

# Child Development Coordinating Council Minutes

**Meeting Date:** July 19th, 2023

**Meeting Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Meeting held via zoom

**Voting Members Present:** Tonya Krueger, Kimberly Villotti, Heather Rouse, Jess Burger, Shelley Horak, Bebi Manns

**Voting Members Absent:** Beth Van Meeteren

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Teri Orr

**Non-Voting Members Absent:** Julie Lang, Ami Leath, Monica Garner

**Staff to Council:** Marianne Rodrigues

**Staff to Council Absent:** Amy Stegeman

## INFORMATION /DISCUSSION ITEM

### Welcome and Roll Call

Due to state alignment changes, PJ West is no longer assigned to serve on the Council. As vice chair, Kimberly Villotti conducted the meeting.

Kimberly Villotti welcomed everyone and reminded the group this meeting was intended to be informational and offer updates, with no action items scheduled. She then asked for a roll call and for members to share their names and agencies they represent with the group.

### Public Comment

**None.**

## INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION ITEM

### Orientation Meeting

Kimberly Villotti said that members, both new and current, will be offered orientation options to learn about the Council, their role, and the work. Kimberly opened the floor for discussion of a time that would be best for members. New members indicated that a separate meeting, after 10 a.m. would work best. Staff will reach out to members and coordinate the orientation.

## **INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **Chapters 64 and 67 Consolidation**

Kimberly Villotti introduced this topic by reminding the group that Chapters 64 and 67 govern the Council and Shared Visions Programs. She then stated Executive Order 10 was signed into law this year by Governor Reynolds. Executive Order 10 puts a moratorium on the development of new rules and requires the review of current rules to remove duplication and reduce unnecessary regulations.

The group paused this topic with the decision to continue the agenda item when legal representative Thomas Mayes joined the meeting.

## **INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **Consideration of By-Laws Update, Chair- Person Vacancy**

Marianne Rodrigues stated that with the formation of Iowa Health and Human Services and code changes, membership on the Council went from nine voting members to seven voting members. The CDCC Bylaws will need to reflect those changes. Changes based on code will be presented to the Council for review and approval at the September meeting. With these changes, there is a chair vacancy. Iowa Administrative Code (rule) does not specify how unfulfilled terms will be addressed. Therefore, the Council can consider how to address the need for a new chair. One option could be to have the current vice-chair move into the chair position early and elect a new vice-chair. Both would begin a new two-year term. Another option could be to elect a new person to the chair position and while the current vice-chairperson remained in their role. The Council may also consider other options as desired.

Member Shelley Horak expressed her support to have the current vice-chair move into the chair position and elect a new vice-chair. Tonya Krueger mentioned that this option is preferable with the current grant work ahead, stating that a seasoned chair would be helpful. With this option confirmed by the group, discussion transitioned to the desire for someone to volunteer for the vice-chair position by contacting staff indicating interest prior to the September meeting. Both individuals would need to be introduced and voted on during the September meeting with both positions beginning a new two-year term. Marianne noted that according to the current CDCC Bylaws, after the two year commitment, the vice-chairperson would move into the chairperson position.

## **INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **UPDATES**

#### **Shared Visions Preschool and Parent Support**

Marianne Rodrigues stated the Council advises the Department on the implementation of the Shared Visions Programs per the role given in Iowa Code. Therefore, updates related to Shared Visions Programs are provided to the Council each meeting. She went on to mention that the FY24 state appropriation has been signed into law. The funding for Shared Visions Preschool and Parent Support programs remains status quo – the same as the previous year.

Marianne shared information on renewal applications and year-end reports. Shared Visions grantees, both preschool and parent support, must submit a renewal application for funding in years two - four of the five-year grant award. Applications have been received and most have been reviewed and approved

with some still pending. FY24 Shared Visions grants will be moved to underway in IowaGrants making them active grants as reviews are completed and applications are approved. As mentioned, one exception for preschool programs is with Community Action of Eastern Iowa, which has two grants. The grantee elected to not submit a renewal application for the program located within Wittenmyer Head Start. This means the Council will need to discuss reallocation of the funds no longer being used to support the Wittenmyer program. This will be added to the September agenda

Year-end reports are also required from grantees annually. Reports outlining services in FY23 are due in early August. The reports will be reviewed upon submission and data will be analyzed to ensure accuracy; then it will be used to inform the annual report to the Governor.

The Council is required to submit an annual report to the Iowa Legislature and the Governor per Iowa Code. The FY23 Annual Report may use a similar template to the FY22 Annual Report unless the Council has a desire to make any alterations. The draft report will be ready to review by Council members in September.

The group paused at this point to welcome Thomas Mayes to the meeting and moved back to the topic around chapter consolidation related to Executive Order 10.

## **INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **Chapters 64 and 67 Consolidation**

In continuation of the discussion related to Executive Order 10, legal representative Thomas Mayes joined the meeting to discuss the consolidation further.

Thomas stated that the Governor is making it a priority for the State of Iowa to only regulate when necessary and as much as necessary. Staff is determining whether there is any outdated information. Chapters 64 & 67 have little outdated information as it was reviewed recently.

Thomas added the second part of the consolidation is to see if there is duplicative information. There are items in both chapters that reflect back on the statute. If they are both stating the same thing verbatim, the Governor's guidance is to reference that statute.

The third aspect of duplication is when two administrative code chapters regulating the same type of activity have the same common terms.

The Governor also has asked the IDOE to review overly restrictive terms such as shall, may not, must, prohibit, require, and restrict. Thomas went on to suggest striking requirements that don't add value.

Thomas deferred the first look to those in the IDOE and the Council who understand the work the best. He suggested Council members provide their initial thoughts to IDOE staff so there will be something to discuss in upcoming meetings. Staff to the Council will provide more information for review prior to the September meeting.

## **INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **UPDATES**

The group continued with the program updates agenda item. Marianne shared a summary of the State of Preschool survey released by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). It provides an in-depth look at state-funded education for 3- and 4- year-olds nationally and in each state with a focus on enrollment, spending, and 10 policies that support quality education. Marianne pointed out there is a specific section of the report as it outlines Iowa's two state-funded preschool programs: Shared Visions and the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. Council members will receive an email link of the survey following the meeting.

Staff have been working with the University of Iowa this past spring to do an analysis of the Shared Visions grantees' goals and the progress updates shared in their year-end reports. The goal is to use this analysis to help determine if effective strategies are being used to gather information about program goals, if the right questions are being asked in Iowa Grants, if reporting options should be altered, etc. The University of Iowa data analysis has been completed and results are to be shared in September.

Marianne wrapped up the Shared Visions update by giving information on the competitive grant work. Shared Visions Program grants are awarded on a five-year competitive grant cycle. Programs awarded a grant in year one may renew the grant on an annual basis for another four years pending the annual state appropriation. The Council is given authority in Iowa Code to develop criteria for and award these grants. The development of the application and the associated criteria will be a major part of the Council's work over the next year and a half in order to be prepared for the release of the next competitive grant application. Now that Council membership has shifted slightly and all members have been identified for FY24, staff will reach out to all members with a request to complete a confidentiality statement and opt into the work related to the competitive grant. There are a few members who may have conflicts of interest with the expectations of their employment and required work tasks and may choose to opt out of this work. This will be part of the information sent and members can alert staff of this conflict. Based on responses and confirmation of participation, conflicts of interest, and confidentiality; the Council will continue with the work related to the application development in September.

Kimberly offered an example of roles that may have a conflict and how the appeal process can be impacted.

## **Legislative**

Kimberly Villotti said that agencies are still working on Executive Order 10. Agencies are working to implement SF 514 which shifts government configuration and how the work is organized. It outlines how leadership within the agencies will be changed and has reconceptualized how state government will be organized.

## **IDOE**

Kimberly Villotti shared that the Iowa Department of Education has a new director. Director McKenzie Snow comes from the Virginia Department of Education and joined the IDOE on June 26.

IDOE also had a shift in the organization of bureaus within the Department of Education. The Early Childhood Bureau was previously organized under the Chief of Staff and is now within PK-12 Learning under Division Administrator Kim Buryanek.

Lastly, Kimberly shared the new logo for Iowa state government agencies which was revealed July 18, 2023.

## **Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) System/ Group Participation**

Shelley Horak, from Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS), stated that HHS is trying to develop a more strategic approach to services for care and resources within the agency. ECI might look a little different under the service alignment, yet there is an intentional effort to ensure early childhood topics and services remain. HHS is also assessing other programs as well.

Heather Rouse discussed her work as the co-chair for the Results Accountability work group. This group evaluates the current systems and related data. She gave updates on their study about the child-care workforce which will be coming out soon. They are also working with Janet Horras and the support team to see if there are any other factors or variables that need to be addressed in the home visit space.

## **Members**

Heather Rouse said the Early Childhood and Family Policy Graduate Certificate available at ISU was scheduled to be implemented in Fall 2023 but now is scheduled for Spring 2024.

Teri Orr stated CCR&R is continuing to work on and manage Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K). Training reimbursement through HHS has been a great support to programs. This fall they will start working on the RFP that will be coming out. They have also been working within communities to discuss and identify childcare needs. Lastly, she commented on the great partnerships and support that is offered by ECI in their area.

Jess Burger shared an update regarding the Childcare Alliance Response team, an ECI program housed at Grant Wood AEA. They are getting ready to survey Child Care Directors and home providers in order to be creative in offering resources and professional development support.

Tonya Krueger explained some of the programs that are part of the Division of Child and Community Health (DCCH) and Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) as part of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and the Stead Family Department of Pediatrics. She sent staff additional information to send to Council members after the meeting.

Shelley Horak stated her previous update related to ECI was the most relevant information for this group. She then shared that early intervention and support is thinking about developing a referral process that works effectively for child protective workers. She anticipates having more information to share at future meetings.

Kimberly Villotti shared that the alignment occurring within IDOE has meant the addition of three organizations joining and the construction of a new division. Also, work continues to finalize budgets and work from FY23 and ensure FY24 is off to a good start.

Bebi Manns commented that she did not have an update at this time and that she is excited to learn more about the purpose of the Council and the related work.

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **Connections with Stakeholders**

Kimberly reminded staff to take time to consider information and messages that members can carry out to the field and other stakeholders. She also reminded members to be thinking about updates for the coming meeting. She commented that two messages members can consider carrying forward include the information shared by Shelley regarding ECI remaining in place and that rule revisions are intended to ensure efficiency.

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **Agenda Items for Next Meeting: September 21st, 2023**

- Competitive Grant Work
- Updates
- Annual Legislative Report
- CDCC By-Laws
- U of I Data Analysis
- Reallocation of funding
- CDCC Chair vacancy

Marianne reminded group members of the orientation and that information related to reimbursement will be provided.

Meetings will be held from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. at the Grimes Building for voting members, with a Zoom option for CDCC community representatives.

Upcoming meetings:

- September 21, 2023
- November 16th, 2023
- February 29th, 2024
- April 5th, 2024

Vice Chairperson Kimberly Villotti adjourned the meeting at 11:38 pm.