

Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) Minutes

February 5, 2025

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Kimberly Villotti, Tonya Krueger, Beth Van Meeteren, Jessica Burger, Shelley Horak, Heather Rouse

Voting Members Absent: Vacant Position: Head Start parent

Non-Voting Members Present: Teri Orr, Monica Garner, Ami Leath

Non-Voting Members Absent: Sharon Burke

Staff to Council: Marianne Adams, Amy Stegeman

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

Welcome and Roll Call

Chair Kimberly Villotti called the meeting to order and asked members to introduce themselves via roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PROGRAM UPDATES

Marianne Adams stated there was no update regarding the Shared Visions FY26 grant cycle. Regarding the ongoing FY25 Shared Visions grant, she stated third quarter payments were processed in January, mid-year reports were submitted by grantees to report expenditures for the first two quarters of the fiscal year and staff are in the process of reviewing reports. Marianne said Shared Visions Preschool programs are required to complete three checkpoints in GOLD according to the state-determined dates. The winter checkpoint is scheduled for February 24, 2025 and staff have completed a monitoring check to ensure grantees are meeting this requirement.

Marianne then noted data needed from non-district grantees related to the creation of unique state ID numbers has been collected. Staff have reviewed the data for accuracy and will next work with internal staff to ensure state ID numbers are created and added to child profiles in GOLD.

GROUP UPDATES

Early Childhood System Updates

Kimberly Villotti asked the group to share Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) updates.

Shelley Horak noted ECI is busy making changes but has no conclusive updates to share today.

Heather Rouse said she has been working on some new data collection tools and revision of indicators for i2D2 - Iowa's Integrated Data System for Decision-Making. A new data drive 2.0 is being planned. There is not a definite release date but it will have more data from all programs and indicators across the state. Heather noted they are excited to share the new maps. Shelley Horak noted Heather and her organization are a key player in the ECI system and those new indicators will help Health and Human Services (HHS) with their supervision and community involvement. Kimberly asked if Heather had a timeline and Heather shared they may have some preliminary data in the summer; however they are trying to ensure the system is properly vetted.

Member Updates

Tonya Krueger shared there is ongoing construction at the Iowa Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) University of Iowa location. She noted some things may be relocated both temporarily and long-term. Tonya added she had the year-end review for the CHSC and would share it with the Council via email after the meeting. Kimberly Villotti asked Tonya for an update on the ACHIEVE website family portal. Tonya shared the rollout will be in late February and will allow parents access to information regarding their child's Individualized Family Service Plan (ISFP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP). The goal is to allow parents the opportunity to engage with the services provided to their child.

Beth Van Meeteran shared an invitation for early childhood educators to apply for the [STEM Scale-Up Program](#). She stated they are looking to get more Head Start centers involved. Beth shared a brief overview of the kit and what was included.

Jess Burger shared Area Education Associations (AEAs) continue to have conversations on how to grow consistency of services and they are beginning to discuss early childhood service delivery.

Ami Leath noted with the legislative session ramping up, school districts have been reaching out to AEAs for more information. She also stated she was invited, alongside some of their administrators, to meet with every school district in their area to discuss funding and offer services. She noted early childhood is one of the most frequently mentioned components being advocated for and there is a desire for it to be funded.

Teri Orr noted Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) is striving to increase communication with providers. She also shared they had some incredible legislative events in Black Hawk and Decorah Counties leading to some very good conversations. There is another upcoming legislative event on February 12, 2025.

Monica Garner touched on the dashboard mentioned earlier by Heather Rouse. She noted when Head Start programs do a community assessment every five years, data can sometimes be cumbersome to gather. Therefore, she is working to make data collection proactive rather than reactive. Monica and others are also trying to come up with a long-term data plan to help figure out what Head Start programs need on a local level.

Shelley Horak noted the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) funds are able to fund things such as cell phones and diaper banks. She praised Abby Patterson and her work relating to Early ACCESS. Kimberly Villotti asked Shelley about the navigation services for Thrive Iowa. Shelley described using coordinated intake, getting people into home visitation and providing resources and referrals, as well as empowering people to find the resources they need.

Heather Rouse shared the [Iowa State Innovative Digital Education Alliance \(IDEA\) page](#) and gave an overview of how students can enroll with Iowa State but receive access to all kinds of programs, classes and professors from other universities within IDEA. She specifically noted how early childhood educators could benefit from the Early Childhood B.A. program.

Kimberly Villotti shared the Department of Education has been offering awards and grants through a partnership with Career and Technical Education. They announced another nine Credentials to Child Care Careers Grants (C4) awardees yesterday. Thirteen districts have established a program between a local high school and a child care center to offer students childcare work hours. The partnership allows students to work through the high school course and gives them the ability to earn a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. The aim is to benefit students and grow the early childhood workforce.

Kimberly then noted an upcoming professional learning opportunity in April titled Preschool Foundations. Next, she mentioned the current legislative session and watching for bills that could be related to early childhood. Jess Burger asked if there was a possibility the responsibilities of this Council could change if different funding sources were blended together. Kimberly said it was a possibility but she did not have any specific details.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

Connections with Stakeholders

Marianne Adams reminded the group each member determines which messages to share out to contacts after each CDCC meeting. She encouraged members to continue to come with updates to each Council meeting.

The group discussed the future meeting schedule briefly. The next meeting date is to be determined.

Adjourn

Kimberly Villotti adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.