane Hoffman retired as of yesterday! The Black Hawk Health Department is currently advertising for this position.

9. **Campaign for Grade Level Reading** The steering committee continues to meet monthly and is working on a plan of upcoming initiatives and outreach. A lot of things have changed in the Cedar Valley since our local campaign, Cedar Valley Readers, began back in 2014. Since we lost our paid staff person, we are taking some time to reimagine what we would like the work around attendance, summer learning and school readiness to look like in our area and how we can support the work with volunteers. Related to this, Amanda shared about the LENA project that they are implementing in Tama/Benton and would like to pilot in Black Hawk. It is a device that counts interactions between parent and child and is related to the work discussed in the book, *Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain*.