

Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) Minutes

Meeting Date: Dec. 21, 2023

Meeting Time: 10 am - 3 pm

Voting Members Present: Kimberly Villotti, Shelley Horak (via Zoom), Jess Burger (via Zoom), Tonya Krueger, Bebi Manns, Beth Van Meeteren (joined in-person at 10:15 a.m.)

Voting Members Absent: Heather Rouse

Non-Voting Members Present: Terri Orr, Sharon Burke, Julie Lang

Non-Voting Members Absent: Monica Garner, Ami Leath

Staff to Council: Marianne Rodrigues, Amy Stegeman

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

Welcome and Roll Call

Kimberly Villotti, Chair, called the meeting to order. She acknowledged this is Julie Lang's last meeting with the Council and welcomed Sharon Burke who will be the representative for Head Start Directors in future meetings.

ACTION ITEM

Adoption of the Agenda

Kimberly Villotti asked members if anything needed to be added to the agenda. No items were added and Kimberly asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Tonya Krueger moved to approve the agenda. Bebi Manns seconded. The vote was unanimous to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEM

September 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes and November 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Kimberly Villotti gave members time to review the September 2023 minutes, then asked for a motion to approve them. A motion was made by Beth Van Meeteren and seconded by Tonya Krueger. Members voted unanimously to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes.

Kimberly then gave members time to look over the November 2023 meeting minutes. Jess Burger moved to approve the November 2023 minutes and it was seconded by Bebi Manns. The members voted unanimously to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes.

ACTION ITEM

Required Meetings in Bylaws

Kimberly Villotti described clarification received regarding which meetings count toward the required four per year as outlined in Iowa Code. Past practice has been to only count meetings where a quorum was present. Clarification received from the DE legal counsel now allows for meetings to count when a majority of voting members is present. In this case, voting members could not take action without a quorum present, but discussions could occur. Amy Stegeman explained the current Bylaws state a meeting will not be considered one of the four required meetings when a quorum is not present. She asked the Council to consider the clarification provided and whether they would like the Bylaws to stay as is or be altered. Amy Stegeman offered a link to the current bylaws in the Zoom chat so that members could review the current version (page 4 of the CDCC Bylaws).

Tonya Krueger suggested pausing on the issue and touching base after the Council has more meetings as a smaller group. Jess Burger echoed this idea. Kimberly Villotti asked the group if they had any issues pausing and waiting on this topic. The group expressed no problem with tabling this issue.

No action was taken on this item.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION Item

Updates: Preschool and Parent Support Programs

Kimberly Villotti asked Marianne Rodrigues to offer program updates.

Marianne stated second quarter payments went out to Shared Visions grantees in October. All grantees who had unspent funds at the end of FY23 could carry the funds over. Carryover funds are to be spent before new year grant funds can be utilized. Next year, as the final grant year in the cycle, unspent funds are returned to the state.

Marianne spoke about mid-year reports and stated that grantees will be asked to report in IowaGrants this January. She reminded the group that Shared Vision Preschool grantees are required to complete three checkpoints in GOLD during the year. The first checkpoint was November 17th. Staff have confirmed that grantees are completing this checkpoint. Data needed to create a unique state ID has been collected and reviewed for accuracy. Staff will work internally to ensure state ID numbers are created and added to child profiles in GOLD.

Amy Stegeman provided an update on the implementation of ReadyRosie. She showed members a snapshot of the program data to highlight the impact the program is having at the grantee level. She also described various features of the ReadyRosie engagement tool and

reminded the Council that it is designed to strengthen connections between the classroom and home. Participating families are able to utilize the program to build capacity in knowing how to foster learning for their children in language, literacy, and many other areas of development.

Continuing with updates, Marianne reminded members Shared Visions programs are required to meet one of three program standards; one of which is NAEYC Accreditation Standards. NAEYC has recently announced new accreditation tiers and criteria that will be launched in September 2024.

Updates: Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) System

Kimberly Villotti shared that work has moved forward on maintaining the child care management system that has been put in place to assist child care programs. On January 5, there is an ECI State Board meeting.

Shelley Horak added that during the January 5 meeting, she will give a presentation on the direction ECI is going for early intervention and support. As a team, they are moving forward with a model for prevention that includes ECI. This will include three different lines of service including an early childhood line, a family support line and community line of service. Kimberly asked Shelley to give the same presentation to the CDCC in February.

Terri Orr shared that the ECI re-alignment is going to happen with more information to come soon.

Updates: Member

Shelley Horak stated Health and Human Services (HHS) is trying to maintain connections to other prevention programs. This includes a community of practice for prevention as well as branding around what prevention means.

Terri Orr shared that Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) is continually working on quality in childcare spaces. Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K) is a different process than the previous quality rating and improvement system and takes programs a bit longer to achieve a level within IQ4K. CCR&R is working with local communities who have received wage-enhancement dollars through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and directly applying these funds to local centers and childcare providers. CCR&R is in the midst of responding to a request for proposal (RFP) from HHS. Also, real time data on vacancy updates can now be found on the CCR&R web site. Lastly, the salary scale just rolled out as a direct result of the recent Iowa Child Care Workforce Study.

Sharon Burke stated the Iowa Head Start Association (IHSA) is working on planning a spring conference for April 2-3, 2024. Most Head Start Programs across the state are working on comments for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on supporting the workforce and consistent

quality programming. Those comments are due January 19, 2024. Sharon said the proposals include wages and benefits that support the workforce, aligning wages to be closer to what school districts are paying, offering paid Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), retirement benefits, and mental health resources for staff, as well as revamping eligibility guidelines.

Jess Burger reported she has heard so much from Area Education Association (AEA) staff about the excellent services students are receiving from Head Start in the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) area. She shared the AEA staff is always looking for more spots available for children to attend this excellent programming. Jess shared she has been having a lot of conversations with district preschools, including their community partner sites, to consider offering more full day programming to families who are experiencing some of the risk factors, but not qualifying for Head Start or when enough spots are not available.

Tonya Kruger said University of Iowa Hospitals is acquiring Mercy Iowa City and there will be a new downtown campus for University of Iowa called University of Iowa Medical Center Downtown Campus. Also, there is expansion in the Sioux City residency education program and serving more lowans in urgent care facilities in the Quad Cities.

Beth Van Meeteran said university enrollment numbers for early childhood teaching majors are down but this may be due to the pandemic. The good news is that student numbers seem to be increasing.

Kimberly stated that the Department of Education is preparing for the legislative session. The Early Childhood Bureau is also preparing several legislative reports for review in January. One of the things being reviewed is the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan. Some of the work they are doing includes annual desk audits for preschool programs, readying the Early ACCESS Annual Performance report for Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), and preparing for an OSEP audit. In other news, she pointed out that there are four vacancies in the Early Childhood Bureau that they are looking to fill; three vacancies in the early childhood special education space and one in the statewide preschool space.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

Agenda Items for February Meeting

Kimberly Villotti introduced the topic of February agenda items. Marianne Rodrigues stated that in February, the group will continue talking about grant work and share the CDCC Annual Legislative Report. The Council was asked if they had an interest in learning more about the Iowa Workforce Study. Members expressed interest in seeing that presentation. In addition, Kimberly asked Shelley Horak to give an update and overview of the current status of HHS.

The Council broke for lunch at 12:10 pm and resumed at 1:00 pm. Those members who have opted out of grant work due to a conflict of interest left the meeting at this time.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

Grant Work Cycle

Members reviewed alignment of Iowa Code and administrative rule with the Shared Visions Preschool application, then prioritized content to guide work during the next meeting.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

Connections With Stakeholders

Kimberly Villotti encouraged Council members to think about stakeholder connections and content being communicated from each meeting.

Adjourn

Kimberly Villotti stated the next meeting will be February 29th and adjourned the meeting at 3:13 pm.