

**17<sup>th</sup> Early Childhood Iowa Congress Retreat**  
**April 13, 2009**

Present: Barb Merrill – IAEYC; Gregg Cummings – Iowa Head Start Assoc.; Shanell Wagler – Iowa Dept. of Management, Empowerment; Deb Scrowther – Iowa Dept. of Management, Empowerment; Jenny Hodges – ECI, IDPH; Brian Fett – IAEYC; Nicole Neubauer – CCR&R; Jane Stockton – IDPH; Cathy Wheatcraft – CCR&R; Tom Rendon – Iowa Head Start Collaboration; Gretchen Hageman – ECI, IDPH; Dawn Collins, Susan Anderson – Head Start, Lisa Sams – First Childrens Finance; Kelly Davydov – Prevent Child Abuse Iowa; Jeff Anderson – Iowa Dept. of Human Services; Lois Kiester – DMACC.

Shanell opened the meeting with a review of the introduction that was used in the last Congress program.

Purpose:

1. Reference # 3 – unify early childhood in Iowa
2. Results, Relationships, Resilience
3. To see ourselves as a part of EC in Iowa & that we align with their goals
4. Developing strong leaders – how do we accomplish that? Intentional
5. In & between local & state leaders – coordinate efforts between the two
6. Collaboration between local & state entities
7. Provide higher level information overall
8. Overall purpose statement: have opportunity go outside your current ‘box’  
Learn more about other part of system
9. Congress vs Conference: provide examples, connection to another part of collaborations
10. Connect – what we think they need & what they think they need.
11. Remind people of larger picture.

Context.....address in various products shared.

Gretchen & Jenny: Review of the 4 Ovals

- Ovals evolved out of 5 results areas.
- Respectful of each system; recognize the overlap of each area
- Integration, collaboration, coordination, overlap
- Building understanding

Kelly: Review of Survey Monkey

Opened up for discussion:

1. 56 responses – many were quite lengthy
2. The group meeting today is basically a central Iowa group, but with travel restrictions, many people ask someone from Des Moines to represent them on the committee
3. Question 4: What do you see as the primary purpose of Congress? Generated a lot of interesting comments, a few didn’t understand.

4. Question 5: How well has Congress fulfilled this purpose? If the response had been high under Completely or Nearly Completely, then we should interpret that to mean that we had reached our goal & there's nothing new to do.
5. Some wanted to know more about the theme so they could come prepared to talk to their legislators.
6. Many positive comments
7. Suggested we continue to have workshops on the one day, and plan some other meetings on either side of that day.
8. Roundtable discussions should be included for follow-up
9. Webcast keynotes? Record the keynotes?
10. To encourage return of evaluations & name badges - give them a CD/DVD of the speakers' handouts.
11. Webinar could be a follow-up.
12. Opportunities for networking areas at the Hotel
13. Tuesday evening's social hour worked well because people were waiting for the dinner/speaker.

Deb: Hot Topics

1. Theme, keynotes, breakouts
2. Calling the question – breakouts notes – steps
3. FCC Regulations – role of system to support
4. Divide again between pre-school vs child care; funding & policy division
5. Family support
6. Impact of economic recession on children & families (social, emotional, mental health)
7. Collaboration improves efficiency
8. Stimulus package/data impact sustainability
9. Efficiencies of collaboration
10. Evidence-based practices – tools for participants
11. Diversity of our population (Council); workforce & families
12. Engaging new partners
13. Leadership development/accountability

Tom: Theme Discussion

1. Relation with Resilience Leads to Results
2. Linking Together for Results, Relationships, & Resilience
3. Calling the Question – Exploring the Economic Impact of Diverse Groups
4. Quality Counts: Inspiring Leadership & Professionalism through ECI (4 Ovals for picture – Results, Relationships, Resilience ) Subtitle: Supporting our Youngest Iowans & Their Families
5. Quality Counts: Inspiring Leadership & Professionalism Through the 3 Rs

Deb & Jenny: Day on the Hill/Advocacy Results Desired from Congress

1. Overall, heard really good comments

2. Appreciated bus & opportunities to visit with legislators
3. Instructions on the web site could encourage contacting legislators ahead of time; possibly even some “how to” guidelines in the DOH section of the brochure
4. Priority card connects ovals to results areas – share that information ahead with legislators
5. Overarching theme
6. Encourage localizing one message – bring your own data & stories
7. Reformat Priority card
8. Use ECI framework as talking point
9. Training piece – Fall ECI meeting
10. Geographic areas could meet in a workshop/work areas in large ballroom before/after a keynote speaker – Sheila could share her information; some work could also be done at a stakeholders meeting

Cathy: Keynote suggestions

1. Richard Weissbourd – author: The Vulnerable Child (resilience area)
2. Michelle Obama? (Barb will contact)
3. Governor Chet Culver – welcome
4. Dr. Christopher Okishi, Pediatric Psychiatrist; specializes in ADHD, Univ. of Iowa
5. Deborah Greenwald
6. Steve Barnett – NEER, research & data
7. **Dr. Robert Anda – CDC**; child abuse, domestic abuse, ACE Study (Tom Rendon will contact)
8. Dr. Jack Shonkoff – has turned us down a couple of times; he doesn’t speak to state meetings
9. **WestEd speakers – ie. Ron Lally** - strategies for infant/toddlers; preparing a documentary – 3 areas in the country, one in Iowa - area near Cedar Rapids (Beth Walling will contact)
10. Tom Schultz – formerly with Head Start, PreK Now; now with CCSSO (Council of Chief State School Officers)
11. PBS – (CESFL)
12. Samsa - Project Launch – comprehensive coordinated care for 0 – 8
13. **Robert Dugger** – Barb heard him at NAEYC, economist – Am. Bankers Assoc. (Shanell Wagler will contact)
14. Julia Kaufman –
15. **Geoffrey Canada** – social activist; reason for hope; long-term vision (Susan Andersen will contact)
16. Alma Powell - America’s Promise (Iowa’s Promise) (Colin Powell’s wife)
17. Stephanie Fandel – good speaker, but very NC focused; NAEYC President

Shanell: Workshops

- Out of time, so encouraged everyone to give some thought to the topic & who can present.
- Limit to 3 speakers for any one workshop.

- **Send workshop suggestions to Shanell before the next meeting.**

Barb: Timeline

2010 Congress will be a Monday & Tuesday, February 1 & 2; Wednesday has been requested for DOH.

Suggested meeting more often for a half day.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 12**

Stakeholders will meet from 9:00 am to 12:40 pm at Botanical Center  
Congress will meet afterwards at either CCR&R office or at the Capitol

**Location TBD**

**Time: 1:15 – 4:00 or 4:30 pm**

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Submitted by

Lois Kiester