

16th Early Childhood Iowa Congress
Committee Retreat
Airport Holiday Inn
April 11, 2008

Present: Jane Stockton, Sheila Hansen, Ann Stewart, Shanell Wagler, Mary Schertz, Tom Rendon, Barb Merrill, Diane Moore, Jenny Hodges, Cathy Wheatcraft, Wendy Sullivan, Dee Fischer, Lois Kiester, Dawn Collins

Theme:

Goal is to have rough draft of purpose statement by end of the day.

Key words: quality, professionalism, leadership

End result: improving quality

How is the Congress helping ECI achieve their strategic objectives?

Tom distributed copies of the ECI Leadership Agenda & Strategic Progress Report.

Broke into small discussion groups to discuss a purpose statement for Congress, using & connecting the 5 result areas.

Operative theme: Quality Counts: Inspiring leadership and professionalism in Iowa's early care, health and education system – the 16th Annual Early Childhood Iowa Congress

Purpose statement thoughts:

Gathering to learn

To move forward with common goals & vision

Across care, education & health

Collaboration

Effect policy

System

Integrated

Catalyst

Leadership – Congress designed for leaders

Learning for Leaders

Encourage cross-disciplinary awareness

Interaction, networking & relationship building

Challenge to attract the “community” leaders in early childhood

EC Leadership: why important – result areas

Rural & Urban context for leadership

Inspire system-building leadership

Promoting awareness of professional workforce (educators, ce providers, family support, health community)

Promoting integration & continuity across the system of various initiatives

(PBS – classroom, family, mental health)

thoughts for workshops:

- contextualize initiative w/ positive system
- system document - concentric circles
- diagram on wall & handout in packets; shared w/ presenters

Move forward goals of ECI

Day on the Hill:

Jenny distributed information sheet describing ECI Congress & Day on the Hill, and the Public Engagement Component Group; common goals between the two groups.

Sheila remembered Abby Zooman (sp?) & Taj from the Children's Defense Fund & the enthusiasm they brought

Challenge to come together on issues because the audience/ profession is so varied

Tom suggested one-page crosswalk w/ key issues from each group

One or two workshops could be specific to legislation, but generally the Congress workshops give the audience information & reason for system building

State agency reps who are not allowed to lobby can attend & provide support for the programs that are there and technical assistance to those who want/need to talk to their legislators

Challenge also to try to align what the state departments see as their priorities with the participants of Day on the Hill

State's agenda may not be the same as the needs in the local communities; how do we support the local needs

How do we get input from local communities?

Time Frame for Congress

Feb. 9 – Stakeholders meeting in the afternoon; exact time TBD

Feb. 10 – Full day of Congress

Feb. 11 – Day on the Hill w/ displays at the Capitol; keynote speaker over breakfast at the hotel

Keynotes

Possibilities for Tuesday evening: 0 – 3, Bill Gates, Rob Reiner – have not reached

Consider business speaker

Max Phillips suggested that Shanell contact Roxanne Conlin to make a contact w/ Bill Gates

If 0 – 3 group doesn't pan out, Barb suggested trying West Ed people

Wednesday – Jack Shonkhoff NA, Julie Coffamn NA

Barb had conference call w/ Valora & Stacie, which was a little challenging

They wanted to know where Iowa is with their system building, is everyone in agreement, etc. Think about what you want/need to do to get to the next level.

Cost: \$4,000 plus expenses for full day which would include Keynote & up to 3-hour block for breakout (4-5 hrs presentation)

ECI Panel might be a good general session

Inspiring PBS speaker? – they have a book for parents

Membership of Congress Committee

Currently do not have

AEA – Mary Schertz will search for someone

ISU Extension – Shanell will contact JaneAnn Stout

Urban Education Network – Charlotte Suddeth (Mary Schertz)

Iowa Family Child Care Assoc

Iowa Assoc Community Action Agencies,

Child Care Providers Together – Union (Barb Merrill)

Economic Development
Business
Higher Education – EC Alliance (Tom Rendon)
Local Public Health Admin/Boards of Health
Parents
Providers – Linda Bartels, Bright Horizons (Dawn Collins)
Religious Community
LEA/Local Government
Do we have enough R&R, Empowerment?
I CAA - Lana Ross (Sheila Hansen)

Future Meeting Dates

9 am – 11 am

September 9, 2008 (Tuesday) – ECI Stakeholders meet in the afternoon at Child Serve

November 14, 2008 (Friday) - DMACC

January 29, 2009 (Thursday) -DMACC

February 6, 2009 (Friday) – Stuff Packets

Workshops – 1 Hr. 15 min.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

8 – 8:15 Welcome

8:15 – 9:15 Keynote

9:15 – 9:45 Panel – Reaction?

9:45 – 10:00 Break

10 – 11:15 Breakout Session

11:15 – 12:30 LUNCH

12:30 – 1:45 Breakout Session

1:45 – 2:15 Break

2:15 – 3:30 Breakout Session

3:45 – 5:00 Breakout Session

Breakout Sessions

Assignments were made for contacting speakers for the breakout sessions.

The list is attached.

Tom, Shanell & Barb will start working on overall purpose, and theme.

Each member is to work on a description of purpose for the breakout session they are working on.

Purpose statements about workshops are due to Lois by **June 20**.

2009-2010 Congress Dates & Locations

February – unpredictable weather

- during Legislative session so could possibly plan an event w/ legislators

November – gives Sheila time to attend sessions

- Mary suggested that one day is really packed & doesn't give you time to process & reflect on the sessions
- It's nice having 2 days for Congress
- Majority liked the idea of a November Congress

Lois will check with the Airport Holiday Inn for November 9 & 10, 2009 (MT) and November 12 & 13, 2009.

Manda Fisher confirmed and is holding Monday & Tuesday, November 10 & 11, 2009 for us.