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

**Friday, June 27, 2025**

**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:** LaTisha Smith, CCR&R; Brooke Olson, Together for Youth; Jay Mattson, CUCCC; Linda White, Iowa Total Care; Sarah Boleyn, CCR&R; Lindsey Lauck, LSI; Ed Gruenwald, Growing Minds; Sarah Ross and Angela Barth, Tri-County; Traci Smith, 1st Five; Danya Albert, Monsoon; Brenda Loop, Cedar Valley’s Promise.

**Agenda:**

1. **Introductions and Agency Sharing**

Jay-No updates.

Linda-No updates.

Brooke-on Monday they will be celebrating their high school graduates.

Sarah R.-3 home visitors have been hired since we last met. Planning for kids that are transitioning from early head start to head start. August pre-service training will be a deep dive into the curriculum.

Angela-they had a huge family event recently; along with the new home visitors a lot of other new staff have been hired which is great.

Sarah B-even without ECI funding, we will still be part of this coalition. Training has been sent for July and August. Training certificates will not be issued anymore; they will be done through i-Power now.

Lindsey-2 open positions for home visitors

LaTisha-regional behavioral health specialists across the state have been working on training for consultants and child care programs around challenging behaviors

Ed-graduation for 20 children was a few weeks ago. They are renovating a new classroom upstairs.

Danya-victims and survivors of domestic violence and trafficking of Asian Pacific Islander families. They have a new office in Dubuque. They have been holding a monthly film series in Des Moines.

Traci-continuing to do outreach

1. **Additions/modifications to agenda**

None

1. **CVP report and update**

Brenda shared that after delays throughout the legislative process, things moved very quickly. A new funding formula was approved at the state level and resulted in Black Hawk being awarded about $156,000 more in ECI funding than last year. Contracts have been issued for services in Black Hawk County beginning July 1, 2025 and are in process of being signed. There is additional funding available. Current contractors have been asked about additional needs. Other community needs will be considered but must be for services included in Tool O which recently underwent changes at the state level approved on June 6. Things that the CVP Board are considering include quality improvement projects for child care programs as well as wage enhancement (child care solutions). We could also increase the funding going towards preschool scholarships. A workgroup has been convened at the state level to discuss moving into districts. Brenda is a part of that workgroup that is meeting weekly. Our contract with the state that has been funding the Coordinated Intake program called Parent Pals administered by LSI has been extended through September 30, 2025. October 1 through the end of the fiscal year will be funded with ECI dollars. There was discussion regarding what will be different with CCR&R services with the funding support moving from ECI dollars to fully HHS dollars.

1. **Child Care Solutions Fund Workgroup**

The group continues to meet and is getting closer to a launch event. Still hoping there might be a match at the state level. We are trying to target businesses who might be interested in contributing.

1. **Parent Pals**

Brenda shared that the person at the state level overseeing these funds is leaving HHS so an exit interview of sorts was held. The state is very happy with the results we have been seeing in Black Hawk with families screened and getting enrolled with services.

1. **Shared Visions**

An RFP was released which was not planned for. Operation Threshold received funding used to support their Parents as Teachers program.

1. **Community Awareness, Education, Advocacy**

The action has moved from the state level to the federal level with lots of things being proposed that would be detrimental to families. Make sure to advocate as you can.

**Next Meeting**

**August 8, 2025**