

Child Development Coordinating Council Minutes November 20, 2013

Attending

Voting Members Present: Mary Groen (chair), Erin Clancy, Lance Roorda (Dept of Health designee), Carla Peterson, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, PegMacek,

Voting Members Absent: Colleen Dunn, Julie Ingersoll, Betty Zan

Non-Voting Members Present: Jeanie Wade-Nagle, Cathy Wheatcraft

Non-Members Absent: Tom Rendon, Tracey Mavis

Staff to Council: Diane Moore and Amy Stegeman

Major Discussion Points

The meeting was called to order by Mary Groen, Council Chair. Lance Roorda was introduced as the new member/representative from Iowa Department of Public Health. Lance is primarily responsible for the family support statewide coordinated intake and a web-based data system through the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) grant.

Approval of September 18, 2013 Minutes

Mary identified that quorum was reached and requested a motion for approval of the September minutes.

Carla moved to approve the September minutes, seconded by Laurabelle; minutes were unanimously approved.

Program Updates: Amy Stegeman, Diane Moore

Preschool:

- All year end reports received, Amy is reviewing for approval
- Second quarter payments have been made.
- Evelyn Davis has hired a new director, Leann Davis. A meeting with Amy was requested by EDELA for introductions. There has also been communication via phone to respond to questions about the grant.
- Homes of Oakridge – has had site visit for NAEYC accreditation. Within 3 months they should receive notification of their accreditation.
- College Community – has sent their candidacy materials, site visit by the end of March should follow.

Parent Support:

- The Data Guidance document has been updated again (version 6.0) shared with all program directors. On future agendas, the Council will learn more about ways staff are planning to increase consistency and accuracy of data collection across all family support programs.
- As staff turnover occurs, work continues with grantees to coordinate transfer of iPads and training on REDcap.
- The Teen Parent Program operated by the United Action for Youth of Johnston County, a Shared Visions (SV) parent support grantee, just received the Iowa Family Support Credential.

Election of Vice Chair (Mary Groen)

Erin Clancy volunteered to accept the Vice-Chair position for 2 years. A voice vote was taken and she was unanimously confirmed. Mary Groen provided a reminder that this position would take the role of Chair after serving a two year term as Vice Chair.

Audit Report Findings and DE Response (Laurabelle Sherman-Proehl)

The Council reviewed a packet of documents that included: copy of the SV audit findings and DE response; copies of news articles about the SV audit findings, and copies of the Iowa Code and Administrative Rules that apply to the CDCC, preschool and parent support grants (IAC 256A, IAC 279.51, Administrative Rules: Chapter 64, Chapter 65, and Chapter 67). It was noted that the audit period was for 2007 – 2012.

A review of the findings and discussion including various comments and questions from Council members resulted in the following recommendations:

- SV programs need to clearly articulate their unique purpose within the realm of early childhood (EC) services. One unique aspect is that it serves the most at-risk children/families. Additionally SV has a big impact on EC special education services, which is especially important due to limited opportunities after a child leaves Early ACCESS. The Council suggested the creation of a table of EC funds and what is unique about each funding stream. This would provide a quick look at Iowa EC services and help explain how SV works to ensure it fills the needs/gaps in Iowa. Suggested for inclusion in this table would be Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs (SWVPP), Head Start (HS), EC special education and include demographics of unserved populations, program requirements, etc.
- Quarterly reporting – the recommendation to meet this law requirement will be complied with in the future and work will begin to update the code and/or administrative rule.
- Monitoring procedures: The DE will discuss the development of procedures to address the audit recommendation of on-site verification visits. The yearend reporting process will be examined and ways to ensure the adherence of low income requirements will be discussed to include seeing how family income is verified by Grantees.

News Articles – some information is confusing as they don't clearly delineate between the audit findings for the K – 3 At-Risk grants and the preschool grants. The council discussed just making recommendations to the legislature rather than to develop a media response.

Impact & Administrative Rules Review (Mike Cormack, Phil Wise)

Guests Mike and Phil each introduced themselves as DE legislative liaisons, with both having experience as teachers and former legislators. Mike is also the current rules coordinator for the DE. He shared the process for making/revising rules and discussed the two methods to make or revise administrative rules: the standard 110 day process or emergency process which is used when there is a shorter time frame due to circumstances that drive the accelerated process, such as a pending grant application. Rule has the force of law.

How can the Council help with recommendations for the DE to respond to the requested rule changes from the SV audit findings? If there is a conflict between code and rule, it was suggested that we change the rule. It is important to make the case for consistency. We can also provide for a transition year to allow for changes and adjustments by the grantees. Change of the statute would have to be addressed in a DE legislative priority, which is generally done in the summer prior to the legislative session. For the Jan 23rd state board meeting, (mid-Dec deadline to get to Mike) they suggested we prepare rule changes by using red print and strike through existing language and red underlining for new wording in the rules.

Preschool Program Standards

At the September meeting, the group had requested a breakdown of preschool grantees by program type. Amy shared the numbers of grantees who are Head Start (32), school districts (55), and child care centers (14).

Program evaluation –The group continued a related conversation on program standards and evaluation from the September meeting. NAEYC accreditation is required by Shared Visions Preschool Grantees per administrative rule. The group is considering other program standards that may be more cost effective for grantees and realize any

recommended changes in this area would require a change to administrative rule before it could be implemented. The group also discussed how to incorporate the use of Teaching Strategies GOLD online assessment system into the application and program planning such as program goals and goal setting for children.

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) State Board meeting

No report

CDCC Member Updates:

Erin – DHS/Childcare. Applicants for program manager for the Quality Rating System (QRS) are being reviewed this week. There are currently 17,200 individuals using the training register.

Mary – AEA Early Childhood Network. This is the last year of the 5 year cycle for verification visits; districts who did not have SWVPP were able to begin a program this year by serving 4 year olds (using tuition or other funding) and will receive state funding in FY2015.

Jeanne – Grant Wood AEA is focusing on determination of eligibility using the existing rules/guidelines and supporting schools to understand other interventions that are not special education. Doing lots of work in coaching and the Distance Mentoring Model for the EA personnel.

Diane – Department of Education. In November the ECI state board had a presentation from Drs. Mark Gray and Michelle Devlin from UNI regarding the diversity of Iowa's EC population (children ages 5 and under). They will present their data just prior to the ECI Alliance meeting on Dec. 10th. Diane will send the powerpoint from the meeting to the council.

Carla – Iowa State University. Graduate level certificate in EC Mental Health is now being offered. Many of the courses will be online. ISU is a member of a consortium of universities, the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance to develop an undergraduate degree in EC (non-teaching). The target population is military personnel who are training to work at Department of Defense (DOD) bases worldwide. ISU hopes to have it going by next fall. The program is 51 hours or 120 hours for a bachelor of science (BS) completion program. Carla sent two briefs on early childhood education via email:

- *Number and Characteristics of Early Care and Education (ECE) Teachers and Caregivers: Initial Findings from the National Survey of Early care and Education (NSECE); and*
- *Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education.*

Amy will forward them to the group.

Cathy W. – Child Care Resource and Referral. The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) module for family child care was piloted in her area. The trainers are tweaking the curriculum and then DE will then do a train the trainer (working with Tom).

LauraBelle: Early Childhood Race to the Top Grant Application. A handout of the summary for the application was provided to the CDCC. Notice of the awarded applications will be in mid-December. LauraBelle also shared that she had attended a Character Counts meeting. The activities/supplemental strategies presented provided complementary supports to PBIS.

Lance: Department of Public Health. Lance coordinates the Statewide Coordinated Intake initiative that is one of the activities funded by the MIECHV grant. The initiative (offering one point of contact for families) has contracted with Visiting Nurse Services (VNS) and is offered in partnership with Early ACCESS. The project starts 4/1/14 with some local areas already piloting the program.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn

Erin moved the meeting be adjourned. Peg seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

Update of ECI State Board meeting – Betty
Review the IQPPS desk audit process
Does IQPPS create better outcomes for kids?
Is it better to invest in CLASS? Review article from Science publication; which variables predict success
Send future agenda items to Amy or Diane
Parent Support information – Janet Horras

Future Meeting Dates

January 15, 2014 – Conference Call, 10:00 – 12:00 noon
March 12, 2014 – In Person (may change to conference call), 10:00 – 3:00 Grimes Building
May 21, 2014 – In Person, 10:00 – 3:00 Grimes Building
July 16, 2014 – Conference Call (optional) 10:00 – 12:00 noon