

Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) Minutes

April 15, 2025

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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

Voting Members Absent: Heather Rouse, Vacant Position: Head Start Parent

Non-Voting Members Present: Teri Orr, Sharon Burke

Non-Voting Members Absent: Monica Garner, Ami Leath

Staff to Council: Marianne Adams, Amy Stegeman

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION Item

Welcome and Roll Call

Kimberly Villotti, Chair, called the meeting to order. She asked members to introduce themselves and their roles/agencies. Kimberly Villotti confirmed group members were attending from various locations via Zoom.

Public Comment

None.

ACTION Items

- September 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- November 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- February 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Kimberly Villotti introduced the action item to review each set of minutes separately and determine whether edits were needed. She suggested voting could then occur as a package. No changes were requested.

A motion was made by Beth Van Meeteren to approve the meeting minutes. Tonya Krueger seconded the motion. The roll call vote passed unanimously.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

Program Updates

Marianne Adams updated the group stating fourth quarter payments to grantees were processed in April. She then shared mid-year reports from grantees that were reviewed and approved. Grantees received a reminder this is the last year of the grant and any funds not spent will need to be sent back to the Department. Marianne next reminded the group Shared Visions Preschool Programs are required to complete three checkpoints in GOLD according to the state-determined dates. The third

checkpoint is scheduled for June 2, 2025. She then noted data from non-district grantees related to the creation of unique state ID numbers had been collected. Staff have reviewed this data for accuracy and are working with internal staff to ensure state ID numbers are created and added to child profiles in GOLD.

Kimberly Villotti shared a state-level summary of legislative updates, including those that affect the Council and Shared Visions. She shared updates from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) webinar covering high-level information regarding HF 623 and SF 445. Kimberly shared the HHS slide deck noting the Department added slides with information regarding the Iowa Department of Education.

In the legislative update slide deck, Kimberly noted Early Childhood Iowa's main purpose was serving children and families and the importance of the work. She discussed some of the highlights of HF623 and SF445 which launches the Early Childhood Continuum of Care grant program. This grant is intended to provide up to three years of funding for providers of Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programming (SWVPP) and child care center providers to collaboratively create a full-day continuum of care for preschool-aged children. The \$16 million grant is to be funded with existing state Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) and federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) wrap around child care funds implemented through streamlined ECI areas. These areas align to the proposed seven behavioral health regions. Kimberly noted many of these programs relate more closely to HHS and gave Shelley Horak the opportunity to expand upon them. Shelley noted most of these are still in development and requested questions to be directed to her team.

Kimberly then discussed the updates, to date, related to expanding the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) to include independent community-based providers. All SWVPP providers would receive the same student aid amount for four-year-olds, programs must follow SVWPP assurances and requirements and must implement preschool program standards and comply with reporting responsibilities. She also covered the shifts related to at-risk funding to result in more Shared Visions Preschool awards. These grants will continue to serve children and families meeting risk factors. Eligible applicants must be approved SWVPP providers. Grant awards will be for three years and governance and administration of grants will be by DE.

Kimberly then discussed some of the proposed Department of Education responsibilities including creation of a new high-quality accountability system, a review of child learning and program standards and development of evidence-based professional development opportunities.

Kimberly shared the preferred contact emails for where questions can be submitted. Answers will be posted on the DE website and responses will be updated every Thursday. She offered a brief exploration and overview of the relevant webpage on the Department of Education website.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

Group Updates

Early Childhood System Updates

Kimberly noted many of the updates for ECI were reviewed in the legislative update and asked members if they had anything new to share.

Members

Shelley Horak gave an update on Early Intervention and Supports and told the group it is undergoing many changes. She noted with the proposed legislative changes to ECI, there is an opportunity for HHS to have districts with which to promote primary prevention. ECI is working through the

opportunities within the new geography. Shelley also discussed the proposed changes on state funding for home-visits.

Beth Van Meeteren asked Shelley Horak how the new areas are being created. Shelley noted that the behavioral health districts are established by other criteria and the districts apply to HHS. She stated these districts may be urban or rural and differ in diversity and population size; these factors will all be taken into consideration.

Beth Van Meeteren shared this is the University of Northern Iowa's second year working with All About Balance as part of the STEM Scale-Up work. She stated they received a lot of positive feedback for body balance with kids and are seeing significant improvement in kid's mobility.

Teri Orr shared an update from Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R). She noted some agencies are looking to hire more consultants and her agency is fully staffed. CCR&R is currently looking at all of the different local agencies and determining their needs. She noted CCR&R is able to fund all of this through HHS grants. CCR&R is also in the process of planning a provider appreciation day.

No other member updates were provided.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

Connections with Stakeholders

Kimberly Villotti encouraged members to think about communication messages the Council wishes to share with their stakeholders. Marianne Adams noted the next meeting will be April 30, 2025.

Adjourn

Kimberly Villotti adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.