

**Virtual Meeting
Of
Cedar Valley's Promise Early Childhood Coalition
Friday, Aug. 6, 2021
9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom Link**

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 842 3827 9165

Passcode: 359098

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**
- (3) Early care and education**

This coalition serves as the community advisory committee for Shared Visions, MIECHV, and Early Childhood Health.

Agenda:

1. Introductions and Agency Sharing:

- **Mindy Dolan, Operation Threshold:** Nest Facebook Live groups continue to be held. If there is anyone that would like to present in a Nest group, please reach out to Mindy and she'll get you on the calendar. The PAT program has started meeting in person with families who are comfortable with that. PAT is also looking for referrals. Doors are open at OT and seeing people by appointment.
- **Liz Melcher and Lindsey, LSI Hopes Program:** Back to in person based on staff and family vaccination status with a mix of in home and outdoor visits. Hiring for one position as a staff member retired. Always looking for referrals. Child birth education classes offered to public at no cost; families can sign up through a QR Code on the flier that was sent out.
- **Ed Gruenwald and Trebion, Grin and Grow:** Grin and Grow is in a staff crunch. Trying to turn that tide with Board creating incentives for employees including increasing pay and benefits. Closed down this week as a child/parent/family tested positive with Covid-19. Many uncertainties, and trying to make decisions on reliable and safe child care. Hosting a job fair this weekend.
- **Jay, CUCCC:** CUCCC is also facing staffing issues. Thinking about DHS guidelines and staff going back to wearing masks and RSV has increased so mask wearing may be a seasonal decision.
- **Jamie Clancy & Linda Jacoby, Cedar Valley Preschool & Child Care Center:** Going back to masks on Monday, Board has approved this decision for all staff whether vaccinated or not. This is on a temporary basis and will be re-assessed the end of September. A new employee has started who is a Junior at UNI in Elementary Education. Ragbrai event last week was a hit! The children loved it. Cold and flu happening, so discussions with parents about when to bring kids to child care and when they should stay home, and masking.
- **Jessica Ruiz Hemmen, YWCA:** Currently not masking, may change. The summer middle school aged Wise Girls program is wrapping up today and will start again in September. Child care wraps up next week. Lower attendance in their parenting program but thinking it is due to no child care available due to not enough staff to provide care.

- **Diane Hoffman, Black Hawk County Health Department:** House File 847 prevents schools, cities and counties from requiring mask usage in schools. However, as a business it can be recommended to stay open. However, it opens the door to receive criticism about it. The Health Department is giving all three types of the Covid-19 Vaccine. A new clinic August 10th from 3-7 for community at the Cedar Valley Sports Plex. We encourage you to attend. You can go to your family physician for a vaccine as well as UnityPoint Convenient Care where they can both test and give vaccine.
- **Cindy Thompson, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach:** Making sure to respect mask preferences and adjust to local recommendations in serving nine different counties. “Buy, Eat, Live Health” nutrition program is starting up again. Program conducts home visits revolved around nutrition. Also provides nutritious meals and teaching through a 10 session program. Increased funds for mental health through Iowa State Extension. Collaborating with UNI-CUE in September for a workshop. A career readiness program is starting for Latinx teens and their families in partnership with Riverview. A team of three trainers will be offering programming and looking for more community partners. Been participating in story walks in the community as well. Here is the webpage with all of the “Question Persuade Refer” offerings. It looks like there are two coming up in August. <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/QPR>. If you have any families with questions about the child tax credits, they can call the Iowa Concern Line for resources or to talk to a financial counselor. Iowa Concern - 1-800-447-1985. A confidential, free resource answered 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Language interpretation available. Dial 711 for TTY/TDD.
- **Sarah Boleyn, CCR&R:** Agency is back to all staff masking. Staff are masked during face-to-face visits and if homes and child care centers would like staff masked. Virtual programming also continues to be an option. Training is slowly continuing and an in-person training is coming up in September in Deery Center space. Virtual training options are available as well per region and state. There is an I-Power Training Portal that shows available trainings. Child care staff shortages continues to be a crisis in making sure we have the necessary number of staff available and that they are trained. We are here to help support programs.
- **Brooke Olson, TFY:** YPT continues to offer expectant and parenting education groups virtually. Also, drive-thru continues to be offered at the Food Bank parking lot from 4-5 every Monday. We are discussing in-person group one time per month, however this is still in discussion phase. Please let us know if you know an expectant and/or parenting teen aged 19 or younger that would benefit from YPT and call Jill at 319-231-9373. We would love to meet them! YPT will be offering an outdoor field trip at Big Woods with a walk and read on their walking trail and a picnic for families. We also have a Peoples Community Health Clinic provider providing education on the importance of Covid-19 Vaccines at the end of August. We are hosting Back to School events at the Success Street School-based Health Clinics at East, West and Carver. We will also have a presence at Peoples Tent Event and the Antioch Baptist Church Block Party, both being held next week.
- **Amanda Kirchhoff, Operation Threshold-WIC:** Continuing seeing people in person so all sites and clinics are opened up.

2. **Additions/ modifications to agenda:** None

3. **Approval of minutes of June virtual meeting:** Motion to approve by Mindy Dolan. Second approval by Ed Gruenwald. All were in favor.

4. **CVP report and update:** Brenda sent Sarah a CVP Report including the following: FY22 is underway! We were pleased to receive a small increase in school ready funding. This was due to legislative action and moving forward the school ready pot of money is now tied with the K-12 school funding formula. This could mean small, regular increases in that line item. On the disappointing side is that this is the final year of a phase in a formula change for early childhood funds and we had a decrease of about \$45,000 in that pot of money. Additionally, the percentage allowable for administrative expenses in the

school ready funding stream was increased from 3% to 5%. This is particularly beneficial for the smaller population areas who struggled to have enough administration dollars to fund having a local coordinator. For FY21, we ended up with a carryover of approximately \$5000 in School Ready funding and \$28,000 in Early Childhood funding. This is well below the allowed 20% carryover and these dollars will be used toward FY22 financial obligations.

Preschool scholarship dollars have been allocated and we will be starting a waiting list if qualified applications still come in. There may be a possibility with additional funding considering carryover and unallocated funds to enroll additional families.

The following programs have signed agreements and can accept preschool scholarship children: Cedar Valley Catholic Schools, Community United-Nordic, Community United-Valley Park, Community United-Westridge, Grin and Grow, St. Timothy, Hawkeye Child Development Center, and SonRise ECI Directors statewide continue to meet virtually twice a month.

The CVP board is interested in hearing short presentations from contractors at its upcoming meetings. I will be reaching out to each contractor with a date to see if it works for you. We do plan to still meet virtually on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Fourth quarter reports have been posted to the CVP website. I will be working on the annual report when I return from vacation and may reach out for information if needed.

Thanks for all the good work you're doing for children and families in the Cedar Valley!

5. MIECHV update: No Update

6. Shared Visions-update: No Update

7. Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy: Change in DHS Childcare Assistance Rates. Non-registered providers will get the same amount as a registered provider. With the rate being the same, this has frustrated providers. We want families to have quality child care available to them. We want to continue to show families the benefits of having a registered provider. Legislative advocacy is important. Our Governor wants to expand child care and child care options for families but the struggle is the differing requirements and getting paid the same. We use CVP funding to support registered providers and health and safety items have been given to providers getting registered as an incentive and encouragement to meet those requirements. Staffing issues for childcare continues and it's difficult for people to go back to work if there isn't care available for their children.

Jamie with Cedar Valley Preschool shared that the "Wages and Teach Programs" have been great resources for their center in terms of increasing wages of their staff. Program and staff becomes part of Wages as well so their staff can complete it as well.

8. Early Childhood Health-update: Diane shared from IDPH that they will be doing immunization audits with a few people coming in the month of October to begin auditing. Let Diane know if you need help updating your records. Injury prevention and child record reviews are being done with many in person homes lacking in well child exams. August we are getting ready to go back to school so it's a good time to see if your well child exams are up to date. As children enter your child care center or home, this is a good time to ensure these exams are completed. Many illnesses going around centers and homes once the masks came off including 'hand-foot-mouth', 'common cold', 'croup', and 'flu' have increased. Saliva tests are provided through Test Iowa website, Hawkeye Health Center on campus, Peoples Community Health Clinic, or the Ace-Sap clinic. You have to have access to internet, if families don't have access, we can help them in getting their results back. Typically getting test results back within a day or two. Medication trainings face-to-face at the CCR&R office in September with limited numbers. New criteria that has come out under Common Child Illnesses and you have to exclude a person if they show up positive for a minimum of 10 days. Before they can return they have to be fever free and medication free for 24 hours and symptom improvement/10 days after they've taken the test. Healthy Child Care Iowa website includes the guidelines. These guidelines are for adults as well. Masks are

highly recommended whether or not you are vaccinated, (CDC). A mask prevents kids from touching their face and nose.

9. Campaign for Grade Level Reading: No update

**Next
Meeting
Oct. 1**