

Partnerships 4 Families
March 18, 2011

Members present: Patricia Nielsen Jacque Happe, Donna Sutton, Everett Grasty, Jean Stadlander, Amy Carpenter, Sam Graeve, Rod Rowland, Area Director Cindy Duhrkopf

Excused: Chris Polking, David Ohrt, JoAnn Klocke, Cheryl Wichtendahl,

Guest: Trisha Christensen, Jeanie Running, LouAnn Mowery, Katie Riesberg, Paula Klocke

Chair, Patricia Nielsen called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Members introduced themselves and welcomed new members and guests.

Rowland made a motion to approve the agenda, Carpenter seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed by the Board. Graeve moved to approve the minutes as written and Rowland seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Public Input: There was no public input.

Coordinators Report:

Website: Currently researching other alternatives to simplify the updating of the website, with approval from the Executive Committee. Will bring alternatives to P4F Board in April after meeting again with the Executive Committee.

Fiscal Agent and Employer of Record: Currently researching best scenario for the P4F Board fiscal agent and employer of record for the P4F Area Director with direction from the Executive Committee.

Updating Technology: Under the direction of the Executive Committee researching updating of the P4F computer and software, current computer is three years old but running on old software that needs to be updated.

Early Childhood Task Force meetings: Met in February, the focus was advocacy and encouraging families to be advocates for their children. Duhrkopf said the state has encouraged directors to be “educational when speaking to legislators members on work time. Can give more personal opinions to legislators when on own time. “Educate on work time, advocate on personal time.”

Family Support Credentials: Guthrie County Peer Review will be May 3rd, 4th and 5th. P4F Board members who have indicated involvement include Patricia Nielsen and Donna Sutton. Others are welcome to attend the opening meetings on May 4th.

SW Iowa Directors Meeting: Will meet in April, continue work on policies and procedures with other area directors.

H.O.P.E.S. Quarterly Meeting: Held March 2nd, continued training in Every Child Reads with Corey Sebetka as trainer.

Levels of Excellence: The state has released updated forms to be reviewed. Duhrkopf will provide input on them at the April meeting. We won't be reviewed again until December of 2013.

Board Members: Still seeking Guthrie County member from Panora area.

Greene County Early Learning Center: Attended GCELC Board meeting. They are currently waiting on a feasibility study that is being done by the J-S and EG school districts. Once complete they will approach J-S schools seeking answers to long term possibilities.

EIN Number: At the states request we applied for and received a DUNS number, now we are being told we also need an EIN number. Those papers have been filed.

AmeriCorps *Build Our Future*: IEAYC has received funding to provide AmeriCorps positions at child care centers or Head Start classrooms beginning next fall. The Carroll, Crawford and Greene county area is being focused on for one or more positions. Duhrkopf is assisting Ashley Blake, the coordinator, in making contact with local child care centers and Head Start.

On Site Visits to P4F Programs: Made monitoring visits to programs assisting in understanding the new performance measurers and evaluation of their programs.

Tracking Legislation: A great deal of time seems to be spent tracking the legislation. Preschool bill passed the House on March 8th, will now be debated in the Senate. New system would allow vouchers for families making under 300% FPL, but still paying on a sliding fee scale.

Preparations for FY12: Beginning the preparations for FY12 and budget cuts.

Old Business: There was no old business reported.

New Business:

Legislative Session Information: The Senate only made a 6% cut to date for empowerment programs. The House has been voting to make larger cuts. The legislative session may go longer than scheduled. Duhrkopf reported that

many districts are going ahead with their preschool roundup even though no decisions have been made with state funding. Stadlander requested that Duhrkopf put together a fact sheet to share with legislators regarding state preschool funding and continued empowerment funding.

Child Care Program Presentation Information:

Trisha Christensen presented history of the Child Care Program and told the board about her past year of change. She had been certified for playground safety and visits schools and child care centers. Her second goal this year had been to work with child care providers to improve their play environments. Trish has also increased her contact with child care center directors for support and education.

Child Care Resource & Referral Information:

Child Care Consultants:

Katie Riesberg, Audubon, Carroll, Greene
Sheri Stuva, Guthrie

Child Care Consultants are not regulatory in nature. Provide resources and information for child care providers, child care centers and preschools. Work with registered and non-registered providers. This is the first year for the program in the P4F Empowerment Area. In the past this service was provided by the Child Care Program. Also promote child care trainings in the area.

Discussion of Child Care System Information

DHS changes to Registration-Child Care providers have to now register in Des Moines instead of locally. There will probably be a central Training Registry also in the near future.,

Additional requirements to Centers—criminal background checks and additional policies

Training for Child Care Providers

Other Opportunities for Child Care Providers: TEACH, AmeriCorp

Other Business: Duhrkopf instructed the board that she put a copy of the state agenda in their packets. The state empowerment board is looking at making some changes which may include that 75% of new enrollees in intensive home visiting program must meet one of several criteria. She said that all of our programs would currently meet the criteria. There was no other business presented. Stadlander announced that she has been asked to serve on the state empowerment board and would like the board's support.

Financial Report and Business:

Vouchers: Rowland moved and Grasty seconded that vouchers be approved. All voted in favor.

Next Meeting

April 15th, 2011 at 10:30 in Coon Rapids. The executive committee will meet prior to the meeting.