

Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) Minutes

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting held via Zoom due to COVID-19

Meeting Attendance

Voting Members Present: Erin Clancy, Taylor Drake, Ashley Harvey, Tonya Krueger, Carla Peterson, Beth Van Meeteren, Kimberly Villotti, and PJ West

Voting Members Absent: Julie Allison

Non-Voting Members Present: Monica Garner, Julie Lang, and Ami Leath

Non-Voting Members Absent: Lora Patton

Staff to Council: Marianne Rodrigues and Amy Stegeman

Administrative Assistant: Celina Turner

Information/Discussion Item

Welcome and Roll Call

PJ West called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

PJ West welcomed the Council members and asked them to introduce themselves and their organizations/representation on the Council.

Public Comment: None

ACTION Item

Review and Approval of November 2020 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November 13, 2020, meeting were reviewed. No edits or corrections were suggested. Beth Van Meeteren motioned to approve the minutes. Kimberly Villotti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Information/Discussion Item

Annual Report to the Governor

Marianne Rodrigues informed the Council that the [Annual Report to the Governor](#) has been officially posted on the Iowa Department of Education's (Department) website on the [Legislative Information](#) page as well as the Shared Visions [Preschool Program](#) and [Parent Support Program](#) pages.

Marianne Rodrigues reminded the Council that during the November 2020 meeting, the Council expressed interest in sharing the Annual Report with a broader audience. She asked the Council for input and suggestions on how the Annual Report should be distributed and who should be notified once it's posted on the Department's website.

Carla Peterson suggested sharing the Annual Report with a broader group of educators through the AEA network and the School Leaders Network. Kimberly Villotti commented that she's planning to share the Annual Report with the AEA Early Childhood Leadership Group's State Coordination Team. Erin Clancy suggested sharing the Annual Report through Early Childhood Iowa's (ECI) Monday Musings. Ami Leath similarly suggested sharing the Annual Report through Early ACCESS's Wednesday Wonders. Taylor Drake commented that the Annual Report should be shared with the parents and families of the children served by the Shared Visions programs. She stated that some parents won't know about the Annual Report unless it's shared directly with them. She commented that parents can be some of the best advocates for the Shared Visions programs, so sharing the report with them is important.

Amy Stegeman took note of the Council's suggestions. She commented that while the Annual Report is shared with all Shared Visions grantees, the Department should better communicate with the grantees about the ways in which they can share and distribute the Annual Report. She encouraged the Council to share the Annual Report with their contacts and colleagues.

Marianne Rodrigues noted that the current template of the Annual Report has made it difficult to not only edit the report but to also meet 508 compliance requirements. Amy Stegeman and Marianne Rodrigues met with the Department's Communications staff for suggestions and feedback on the report template. The Communications staff recommended that the Annual Report be moved to a new template. Marianne Rodrigues asked whether the Council is open to using a new template for the Annual Report. The Council agreed to use a new template for the next Annual Report. The Council will review template options during the April 2021 meeting.

Information/Discussion Item

Use of \$5,000 Held by CDCC

Marianne Rodrigues discussed the \$5,000 held by the Council. During the November 2020 meeting, the Council approved the use of these funds to support professional development opportunities for all Shared Visions preschool program grantees. Subsequently, the Department created a contract to support any of the preschool program grantees' staff or administrators in participating in professional development opportunities.

Marianne Rodrigues informed the Council that an email notification was sent to all Shared Visions preschool program grantees regarding this professional development reimbursement opportunity. Three subsequent email reminders were also sent to all grantees. Marianne Rodrigues stated that three grantees have contacted her with questions; however, no reimbursement invoices have been submitted by the grantees.

Marianne Rodrigues assured the Council that she and Amy Stegeman will alert the grantees of any upcoming professional development opportunities. She also reminded the Council that the Council's prior recommendation to use these funds to support the contract with Teaching Strategies GOLD is still active. Any remaining funds not used to support professional development opportunities can still be used to support the contract with Teaching Strategies GOLD.

Information/Discussion Item

Review the Duties of the Council: Duty #3

During the November 2020 meeting, the Council decided Duty #3 of the [Duties of the Council](#) needed further review. Marianne Rodrigues reminded the Council of the Primary Eligibility Requirements as well as the Secondary Eligibility Requirements specific to Shared Visions.

Review the eligibility requirements on Slides 9 and 10 of the [meeting presentation slides](#).

Monica Garner suggested reaching out to Heather Rouse with I2D2 to see if she could present on the data I2D2 has collected related to this duty. Beth Van Meeteren suggested formally establishing a collaboration between I2D2 and the Council so that I2D2 can provide information and data to the Council on a regular basis. Amy Stegeman responded that she will reach out to Heather Rouse about a possible collaboration between I2D2 and the Council.

The Council reviewed the [ECI Needs Assessment](#) and the [map](#) of Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs (SWVPP), Head Start programs, and Shared Visions programs. This map shows that three Iowa counties—Mitchell, Worth, and Hancock—do not have programs serving at-risk children.

The Council determined the next steps for this duty must include connecting with Heather Rouse as well as reviewing [child care assistance providers](#) and [QRS programs](#) to determine whether quality programs are available in the areas where at-risk children are in need of services. The Council also recommended the Department analyze Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL) data by school district as well as Title I program data.

Information/Discussion Item

Review the Duties of the Council: Duty #7

During the November 2020 meeting, the Council discussed whether Duty #7 of the [Duties of the Council](#) is duplicative of the work of ECI. Based on this discussion, the Council decided to further review this duty during today's meeting and vote on whether this duty should be rescinded from [Iowa Code 256A.3](#).

Beth Van Meeteren questioned whether ECI is supported with state funding to carry out this work. Kimberly Villotti responded that ECI's funds are (1) appropriated to grantees and (2) kept in house to support activities. She stated that the funding used to carry out this work falls into one of these two pools. Carla Peterson asked whether the Council could rescind this duty from Iowa Code 256A.3 with the recommendation that ECI continue the work. Kimberly Villotti responded that the Council cannot formally offer the language of this duty to ECI. Kimberly Villotti noted that in regards to the duties of ECI, [Iowa Code 256I.9](#) states that "at a minimum, a grant should be used to provide preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to children deemed at-risk."

Kimberly Villotti recommend reaching out to ECI representatives to gather their input and feedback. Amy Stegeman responded that she will reach out to ECI representatives. She will discuss their input and feedback with the Council during a future Council meeting.

After further review, the Council determined this duty is duplicative of the work of ECI.

ACTION Item

Vote on the Council Recommendation for Duty #7

Erin Clancy motioned to rescind Duty #7 from Iowa Code 256A.3 contingent on future conversations with ECI on how to better formalize collaboration between ECI and the Council. Taylor Drake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Information/Discussion Item

Updates

Preschool Program Updates: Mid-year budget reports were submitted by all grantees. The mid-year budget reports were also used to gather information about any changes that were made to program services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department is continuing to remind the grantees about professional development reimbursement opportunities. Third-quarter payments were sent to all grantees. The Department also updated the income eligibility requirements for Shared Visions preschool programs based on the newly released federal poverty guidelines. This information was sent to all grantees.

Parent Support Updates: Mid-year budget reports were submitted by all grantees. The mid-year budget reports were also used to gather information about any changes that were made to program services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department also updated the income eligibility requirements for Shared Visions parent support programs based on the newly released federal poverty guidelines. This information was sent to all grantees. Marianne Rodrigues noted that the Shared Visions parent support program grantees are not eligible for professional development reimbursement as funds cannot be allocated for professional development. Family support emails are being forwarded to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) as Marianne Rodrigues believes this communication to be very important.

ECI Updates: ECI released the [2020 Annual Report](#) as well as the [2020 Annual Report Highlights](#). During the State Board meeting, Janet Horras presented data on family support programming, such as the number of completed home visits as well as the number of children and families being served. PJ West stated that the MIECHV program has really honed in on the importance of data collection. A local area director also spoke at the State Board meeting regarding the local work being done on children's mental health. Erin Clancy commented that the Professional Development Executive Committee and the Early Learning Professional Development Group have been working diligently on coaching competencies, which are close to being complete.

Information/Discussion Item

Member Updates

The Council members offered the following updates:

- **Taylor Drake** shared the news of the birth of her daughter with the Council. Her daughter, Zoe, was born on December 14, 2020.
- **PJ West** shared that IDPH and DHS have contracted with a public consulting group to provide an assessment of a possible realignment of the two departments and whether resources can be better utilized. The Iowa Family Support Network's website is being revamped. There's also discussion in Washington, D.C., about federal COVID-19 funds being allocated to MIECHV programs to support families with emergency funds. PJ West will keep the Council posted on these funds. The MIECHV team has also been working to pull together a group of home visitor experts who can provide input and insight on what works, what doesn't work, and what changes could be made to policies and procedures.

- **Erin Clancy** shared that DHS will receive funds to continue providing stipends to licensed child care centers. Licensed child care centers with 0-100 children will receive \$3,000 per month, licensed child care centers with 101-200 children will receive \$5,000 per month, and licensed child care centers with 201-300 children will receive \$7,000 per month. Child development homes will also receive \$1,500 per month. Additional funding will also be provided to the statewide [Child Care WAGE\\$ Program](#).
- **Ashley Harvey** shared that the Early Childhood State Coordination Team is putting together prompts for collecting GOLD data for virtual learners. She also shared her excitement that she's been able to go into more classrooms recently.
- **Ami Leath** echoed that it's been great to be back in classrooms. She gave a shout out to teachers for all their hard work and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Carla Peterson** shared that enrollment at Iowa State University (ISU) is holding steady. She also gave a shout out to university teachers for all their hard work. She commented that universities across Iowa have a lot to learn about what works in the virtual world and what parts to retain going forward in order to remain as efficient and effective as possible. She shared with the Council that she was able to participate in a webinar on trauma-informed care that was sponsored by the Network of Infant/Toddler Researchers. She commented that this webinar was very inspiring and that it shows that a lot of people are dedicated to providing the most effective services to children who've experience trauma. On a personal note, she shared that she's accepted an administrative assignment in ISU's School of Education.
- **Beth Van Meeteren** shared that the University of Northern Iowa's (UNI) [Light and Shadow](#) program was selected as a scale-up program. Statewide Voluntary Preschool through 3rd grade teachers are eligible to apply for this scale-up program. She commented that many teachers are unaware of this scale-up program, so she asked the Council to share this information with their contacts and colleagues. She also noted that she was invited to present to the Education Commission of the States to share how Iowa is leading in early STEM education. She also shared with the Council that another policy report on high quality early STEM is being written. This policy report got her invited to the Council of State Science Supervisors' annual conference in Colorado, which is coming up in April 2021. She also shared that ISU, UNI, and the Iowa Regents' Center just finished submitting another round for a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. Teachers College Press and the Iowa Regents' Center are in the midst of signing contracts to produce a series of early STEM teacher guides. They hope to feature stories from Iowa classrooms in this series. On a personal note, she shared that she's expecting her second grandchild in July 2021 and that her husband recently retired in December 2020.
- **Kimberly Villotti** shared that Part C Early ACCESS home visits are still being completed virtually. She noted that some families saw higher levels of engagement when they connected virtually versus in person. The Early Childhood Personnel Center released the [Cross-disciplinary Competencies](#) for children ages birth to 5. The Department is exploring a future opportunity to connect with the AEAs as one the primary in-service professional learning providers. The Department also released the [Early Childhood Assessments Legislative Report](#).

Additional funds have been appropriated from the federal government. Iowa is receiving roughly \$344 million for ESSER II funding that will primarily support PK-12 efforts. About \$310 million of these funds will go directly to school districts. School districts can use the funds to support, recover, or move forward from responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every state education agency in all 50 states submitted a waiver to the U.S. Department of Education to pause accountability efforts for another year. These waivers will be reviewed at the federal level. This primarily means that some of the Department's school improvement efforts will be put on hold; however, the school improvement services stemming from the AEAs will still continue.

The Department is also paying close attention to legislative session. [Senate File 160](#), which details in-person instruction requirements, has been signed by the Governor and is moving forward. The Department is closely watching [House File 14](#) and its successor [House File 318](#), which would allow five-year-olds with a birthday in a certain window of time to be eligible for student state aid and funding for preschool.

- **Tonya Krueger** shared that [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#) is available on the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics website. She reminded the Council that the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics have been involved in the vaccine trials and are providing vaccines. She commented that over 8,000 of the University of Iowa's health care staff have received both doses of the vaccine. She also shared that the lead researcher for the vaccine provided a [STEM Essential Podcast](#) sponsored by the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council to discuss her journey through STEM and relating her journey to vaccines. The Department of Pediatrics is also focusing on grants and research opportunities, such as Dance Marathon, the Children's Miracle Network, and the Savvy Ferentz Fund in Neonatal Research, which provides support for research projects that better the lives and outcomes of premature infants. Overall, she stated that there is a lot of work going on across the state that relates to high-risk children.
- **Julie Lang** shared that she's happy to have Monica Garner as the Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office Coordinator. She and Monica Garner have already met to discuss collaborative projects for southwest Iowa. She shared her excitement that collaborative projects are happening in quite a few of the Shared Visions service areas.

Information/Discussion Item

Review the Duties of the Council: Duty #6

During the November 2020 meeting, the Council decided Duty #6 of the [Duties of the Council](#) needed further review at today's meeting. Amy Stegeman reviewed the current practices for how this duty is addressed. The Council reviewed the current practices and determined that this duty is being addressed adequately. View the current practices on Slide 20 of the [meeting presentation slides](#).

Kimberly Villotti commented that program evaluation data are largely underutilized. She believes these data to be highly valuable to the Council. She suggested having someone analyze the five-year goals and progress updates submitted by the grantees. The Council members agreed this was a great idea and that these data will be of value to the Council. A sub-group of Council members will meet to plan how this can be done and present to the full Council during the April 2021 meeting.

Information/Discussion Item

Monitoring to Include Year 1 Implementation Standards

Amy Stegeman informed the Council that prior to this five-year grant cycle, all Shared Visions preschool program grantees were expected to follow the accreditation standards and assessment criteria of NAEYC. Beginning this year, the code was changed to allow the grantees to implement the program standards of NAEYC, IQPPS, or HSPPS. This change was implemented to ensure that the Shared Visions grant requirements aligned with the state requirements for other preschool programs, such as the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.

Shared Visions preschool programs in Year 1 of a grant award shall meet the program standards identified within the application: NAEYC, IQPPS, or HSPPS. Programs that do not (1) attain accreditation, (2) meet identified program standards, or (3) receive a waiver from the Council will not be funded. Awarded grantees are to maintain the program standards identified in the awarded application throughout the five-year grant cycle, unless unforeseen circumstances occur. Such circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the Council. Awarded grantees must also participate in the associated monitoring process for the selected program standards.

All awarded grantees implementing IQPPS are currently in CASA, the state reporting system. All but one grantee has previously implemented IQPPS and received a state monitoring visit. One district grantee is new to IQPPS and will receive a state monitoring visit during the 2021–2022 grant year. This state monitoring visit will occur in conjunction with the state monitoring visit for the SWVPP, which occurs in Year 2 of implementation. Desk audits for continued monitoring of IQPPS were paused at the end of 2019–2020 and carried over to 2020–2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Classrooms new to IQPPS are not represented in the desk audits for 2020–2021. Amy Stegeman noted that this creates a gap in ensuring program standards are being met during Year 1 for all Shared Visions locations and classrooms.

To help mitigate this gap, the Department has developed an anticipated plan. In this plan, the Department will utilize the Renewal Application submitted by the grantees as well as gather an assurance, narrative/description, and/or evidence of program standards implementation specifically for IQPPS. This plan will allow for review and approval prior to Year 2 funding.

Amy Stegeman noted that the ultimate goal of this plan is to align with the state system and not cause difficulties or confusion for the grantees. Erin Clancy and PJ West commented that this is a great plan for addressing the gap in ensuring program standards are being met during Year 1.

Information/Discussion Item

July Meeting Date

The Council discussed whether a July 2021 meeting date is needed. Based on this discussion, the Council decided to hold a meeting in July 2021. If it's later determined that the meeting is not needed, the Council agreed the meeting can be cancelled.

Information/Discussion Item

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Amy Stegeman directed the Council to the [Planning for 2020–2021](#) document. The following items were added as agenda items for the next meeting:

- Discuss collaboration with Heather Rouse in regards to Duty #3
- Review the Duties of the Council: Duty #4
- Review template options for the Annual Report to the Governor
- Discuss the plan to analyze program evaluation data in regards to Duty #6
- Review input and feedback from ECI representatives in regards to Duty #7
- Review professional learning reimbursement data in regards to the \$5,000 held by the Council
- Discuss legislative bills that impact Shared Visions
- Review and approve February 2021 meeting minutes
- Future meeting dates

Taylor Drake motioned to adjourn the meeting. Erin Clancy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. PJ West adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates

All future meetings will be held at the Grimes building in room B50 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- April 21, 2021 (via Zoom)
- July 2021 – TBD
- September 2021 – TBD