Decat/Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, BVCS Early Childhood Iowa Coalitions &

Sac County Prevent Child Abuse Council

Date: November 21, 2017

Meeting Agenda: Understanding Your Community: Review, Analyze, Prioritize

Attendees: Annette Koster, Retta Mitchell, Mollie Scott, Ivy Nielsen, Jodie Holm, Michelle Ahrenholtz, Janette Clausen, Nikki Ahart

The Crawford County Coalition met on November 21, 2017 to review data from the October 17, 2017 Data Analysis meeting. Consensus from the Data Analysis meeting on Oct 17th for the most pressing needs at this time, related to the data reviewed, are:

* Mental Health & Risk Factors
* Child Care
* Poverty

**Understanding Your Community:** Review, Analyze, Prioritize

**Community Plans:**

In the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Report Crawford County Home Health, Hospice & Public Health identified access to mental health services, addictive behaviors/underage addictive behaviors, violent and abusive behavior, lack of physical activity, adolescent immunization rates (ages 13-15) and high levels of radon.

West Central Community Action Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment 2014 results throughout their service area survey respondents indicated issues centered around: employment, housing, food/clothing, healthcare and utility costs.

In reviewing these two assessments it was determined to resonate the consensus from the Data Analysis meeting.

**Reports:**

She Matters: We Listen and Iowa Wins Issue; Economic Self-Sufficiency by the Iowa Women’s foundation identified Childcare, Employment, Education/Vocational Training, Housing, Food, and Transportation in the 18 communities in Iowa participating in the study.

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral 2107 Annual Report: With the demand for child care far exceeding the supply and high provider turnover rates creates a constant need for new providers. CCR&R is actively working on recruitment & retention services with five new positions added statewide in 2017. Data supporting the high percentage of both parents in the workforce, it is important to ensure that all children have access to high-quality care and learning environments. Iowa’s voluntary Quality Rating System offers parents a benchmark for evaluating and selecting a child care provider while increasing the number of children in high quality child care settings.

Beyond ACEs: Building Hope & Resiliency in Iowa: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events that can dramatically upset a child’s sense of safety and well-being. ACEs can impact brain development, and have health risk later in life. Eight types of ACEs studied in Iowa are: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, substance abuse in home, family member with mental illness, separation/divorce, and domestic violence. Currently there are 5.3% of adults with ACEs living in Crawford County. Action can be taken to break the cycle.

**Discussion:**

Child Care: Childcare centers can be more costly for parents. Locating staff to work at the childcare centers can be difficult, and at time results in the center not being able to serve at the centers license capacity. The Child Care Consultant reported that recently she has had visits with females looking to open Child Development Homes, due to the fact that they were unable to locate child care and could not afford center care. The *Workforce of Today, Workforce of Tomorrow: published by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation* identifies *“high quality” childcare provides a safe, supportive environment that promotes young children’s healthy cognitive, social-emotional, and language development, leading to positive outcomes like increased social readiness.*

Mental health services are available in Crawford County concerns arose on the ability to access services for all ages. Telehealth is an option, but may not be for everyone. Traveling out of county for services can be cumbersome (travel and time).

School Based mental health services provided.

Short discussions on juvenile substance abuse, juvenile drug court, HUD hosing, Foster Care, and homelessness in Crawford County.

Next Steps:

* Send out Focus Group Questions for Agencies (electronically).
* Parent Focus Groups (in person) possibly: Head Start/Early Head Start, Children’s Imagination Station, Baby Boutique.

Crawford County Coalition Meeting to be held on December 19, 2017