

Early Childhood Iowa
State Agency Liaison Meeting Minutes
June 11th
8:00-9:30
Lucas Building – Room 142



Attendees: Shanell Wagler, Jane Borst, Bill Brand, Laurabelle Sherman-Proehl, Michelle Stover Wright, Mary Nelson, Debra Waldron, Tracy Rodgers, Gretchen Hageman, Emily Berg, Jenny Hodges

Early Childhood Advisory Council

Early Childhood Iowa was officially named the State Early Childhood Advisory Council by the Governor as part of the Head Start Reauthorization Act language.

ECI Rules

- The SALT group provided input on the rules at the last meeting, the rules were discussed at the May 13th Board of Health Meeting, were accepted by the Administrative Rules Committee on Tuesday June 9th, and will go to the Board of Health again in July.
- There was a suggestion to clean up the rules by distinguishing between the work and role of ECI and Empowerment.

Empowerment Lean Design

- Empowerment will be hosting a “Lean Event” the second week in June to re-look at how they do their work....what’s working well and what’s not. A pre-event was held in May where approximately 45 people attended and helped set the agenda for the June event. An outside facilitator is being used for this event who has experience strictly in facilitating “lean” events. A re-cap of the findings will be held on Friday June 19th at 10:00 a.m. in the Jesse Parker Building. All are welcome to attend.

ECI funding opportunities

There are currently many different early childhood grants coming out such as the Early Learning Challenge Fund, Teacher Quality Partnership Grants and a grant around a centralized data system. We need to assure coordination among these grants.

Early Learning Challenge Fund

- This initiative would provide competitive grants to state educational agencies or agency who administers the early childhood programs (DE), for the development of a statewide infrastructure of integrated early learning supports and services for children, from birth to five.

- Awarded states would be required to develop and establish a system of research-based metrics and measures for addressing essential aspects of program quality.

Teacher quality grant

- A new opportunity for federal funding to improve early childhood educator preparation, including compensation, mentoring and coaching. More information can be found at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-12180.htm>.

ECI Advisory Council

- Applications due August 2010; however early applications will be accepted and approved as they are submitted.
- This grant total is up to 500,000 with a minimum of a 70% match requirement for a three-year grant period (Q & A form around these grants provided by the National Governors Association).

ECI Diversity Advisory Group

- The ECI Council Diversity Advisory Group had their first meeting on May 13, 2009. The work of this group builds off the past ECI Diversity Symposium and Retreat. Michelle provided co-chairs with draft follow-up handouts from the meeting, which included the strategies, outlines and tasks from the meeting. Attendees looked at the overall system and work within ECI and came up strategies and next steps for incorporating their work into the system-building efforts of ECI and the component groups.
- The group will meet again at the end of July/beginning of August. An invitation will be forwarded on to the team.
- If you have any feedback on the strategies provided, email Michelle at michellesw@cfpciowa.org.
- Next steps: Input will be obtained from each of the component groups to assure strategies/tasks are incorporated with our work and strategic plan. Tom and Michelle will be meeting with the new DHR director – Preston Daniels to discuss the work of ECI and doing presentations to all divisions within DHR.