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

**Friday, October 11, 2024**

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

**Via Zoom Link**

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83660624797?pwd=YUZiZzVTL3Qyd2doa2hHRWdDS2tJZz09](about:blank)  
  
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:** Sarah Boleyn and Amanda Laity, CCR&R; Brooke Olson, SuccessLink; Brenda Loop, Cedar Valley’s Promise; Ed Gruenwald and Meghan Smith, Growing Minds; Jay Mattson, CUCCC; Cindy Wolf, Child Care Nurse Consultant; Linda White, Iowa Total Care; Christy Weber, HHS; Lindsey Lauck, LSI; Jamie Clancy and Linda Jacoby, Cedar Valley Preschool & Child Care;

**Agenda:**

1. **Introductions and Agency Sharing**

Sarah-C3 Child Care Connect has launched. It has a child care search tool as well as dashboards about supply and demand of child care. 11/8 will be hosting an event about parent services and child care solutions. A new Montessori center, Prairie Rose, has opened in Cedar Falls industrial park. Period of Purple Crying training is coming up and a business class also. Spring training calendar will come out in December. Shared about LSI work with refugee people to become child care providers.

Amanda-leading the new parent services team. Region 2 received the contract for services that began 7/1/24. She gave some information about how the child care referral process works.

Brooke-YPT is for pregnant or parenting teens. They meet weekly at the food bank. They will taking some participants to UNI for a presentation.

Lindsey-Community Baby Shower was held last night. Good attendance, more dads than normal. LSI has started managing the Coordinated Intake program. Elizabeth Kehret and Alisha Hunt are the 2 staff going into the hospitals.

Jamie and Linda-just held their first post-covid family fun night. They have started a 2 year campaign for fundraising for a new roof. They have recently renewed their HHS license, Nature Explore certification, and food program.

Traci-site visit just happened which went well. They are fully staffed.

Cindy-CCNC, recently started some oral health screenings and providing fluoride in licensed centers and registered homes. She is also doing some immunization audits.

Jay-things are going well.

Linda-they are one of the managed care agencies for Iowa’s Medicaid program. They have a smart start baby program happening. There is a new resource called Susie’s Big Day about her first day of school. It is in English and Spanish.

Ed-working on their IQ4K, redid their parent handbook as part of that process. CACFP grant was just received for the 5th time. They just started some community development funding for scholarships for younger than 3 years children from the City of Waterloo.

Christy-is one of 8 staff monitoring registered child development homes across the state. There may be some slight adjustments to service area coverage in 2025.

Jennifer Gibbs was unable to attend and provided a written report. Started attending Parent Pals (coordinated intake) meetings. We got 5 from the first one attended. The 5 referrals were shared between both programs, with several going to both programs. Two of the referrals were outside of Black Hawk County, (Butler & Bremer), and we would not have gotten these referrals without the coordination of Parent pals. This is very exciting because it means that we will easily fill any open spots we currently have. If needed a wait list will be started for home visiting referrals. Resources will be given to any family placed on a wait list that we cannot serve immediately. Resources previous used are currently being updated in all counties served to ensure the most up-to-date information can be given.

Nest will be holding Parent Advisory and Trunk-or-Treat on October 24th from 5-6pm at Operation Threshold. Hot chocolate and Activities. Any agencies that would like to participate in the Trunk or Treat please contact Marissa 319-939-6219.

• Part time position open in Black Hawk for home visitor. Send resume human resources.

• Nest will be looking at new locations and times for in person classes to boost attendance. We switched one class in Grundy County and had a very positive response. If any agencies/organizations would like to host a Nest class at their location, please email Marissa or Jennifer.

• Diaper program will be continuing for the next year (or until funds run out). Actively participating families in PAT will receive a monthly supply of diapers/pullups and wipes for diaper wearing children in the home.

1. **Additions/modifications to agenda**-none
2. **CVP report and update**-The AEYC fall institute was this past weekend. Most of the day on Saturday, Brenda was collecting stories from child care providers which will be shared with their Iowa legislators as well as federal legislators in February for the Days on the Hill. Brenda shared that the state is going to be providing $160,700 in ARPA funding to Black Hawk County for a pilot around coordinated intake. Some of the funds are for staff salaries and benefits but some can be used for family essential needs as well. Things like cribs, car seats, etc. LSI will be the contractor for this work. Wage enhancement group met yesterday. We are doing a lot of data collection first to make sure we have an understanding of what the true need is in Black Hawk County. Brenda will be attending NAEYC in November n California and presenting with other AEYC board members and the Executive Director about board diversity.
3. **Community Plan**-has been submitted. The state will contact us later to set up meetings about the redesignation process.
4. **MIECHV update**-Brynn who oversees these funds at the state level has been part of our coordinated intake meetings locally.
5. **Shared Visions-**none

**Next Meeting**

**Dec. 13, 2024**

1. **Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy**-none
2. **Early Childhood Health**-Cindy is doing a safe sleep training for 78 people later this month. Christy asked when emergency preparedness training was last held. Discussion about whether it should be a center director meeting topic in the future. Cindy is also part of a coalition geared toward emergency health.
3. **Campaign for Grade Level Reading**-2 documentaries are being released. Ne called Make a Circle about child care from the provider’s perspective. The second is called Sentenced about adult illiteracy in America.