

Name of Group: Governance, Planning, and Administration

Date: Sept 23, 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

Two key action items stemming from our successful Early Childhood Diversity Symposium last fall symposium were diversity training and specific actions to integrate diversity into the work of ECI. In March, we hosted an action planning retreat to provide a more focused look at how we view the work of all the component groups through the lens of diversity. Those plans are now moving toward implementation. In the training arena, we presented some material from the Annie E. Casey Race Matters curriculum at the June stakeholders meeting and used that as the basis for making adjustments to our strategic plan. There will continue to be more diversity training events at upcoming conferences such as the Iowa AEYC conference on October 10-11 and the ECI Congress on February 11.

Structure

Following the passage of new legislation that formally established ECI into Iowa Code (SF 2525), we are addressing a number of issues raised in the legislature such as the appropriate coordination of ECI council, cross-agency/multidisciplinary component groups, the council steering committee and the State Agency Liaison Team, the writing of a required annual report and continued work to implement effectively the strategic plan. Last month we gathered a larger group at our annual ECI Governance Retreat to discuss system assessment and develop an action plan for the issues raised by the assessment (more on this will be presented at the September stakeholders meeting).