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

**Friday, December 2, 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**

1. **Early care and education**

**This coalition serves as the community advisory committee for Shared Visions, MIECHV, Campaign for Grade Level Reading and Early Childhood Health.**

**In Attendance:** Brenda Loop, Cedar Valley’s Promise; Joni Spencer, Together for Youth; Sarah Boleyn, CCR&R; Jennifer Gibbs, Operation Threshold; Kaylee Thoma, YWCA; Rachel Oberhauser, Operation Threshold; Linda White, Iowa Total Care; Liz Melcher, LSI; Ed Gruenwald, Grin & Grow; Traci Smith, 1st Five; Jay Mattson, Community United Child Care Center; Sarah Kenkel, Hawkeye Community College; Trebion Wade, Grin & Grow; Stephanie Shavers, City of Waterloo

**Agenda:**

1. **Introductions and Agency Sharing**

Jennifer Gibbs-She has taken the position Jaynie Mason previously had. She oversees PAT, Nest and 3DRP (Diaper Distribution) which is a new program happening with different programs across the state. Families will receive a month’s supply of diapers by completing surveys for an entire year. It is any child wearing diapers so even older kids with special needs who wear diapers. Families eligible are those participating in home visiting. OT is looking to post Jennifer’s previous position in the next couple of weeks. Jennifer will ask if YPT can participate. 3DRP stands for Diaper Distribution Demonstration Pilot Program and is funded by Iowa Community Action Agencies. They are also hiring a Coordinated Intake Specialist. The NEST sessions are posted on Facebook for people who are unable to attend live sessions.

Rachel Oberhauser-will be working with Jennifer on the diaper distribution program.

Linda White-Iowa Total Care one of the managed care organizations in Iowa. Interested to learn more about initiatives happening in the area.

Ed Gruenwald-Grin & Grow-no updates

Jay Mattson-CUCCC still looking to hire additional staff and having rolling classroom closures at Valley Park. They have not enrolled any new children off the waiting list since January 2022. Jay asked about any transportation services for people to be able to get to work. Stephanie said the City does have a “To Work” program. Michelle at One City Momentum is the contact person. One City United 319-334-0263 www.onecitycv.org

Sarah Boleyn-CCR&R-send families their way that are looking for child care even if more and more programs are full. There are fewer programs interested in starting child care especially family child care. The training calendar for the spring will be coming out this month. They are trying to do more face to face but still will have virtual options. December 14 is the child care legislative tour. The career center in Waterloo is getting high school students out getting experience in the field. Car seat fitting station will be happening next weekend at the Cedar Falls fire station behind the Fareway on Greenhill road in Cedar Falls.

Sarah Kenkel-Hawkeye Community College-works to connect students with services. Enrollment next Wednesday for spring that can be completed in 1 day.

Traci Smith-1st Five-have filled the position to take the referrals so Traci can focus on the provider outreach. A lot of the mental health providers they work with have a 6 month wait for children to have an autism diagnosis. A lot of medical providers are not aware of ACES. Sometimes a medical provider referring families to other services are more meaningful and families more likely to seek additional services outside of medical care. She is still doing some training on ASQ3 and ASQ-SE. In this area, they saw 9 times more children with behavioral issues than in the previous year. Some of that may be due to medical professionals asking more about those types of issues.

Kaylee Thoma-Assistant Director of Youth and Family Services at YWCA. Most programming is happening in person now and staff have been hired to be able to provide child care for families attending programming.

Trebion Wade-Grin & Grow-no updates.

Stephanie Shavers-Neighborhood Services Coordinator for City of Waterloo. The city is currently receiving community block funds and still have ARP dollars and are accepting applications.

Liz Melcher-LSI HOPES-staff are getting trained in the LENA Home program which counts verbal interactions with infants and adults in their life. Looking to pilot that in January and February. MIECHV families will be participating in the 3DRP. MIECHV is being voted on at the federal level today. They have 2 open positions they need to fill. They are still taking referrals for home visiting too.

Joni Spencer-YPT-Young Parents Together has between 22-24 families coming each week to the food bank. They will be offering virtual options as well with RSV being so widespread. They are outgrowing the space at the food bank. They have been working with the volunteer center for people to provide child care at the sessions. Participants are able to get gas cards to make sure families can attend. Success Street, school-based health centers, can provide immunizations, sports or school physicals, mental health counseling, STD testing and they can all happen right at the school.

1. **Additions/modifications to agenda**-none
2. **CVP report and update** Brenda shared that she will be sending documents from the ECI Association Annual meeting including FY22 Annual Report and FY23 Legislative Priorities. Brenda shared that the Preschool Development Grant which could have provided up to $30 million to Iowa was not submitted. HHS did not have time to review the application and the Governor’s office stated that there are funds available that could be used for these purposes already within the state. It was very disappointing after the application had been worked on for 2 months. ECI Directors from across the state continue to meet twice monthly on Zoom. There is still a small amount of funding available for preschool scholarships if you know of children ages 3, 4 or 5 in need of a preschool experience. The board will be meeting one week earlier than our typical meeting in January and hope to set the dates for funding for FY24 at that meeting.
3. **MIECHV update**-Jennifer will provide updates moving forward.
4. **Shared Visions**-PAT receives funding through Shared Visions.
5. **Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy**-There are a couple of new programs at the state level providing support about fingerprinting for child care programs that are a digital fingerprint. They are planning to have a site within 30 miles of each area in the state. Financial Management Consultants have been hired across the state through the Child Care Collaborative of Iowa. Two social emotional behavioral health specialists have been hired by CCR&R to provide services statewide. Brenda will be attending the NAEYC Public Policy conference in February and will be making visits to Iowa’s senators and representatives.
6. **Early Childhood Health**-Cindy Wolf has been hired as the CCNC.
7. **Campaign for Grade Level Reading**-continuing to meet and refine initiatives around literacy moving forward

**Next Meeting**

**Feb. 3**