

17th Early Childhood Iowa Congress committee planning meeting

October 23, 2009

Present: Gregg Cummings, Lisa Sams, Jane Stockton, Debra Scrowther, Sheila Hansen, Cathy Wheatcraft, Barb Merrill, Jenny Hodges, Nicole Neubauer, Brian Fett-Jones, Dara Madigan, Gloria Cano, Kelly Davydov

Excused: Tom Rendon, Marcy Schertz, Brian Fett-Jones, Gloria Cano, Jeannette Luthringer, Susan Andersen, Dawn Collins

Proposal: Barb, Tom & Shanell met yesterday & proposed that the Congress be postponed until 2011.

Reasons:

Staff may not be able to travel or professional development.

Head Start/IAEYC Conference did not make the money that it has in the past; enrollment was a little smaller.

Will Congress numbers be lower too?

Several conferences around that time – PCA,

Shanell & Tom would like a recommendation from this Committee to take to the ECI Co-Chairs.

What does this mean for DOH?

Cathy W said R&R will have limited travel & no out-of-state travel. 18 attended Congress last year, and that many wouldn't be able to come this next year.

Think about: state employees, Empowerment staff, Head Start staff

Barb, Shanell & Debby talked yesterday about still doing something for DOH; travel will still be a problem. They will be sending their stories early. Would it be possible to set them up in the Capitol, without anyone to be there to talk to the Legislators? Possibly local people could attend.

Empowerment areas are not thinking about going anywhere.

Jenny mentioned that IDPH may not pay for a large group this year.

Barb – move ECI to Tuesday, free location, no lunch; feed into DOH

Deb – could the two be done on the same day? Possibly ECI meeting at the Historical Bldg.

Karen Thelin reminded Barb to think about Congress & what you want to provide/accomplish.

CCR&R roundhouse was cancelled recently

Family Support programs are being cut

Kelly D – more than likely to reduce PCA Iowa conference to one day

QRS has been suspended by DHS

PROS to HOLDING Congress:

1. It's planned; speakers in place.
2. Keeping the MOMENTUM going, even in tough times.
3. Wallace Bldg, & Lutheran Church close to the Capitol - FREE.
4. Scale down.
5. No food.
6. Might be even worse in 2011 – this could be a farewell.
7. DE is still planning to contribute \$5,000.
8. Package deal with ECI meeting & DOH

CONS to holding Congress:

1. Cost to get out of everything – approx. \$5,000 - \$8,000
2. Continued added stress to early childhood programs
3. What would happen if no one comes?
4. Empowerment funded programs won't have funds to send people
5. Limited travel & funds for professional development.

The ECI Congress Committee recommends to the ECI leadership that the 2010 Congress be postponed until 2011.

1. Proceed with DOH
2. Schedule ECI Council with DOH as planned
3. Ask hotel to apply all/part of deposit for date in 2011
4. Work with ECI Co-Chairs /PE/PD to keep momentum moving ahead

Unanimous vote in favor of sending this recommendation to the ECI Co-Chairs.

LOIS : Try to work out deal with hotel whereby we pay 15% with 10% to be applied to the next conference in 2011; we will hold our conference at their facility in November 2011 (FY12).

Next ECI meeting is November 5. Plan to meet with ECI Co-chairs on November 6.

Meet at Barb's office – 8:00 am

Send note out to committee with results of co-chairs meeting.

Sheila – Coalition for a Better Iowa

Iowa Fiscal Partnership with Child & Family Policy Center

Held a summit in September to look at tax loopholes, things that are costing the state money

\$45 million/year to large corporations who don't pay taxes in our state, but get tax credits, & don't have to report

Some get checks for \$8-10 million

Tried to cap at \$250,000

John Deer, Rockwell Collins, DuPont/Pioneer

Toys R Us have accounts set up in Caymen Islands – so don't pay taxes here

Iowa Human Needs Advocates meet every Friday during the Legislative session; 9:00 am at Capitol

Not in session – meet at Lucas Bldg., 6th Floor

Messages will be sent out through Every Child Counts

GOOD NEWS:

Gregg was on a conference call with new head of Head Start office in DC; she is interested in visiting Iowa to see the impact of Head Start in Iowa.

Barb – NAEYC Public Policy Conference (same dates as scheduled Congress) – Sen. Harkin has been asked to speak

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.