**Virtual Meeting**

**Of**

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

**Friday, April 9, 2021**

**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, and Early Childhood Health.

In Attendance: Sarah Boleyn, CCR&R; Diane Hoffman, CCNC; Amanda Kirchhoff, OT WIC; Joni Spencer, Together for Youth; Ashley Meinhart, FCC; Liz Melcher, LSI; Mindy Dolan, OT; Amanda McKee, LSI; Lindsey Lauck, LSI; Jill Weber, ISU; Jay Mattson, CUCCC; Ed Gruenwald, Grin & Grow; Jessica, YWCA; Jamie Clancy, CVPCC; William Aukes, 1st Five; Linda Jacoby, CVPCC; Brenda Loop, CVP;

Agenda:

1. Introductions and Agency Sharing

Joni Spencer-Manager for Success Street sites for the last 18 months in addition to the TFY and YPT roles. Young Parents Together program is going very well. During COVID, engagement has doubled/tripled and doing curbside pickups and Zoom groups and Zoom help for pregnant teens. Jill White, current coordinator, has really excelled during the pandemic. Contact Joni if there are school-aged kids that are needing immunizations, mental health services, or physicals etc. Adolescent pregnancy prevention programs in the schools are face to face again. Success Street Direct Line 433-2780

Diane Hoffman-you can get signed up for vaccines with local pharmacies like Hy-Vee, Walgreens, CVS, Greenwood, etc. MercyOne 319-272-1111 is the line you can call to get scheduled. Unity Point is also doing clinics.

William Aukes-One of the Care Coordinators had a baby so William is doing some of that right now. Kids have started getting more well child checks scheduled again after pandemic declines.

Liz Melcher-Amanda Mckee-Lindsay Lauck-LSI still operating virtually, will re-evaluate in June. They are still accepting referrals. Group events have been happening successfully virtually.

Jay Mattson-CUCCC No sharing.

Jessica-new Youth and Family Services Director at YWCA. Just had their first Wize Girls session. Enrolling for summer Wize Girls now. English classes are continuing with lower attendance than pre-pandemic. Mondays @ 5 pm, TTh 10 AM, W 6:15 pm. UNI is allowing participants to use Chromebooks for the English language learners. PASS program has lower attendance currently. Two options in person on Tuesdays 12:45-1:45 pm; 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 4:30-5:45 pm. Glenda is the multi-cultural assistance director. She can assist with people needing the English classes.

Ed Gruenwald-Grin & Grow Board has invested heavily in the programming recently. All classrooms were repainted with donated paint from Diamond Vogel. New toys and another classroom were added. Board is also looking at adjusting teacher salaries. Playground relocation may be happening. All staff have had access to vaccines but only 50% took advantage. Curious if other programs had the same type of participation.

Mindy Dolan-Nest is continuing as before, still virtually. Nest Parenting Fair will be occurring virtually. 25-minute time slots on Facebook Live on April 21 and 22. A video can be played if you can’t attend live. Reach out to Mindy or Rachel to get signed up to present.

Jamie and Linda-Cedar Valley Preschool getting ready for the Week of the Young Child with parents, families and staff. In June, they will be doing field trips after none last summer. 2/3 of the staff have been vaccinated.

Amanda Kirchhoff-OT WIC, visits are still being done virtually, that will be re-evaluated at the end of April. Virtual breastfeeding support classes still happening as well as peer counselors. Stephanie Shavers is doing some work with them on outreach.

Jill Weber-Teaching the Serv Safe class for food protection management. $160 class but can get it for free and if working on QRS, it counts toward that. May 10 is the next Serv Safe class and there is space available and scholarships. Contact Jill to get signed up. It is being offered face to face with small class sizes socially distanced. Free garden seed giveaway next week. Virtual food preservation classes happening next Thursday at no cost 10 am and 6:30 pm. ScienceOfParenting website. Sue Roos is now supervising the Buy Eat Live Healthy program and they are hiring an assistant currently.

Ashley Meinhart-Child Abuse Prevention month with blue pinwheels in the yard. Scratch Cupcakery is also providing a special cupcake for child abuse prevention month this year. Started back last week in person at Unity Point and will start MercyOne next week for families that have a new baby. Back in the office part-time. PPF is happening virtually and may continue that way moving forward. They meet Thursdays at 1 pm.

Sarah Boleyn-so much happening at state and federal level around child care. Stipends to child care programs are still happening and application is no longer needed monthly. WAGE$ will be offered statewide now with one-time dollars. This is a wage supplement program for people working in child care settings. Iowa AEYC is coordinating that. More funding will be coming through DHS for start-up, expansion, or urgent needs. Keep watching for more information on that. I-power is the system for signing up and tracking professional development and videos have been released to assist with people getting signed up. Blend of in person and remote work. Some face-to-face visits are happening.

1. Additions/modifications to agenda-none Motion by Brenda Loop to approve agenda, seconded by Diane Hoffman. Motion approved.
2. Approval of minutes of February virtual meeting-Motion to approve minutes by Jamie Clancy and seconded by Jay Mattson. Motion approved.
3. CVP report and update-Brenda shared that she has joined the State Child Care Advisory Board. At the last meeting, the Board heard information from Ryan Page about the additional dollars DHS is anticipating receiving out of the last stimulus bill. Reminder than TEACH is available for both child care staff as well as family support staff that are interested in working on a degree related to their job. CVP joined the association of ECI areas. The president of the association has reported some success with conversations moving toward tying ECI School Ready dollars to the K-12 annual rate increase. This would be good news for funding to be able to plan for modest growth in revenue over time. The CVP Board is meeting on Zoom next Thursday, April 15 at 3:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Any questions around the RFP application can be directed to Brenda. Preschool scholarship applications are being accepted now for funding beginning 7/1/21. Third quarter reports are due to Brenda April 20.

Jay commented that he would like the state level ECI to consider scholarships for infant and toddler care, too, since school readiness starts at birth not at age 3.

1. MIECHV update-none
2. Shared Visions-none
3. Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy-Week of the Young Child is next week. CC&R will be doing things to celebrate. Cedar Valley Preschool will be having an art show at the Cedar Falls Public Library next week for WOYC. May 7 Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. Black Hawk Child Care Coalition met with Ashley Hinson, talked a lot about paying and keeping quality staff. Other members represent businesses which is great to have as advocates. Mary Janssen is on the Governor’s Child Care Task Force. Feeling like there has never been more emphasis on child care. EPI is no longer providing transportation services which were often used for field trips for child care programs. Joni shared that there is an increased need for mental health counseling. The school-based health centers have seen a greatly increased usage. If interested in joining the suicide prevention coalition, it meets 2nd Tuesday at 7 AM. Mental Health Awareness breakfast is coming up in May 14 at 7:30 AM. Joni will share with Brenda to send to the group.
4. Early Childhood Health-Kudos to the child care programs that have been continuing to operate throughout the pandemic. Diane has received lots of questions from programs that she’s never heard from before. Diane is able to go out into programs to complete QRS tools while following some prescribed protocols. The Child Record Reviews have shown that well child checks and vaccinations have declined during the pandemic. We’ll need to advocate to get families up to date. April 24-May 1 National Infant Immunization Week. Emergency Preparedness Plans have also been looked at and with spring there is an increased risk for tornados, high winds etc. Diane is working with programs to update their plans and have “go bags” ready in case of an emergency. Diane is recommending shade structures and outdoor classrooms if there is funding available with this type of big-ticket items. We still need to keep vigilant with handwashing, masks and 6-foot distances. Kudos again to the child care programs that are supporting little ones to remain safe and healthy. Vaccine conversations with some families that are hesitant to get the covid vaccines. Some related to where families are getting their information. Public health is working to dispel myths and false information. Some people will have reactions to the vaccines, but typically mild symptoms that last just a short time.
5. Campaign for Grade LevelReading-due to lack of funding, we no longer have Stephanie as our paid staff position. The steering committee continues to meet and we are making plans for move literacy initiatives forward in the Cedar Valley!

**Next Meeting**

**June 4**

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Loop