**MEETING MINUTES:**

 **Virtual Meeting**

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

**Friday, February 5, 2021**

**Via Zoom Link**

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

**In Attendance:** Jaynie Mason, Operation Threshold; Ashley Meinhart, Family & Children’s Council; Charletta Sudduth, Waterloo Schools; Jay Mattson, Community United Child Care Centers; Mindy Dolan, Operation Threshold; Linda Jacoby, Cedar Valley Preschool & Child Care; Diane Hoffman, Child Care Nurse Consultant; Brooke Olson, Together for Youth; Carolina Canas, Iowa Total Care; Ed Gruenwald, Grin & Grow; Brenda Loop, Cedar Valley’s Promise; Sarah Boleyn, CCR&R; Amanda McKee, LSI; Traci Smith, 1st Five; Trebion Wade, Grin & Grow; Amanda Kirchhoff, Operation Threshold.

**Agenda:**

1. **Introductions and Agency Sharing:**

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| Ashley Meinhart, FCC | Still working with the hospitals to get referrals for new moms for Coordinated Intake program. No date yet about when they can see new mom’s face to face. Two parenting classes have recently started. |
| Linda Jacoby, Cedar Valley Preschool and Child Care | Children have been enjoying scooping snow outdoors on their playground. Things are going smoothly with other protocols in place. |
| Jaynie Mason, OT Parents as Teachers | Still doing virtual home visits, families are adapting well. Home visitors are doing door drops and the curriculum is online so they are able to share handouts electronically |
| Jay Mattson, CUCCC | Things are going well. |
| Charletta Sudduth, Waterloo Schools | Doing well with virtual registration and grateful for partnership with head start. Looking forward to a new normal next school year. |
| Carolina Canas, Iowa Total Care | Not a lot of traveling or events happening right now. There is a contest for students aged 14-19 years happening now about stopping or not starting vaping. It is going through April 21. There are prizes including cash! |
| Brooke Olson, Together for Youth | YPT is meeting every Monday with a drive-through service at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Classes are being held weekly on zoom and a lot of case management services being offered. The last 3 new participants in YPT have sent private messages through their Facebook page. |
| Ed Gruenwald, Grin & Grow | All the classrooms were recently painted at the center by Corey’s Painting with donated paint and a reduced cost of the painting. Staff are anxiously awaiting being able to get vaccinated. |
| Trebion Wade, Grin & Grow | Starting to get staff hired and on board. |
| Mindy Dolan, OT Nest Program | Still doing all sessions virtually and office is closed to the public. If people are interested in presenting to Nest classes virtually, reach out to Mindy or Rachel. |
| Amanda McKee, LSI | January was the highest home visits completion in 7 months. More worried about the home visitors and maintaining connections. LSI is taking referrals for new families. There is a new number for referrals to all go through Lindsay. Amanda will share the revised flyer when it’s done. |
| Sarah Boleyn, CCR&R | Also worried about the staff at CCR&R as the pandemic continues. Caring for Essential Workers celebration will be happening February 16-20. CCR&R is still doing training but mostly virtual. Two face to face training will be happening in the next 6 weeks with limited participation. Some new trainings are rolling out statewide including All our Kin and there is a new partnership with HCC for a child care center director training. The sessions that have been scheduled are already full. Most contacts with child care programs still happening virtually with a very few limited face to face. Becky Elson retired in December and Kim Tiedt has started in a shared role of child care consultant and training specialist for Black Hawk. |
| Traci Smith, 1st Five | Virtual training still being conducted. Screenings are conducted in cooperation with medical providers and they also do referrals to other services as needed. |
| Diane Hoffman, CCNC | Diane is able to start going out again for QRS visits with child care. Vaccine directives come from the state level. Child care programs are included in the 1B category for vaccines. The state will be reallocating some doses to pharmacies. 50% is supposed to go to people 65 years+ and 50% to child care and schools. Each individual pharmacy has their own sign-up list. |

1. **Additions/modifications to agenda –** none.
2. **Approval of minutes from December 4** Motion to approve minutes made by Charletta and 2nd by Ed. Motion carried.
3. **CVP report and update**

You should have received an email from Brenda with the ECI Statewide Annual Report. It has a lot of great information and recap of the services provided in FY20.

Proposed RFP Process for FY22 Funding:

Board approve RFP format at the March 18 meeting

Release RFP to the public March 19

April 15 board meeting get volunteers for RFP review committee

Accept RFP submissions until April 22

Sub-committee receives RFP documents April 23

Sub-committee meets as needed between April 29-May 7 and have recommendations ready for next board meeting

Board meets May 20 and approves/discusses sub-committee recommendations for funding effective 7/1/21.

Recent information shared that Iowa AEYC will be receiving $7 million from CARES Act funding for the WAGES program. This is a program that provides additional compensation for child care staff based on their education level and experience and the role they work in at child care. Watch for more information from Iowa AEYC or via CCR&R.

Preschool scholarship applications are available now for funding beginning 7/1/21. Families can apply by email or mail. It’s fine if the program needs to help the parent fill out their application. Programs that want to enroll approved children will need to complete and sign a program guideline form. Please share broadly with families and other community partners.

Brenda will be contacting each contractor to schedule a contract monitoring visit. These will occur virtually on Zoom unless a face to face meeting is needed. The plan is to have them all completed by 3/25/21.

1. **MIECHV update –** none
2. **Shared Visions-update –** none
3. **Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy –** Lots of bills have been introduced with the Iowa Legislature. DHS did announce that through CARES Act funding, stipends will be increased and programs will not have to apply anymore to receive them. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is excited to report that we will be continuing to provide the following supports from March 2021 - June 2021. This information will also be updated on the Funding Opportunities page on our website. Unlimited Absence Day Billing for Child Care Assistance (CCA) Families. Co-Pay Reimbursements: Please do not collect co-pays from your CCA families from February 8, 2021 - June 27, 2021. DHS will reimburse you directly. Monthly Stipends: DHS will continue to provide stipends, however, we are making this much easier for you!

Char shared that they’re watching HF 59 about school vouchers.

1. **Early Childhood Health** – Diane shared that she’s very impressed with the child care providers and schools about how well they’ve coped with the drastic changes in the last 11 months. Hoping for a better 2021! Don’t let your guard down yet! There’s a lot less flu and colds this year because of the frequent handwashing and masking at the community level.
2. **Campaign for Grade Level Reading –** We’ve been struggling to secure funding for the program. There will be some changes coming and there will be more to report at the April meeting.

**Next Meeting April 2 –** \*Still meeting 1st Friday of every other month: April and June, 2021