

Name of Group: Governance, Planning, and Administration

Date: Sept 11, 2007

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:

- We are very excited about our diversity symposium scheduled for Wednesday, September 26. It is being jointly presented by Early Childhood Iowa, Drake University and the Iowa Department of Human Rights. It looks to be a very full and rich day. Our purpose with the symposium is to begin a conversation on diversity and how Iowa's growing diversity shapes its early childhood services. We hope this also opens the door for new relationships that will allow ECI and individual early childhood programs to be more inclusive and reflect the growing diversity of the state. In the breakout areas, we are also going to exploring how the ECI strategic goals look when observed through a diversity lens.

We hope everyone is registered since the deadline was September 10th. If not, we may still be accepting registrations. Please contact the Tom Rendon (tom.rendon@iowa.gov) or Michelle Stover-Wright (michellesw@cfpciowa.org) for registration information.

- On July 5th, the Governance committee sponsored a full-day retreat looking at early childhood governance systems. Participants, who included the co-chairs and key constituent groups, reviewed a number of state models for such systems and discussed the pros and cons of each. The four models were:
 1. Create a new state agency or department that incorporates functions from two or more existing agencies
 2. Move or coordinate programs/functions from different agencies within an already existing agency
 3. Create a new entity with resources that is housed outside of existing agencies
 4. Leave functions in existing agencies and create a cross-agency leadership structure to unify policy and implementation

The discussion included two key issues: funding and authority. The day concluded with some next-steps recommendations by participants for the Governance group that we will begin addressing this fall.