

Name of Group: Governance, Planning, and Administration

Date: February 3, 2010

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, Rules and other documents governing the operation of Early Childhood Iowa are followed.
- 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

The third meeting of the ECI Diversity Advisory Committee took place on January 6th, 2010. The groups work plan is organized by five identified "diversity gaps" in early childhood systems:

1. school readiness gap
2. access and participation gap
3. cultural competency gap
4. workforce gap
5. leadership gap

At that meeting, the group discussed Iowa's Multi-cultural/Gender Fair Legislation led by Tom Anderson from the Iowa Department of Education. The group discussed data needs from a diversity perspective and revised its working definition of diversity to guide the efforts and focus of the advisory group. Future efforts to produce an early childhood focused cultural competency list for professional development purposes was also discussed and a smaller working group will be moving ahead with these efforts.

The group will meet again in April and continue with a quarterly meeting schedule.

Parent Council

The governance committee is planning a parent focused summit to be held in October of 2010. This summit will bring together parents of children 0-5 and ask for their perceptions regarding Iowa's comprehensive early childhood system in areas of health, early care and

education, family support and special needs. Their input will be used when considering the work of ECI and future planning efforts. From that summit a Parent Advisory Council will be convened to assure ongoing feedback to ECI from a parent perspective.

A planning group for the summit will begin meeting regularly in March.

Rules

As previously reported, ECI has also received formal recognition from the governor that ECI is the state advisory council for the purposes described in the Head Start Act (cf. Sec. 642B(b)(1A)).

The governance committee continues to provide some input into the application for Early Childhood Advisory Council funding now available from the Office of Head Start to fund ECI activities.

State/Local connections

The governance group is also considering how to strengthen the connections and communication between the ECI Council and local system building leaders and efforts. This includes the more intentional identification of local needs/strengths and how ECI can respond and share lessons with the rest of the system.

The Governance component group welcomes thoughts, ideas or involvement in any of the areas of work outlined here. Please contact Michelle Stover Wright (michellesw@cfpciowa.org, 515-274-3749) or Tom Rendon (Tom.rendon@iowa.gov, 515-242-6024)