**Virtual Meeting of Cedar Valley's Promise Early Childhood Coalition**

**Friday, December 13, 2024**

**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:** Liz Melcher, LSI; Sarah Ross, Tri-County; LaTisha Smith, CCR&R; Brooke Olson, SuccessLink; Steve Rippe and Lindsay Paulsen, United Way of the Midlands; Sarah Boleyn, CCR&R; Christy Weber, HHS; Sarah Kenkel, HCC; Ed Gruenwald, Growing Minds; Elizabeth Crane; LSI; Jamie Clancy and Linda Jacoby, Cedar Valley Preschool; Danya Albert, Monsoon;

**Agenda:**

1. **Introductions and Agency Sharing**

Liz Melcher-they have filled a home visitor supervisor position and Liz Crane has been hired to fill Amanda McKee’s position. Coordinated Intake program is going well with an increase in referrals.

Sarah Boleyn-Child care provider training will be available on i-Power on 1/1 for the entire region. Legislative tour is next week on 12/18.

Sarah Kenkel-spring semester starts 1/9

Sarah Ross-they are interviewing for a home visitor position and a home visitor and some parents are going to the Parent Family Community Engagement conference in California next week.

Brooke-YPT continues to meet weekly. They recently had 2 participants graduate and they are continuing to help by volunteering with the program. They had a family recently experienced a fire so they are looking for assistance for them on their FB page.

Christy Weber-does family child care registration

Steve Rippe-211 helpline manager; working with HHS and CVP to utilize 211

Lindsey Paulsen-211 database manager

LaTisha Smith-Regional Behavioral Health Specialist with CCR&R which is a new position across the state. She is currently working with the consultants and going out on observations to programs about challenging behaviors.

Jamie Clancy-working on a roof fundraiser; they have hired a new teacher as well as a cook. Shoutout to Ed for helping with the CACFP billing since their bookkeeper left.

Ed Gruenwald-recently received their IQ4K rating, just had their CACFP food audit also. They also just had immunization audits and department of labor audit. They are fully staffed now and recently hired a new cook.

Danya Albert-offering local support circles for members of the Asian Pacific Islander community. One will be held this weekend in Dubuque. They are continuing culturally specific trainings as well. They have been getting a lot more referrals lately.

1. **Additions/modifications to agenda**-none
2. **CVP report and update** CVP will be having its redesignation meeting in January. Full details aren’t known yet but typically the state review team has wanted to meet with this group. We assume this will be held virtually. Since we last met, Brenda has attended NAEYC in California where she was part of a panel to talk about Iowa’s process of moving from geographic based chapters to interest areas. She also attended the Iowa Nonprofit Alliance conference in Cedar Rapids and the ECI Association annual meeting. The legislative priorities for ECI were shared at that annual meeting. We are asking for a $3 million increase in funding statewide as well as ECI to be kept as the local solutions provider in Iowa. Brenda also attended the Iowa Women’s Foundation child care summit last month. There are great results from the areas that implemented wage increases in both retaining staff as well as bringing in new staff and therefore increasing the slots available for families. The ECI State team has expanded with the additions of Amanda McKee and Jaci Miller.
3. **Child Care Solutions Fund Workgroup**-Black Hawk is planning for implementation of a child care solutions fund (formerly known as wage enhancements). We have looked at data regarding the number of programs and the number of staff needed to be fully enrolled. We are currently running scenarios with different wage increase amounts to determine the amount of money that needs to be raised.
4. **Parent Pals**-Earlier this fiscal year, the coordinated intake group chose LSI to be the agency to operate the coordinated intake program but there were no ECI funds available to support this work. The state contacted Brenda with the opportunity to be a Thrive pilot site which provided the funding in order to implement the coordinated intake program. This contract began 11/1 and is scheduled to end 6/30/25. There had been funds to also support other family essential needs but that is on pause right now until more clarification is received from the federal government since these are ARPA dollars.
5. **211**-we want to make sure families have access to the services they need. It’s more than just a phone number. There are also impact reports showing what the needs are locally and those needs that are unmet. They would be happy to meet with service providers to talk about how the referral process works.
6. **Community Plan** has been submitted.

**Next Meeting**

**Feb. 14, 2025**

1. **Shared Visions**-no report
2. **Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy** CCR&R will be hosting their legislative tour next week on December 18. There will be a legislative day on the hill for ECI after the session begins. Brenda will be going to Washington DC for the Public Policy Forum of NAEYC in the last week of February.
3. **Early Childhood Health**-Cindy continues to work with local child care programs.