

Name of Group: Governance, Planning, and Administration

Date: May 12, 2008

Responsibility of Group:

The Governance, Planning, and Administration component group addresses issues related to the governance, planning, and administration of Iowa's Early Care, Health, and Education System. This group is responsible for designing and overseeing the implementation of governance, planning, and administrative structures that integrate the six system components to ensure that the results in the Strategic Plan are achieved.

Activities include:

- Serving as the point of accountability to assure that the Guiding Principles adopted by the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders permeate the products and processes used by all of the Components of the Early Care, Health, and Education System
- Securing professional development opportunities (such as cultural competence and results based accountability, etc.) for the Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders as system development work continues
- Promoting effective collaborative leadership among the identified system components
- Ensuring that strong partnerships at the local level are formed and supported

Recent actions:

The governance component group continues to work on **diversity** issues and **structural** issues.

Diversity

Following a succession of activities since September 2007, the Governance group has created a draft of a Diversity Issue Brief that identifies five diversity gaps: Readiness Gap, Participation/Access Gap, Cultural Competency Gap, Workforce Gap and Leadership/Decision-Making Gap. The brief includes potential strategies. A presentation on the gaps was made at the February stakeholder meeting. Our next step is to create a diversity advisory committee to help us with developing and implementing an action plan to address these gaps. That meeting will be Wednesday, May 13.

Rules

The Iowa Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) has taken the lead in developing administrative rules to support encoding of ECI into Iowa law. The governance component group helped in earlier drafts of the rules including assuring that Head Start Act language was inserted that assured ECI could function as the State Advisory Council for the purposes of that legislation. IDPH sought input from the State Agency Liaison Team of ECI and the ECI stakeholders. Governance helped process the feedback and responded to subsequent drafts. The rules are now in final form and being reviewed by the Attorney General's office. They will be submitted for approval by the Public Health Board on Wednesday.

The Governance group also provided input into the new Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant submitted by IDPH. We have proposed establishing a parent council to serve in an adjunct capacity to the stakeholders to assure parent voices are part of system decision-making.