

**Virtual Meeting of Cedar Valley's Promise Early Childhood Coalition**  
**Friday, June 3, 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, MIECHV, Cedar Valley Readers and Early Childhood Health.**

**In Attendance:** Sarah Boleyn, CCR&R; Liz Melcher, LSI; Traci Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Five; Mindy Dolan, Operation Threshold; Jaynie Mason, Operation Threshold; Brenda Loop, Cedar Valley's Promise; LaTisha Smith, Tri-County; Ed Gruenwald, Grin & Grow; Brooke Olson, Together for Youth; Amanda McKee, LSI; Jay Mattson, Community United.

**Agenda:**

**1. Introductions and Agency Sharing**

Mindy Dolan-Starting August 1, office hours will be changing to 7:30am-6pm M-Th and closed on Fridays. Rachel Oberhauser is changing to a new role at OT. They are hiring for her replacement. It will be part-time nest and part-time home visitor. They have also started some in person classes in the past month. Those in person classes will be increasing. Mindy is moving to Michigan in July. The position has been filled.

Ed Gruenwald-hiring is the number one thing right now. There are families wanting to enroll but not enough staff to support that. The staff were given a \$2 per hour increase recently along with retention bonuses. Hoping to reduce the lag between hiring staff and enrolling new families.

Brooke Olson-YPT summer schedule is out. The majority of groups will be in person at the food bank. A new parenting education group facilitator has been hired, Chris Izer. There is a group specifically for dads and grandparents now. Jill White, who coordinates the program, has an office at Waterloo West High which is convenient for the student parents.

Liz Melcher and Amanda McKee-A new staff was hired for the ½ MIECHV and ½ CVP position. Still accepting referrals for families. They are available to present to groups.

LaTisha Smith- Education Services Director at Tri-County. Two new program managers have been hired. One for home based and one for center based. Still looking to hire teachers and assistant teachers. All kids are being served at Maywood right now over the summer.

Jaynie Mason-PAT is back in person if family is willing. There are a few openings for families. Will be starting a prenatal screening program and hiring for that position. Community Services are available now for families who need utility or water assistance.

Traci Smith-Still accepting referrals but they have been increasing lately. More toddler referrals lately which was expected from the pandemic. Seeing more referrals with behavioral concerns.

Jay Mattson-hiring is a major focus right now.

Sarah Boleyn-continuing to support child care programs with an increase in challenging behaviors referrals. Lack of staff affecting many child care programs. One more training this fiscal year around CDC Milestones. There will be some virtual trainings over the summer and this fall will be doing more in person with a maximum of 25 providers. A new center will be opening on Monday, Little Stars on Ridgeway. Lots of talk from other folks interested in opening centers but between a lack of staff and lack of resources outside of parent fees, the process moves slowly. A new Statewide Social Emotional Behavior Mental Health (SEBMH) Curriculum Support Specialist Supervisor has been hired. She will supervise two support specialists who have been hired. Two people will be hired as Financial Consultants statewide also.

2. **Additions/modifications to agenda** None.
3. **Approval of minutes of April 1 virtual meeting as corrected** Correction from the last meeting that the Tri-County administrative staff left EMA due to the lease being up. They are working in offices downtown Waterloo until the renovations are complete at the old Hawkeye Metro building that they have purchased. Motion to approve by Amanda McKee and seconded by Jay Mattson.
4. **Need for a new CVP EC Coalition Chair** Brooke Olson has agreed to be our chair moving forward.
5. **CVP report and update**

Annual and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reports will be due to Brenda July 20.

Funding allocations were made at the May board meeting. The bill has still not been signed by the governor, but we are proceeding with contracting. You can expect a contract to e-sign next week.

Preschool scholarship applications are being accepted for services beginning July 1. A completed application and 1 month of paystubs or current year taxes, first page only. The application and income guidelines can be found on the CVP website at cedarvalleyspromise.net or by emailing Brenda. Maximum amount is \$300 per month.

Work is continuing at the state level regarding the merger of DHS and IDPH into the new Department of Health and Human Services.

Work is also continuing in the workgroup Brenda is on regarding a Shared Services model for child care programs across Iowa. The written monthly reports can be found here:

<https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/workforce-support>

ECI was disappointed that we were not approved for an additional 2.5% increase in School Ready funding like we received last year. There was 1 legislator adamantly against this funding. He is not from our area. Our lobbyists will be making a strong push again next year to get this additional funding. While the governor has not signed the funding appropriations bill, the state is moving forward with contracting to each ECI area. The CVP board chair signed our contract yesterday. This is the last year of a formula phase in for the Early Childhood pot of money to each ECI area. We had the double whammy of a loss of funding by formula as well as a population decrease. As a result, we received a 22% cut in Early Childhood dollars. That funding has traditionally been used to fund CCR&R's contract.

Brenda has joined the Iowa AEYC Governing Board. She will also be leaving next Saturday for Cleveland to the NAEYC Professional Development Institute. She will return home last Wednesday night and will be checking her email while she's gone.

6. **MIECHV update** A workforce study will be conducted by I2D2 with the MIECHV workforce.
7. **Shared Visions update** none
8. **Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy** Waterloo hosting an event for Juneteenth. On June 1, LSI staff traveled to the Quad Cities to meet with Grassley's staffer around home visiting reauthorization. Senator Grassley will be making a visit to a family coming up sometime in the next 4 months. Lots of quality initiatives around child care including stabilization and business partnership grants. The new IQ4K has launched and takes more time for the programs to complete. There are opportunities for communities to support items needed for applications.
9. **Early Childhood Health**-Diane has retired and they are in the process of filling that CCNC position. 1<sup>st</sup> Five RFP will be reissued. Partnership with Early ACCESS will begin in October for kids for don't qualify for Early ACCESS to pay for other service providers.
10. **Campaign for Grade Level Reading** The steering committee is continuing to work on defining achievable goals around literacy with a volunteer team. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library has come to our committee with financial support from the Cedar Falls Community Foundation. Families that have children ages birth through 5 years can sign up to get a monthly book. We want to encourage families receiving support services in the area to sign up!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next Meeting Aug. 5</b></p>
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