BVCS Early Childhood Iowa

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The Crawford County Coalition met on October 17, 2017 to build on the awareness for the needs of children, youth and families living in Crawford Vista County. Information will be used for the BVCS ECI Community Plan, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa upcoming RFP and Decat/CPPC programs.

The attendees reviewed Child Abuse, Child Care, Foster Care, population, Family Investment Program, Unemployment, Iowa Youth Survey (Buena Vista County), Juvenile Delinquency, Mental Health, Health, Dental, Hunger, and \*ALICE data.

Thirteen attendees were present from various service organizations including: 1st Five, Child Care Resource & Referral, Decat/CPPC, Lutheran Services in Iowa – Foster Care Program, Lutheran Services in Iowa – BHIS, Jackson Recovery, West Central Community Action, BVCS Early Childhood Iowa, AEA/Early Access, and Crossroads of Crawford County. A Consensus Workshop was facilitated by Annette Koster, BVCS Early Childhood Iowa Program Director.

Attendees were asked to review data and provide what astonished them about Crawford County. Consensus for the most pressing needs at this time, related to the data reviewed, including: Mental Health and Risk Factors, Child Care, and Poverty

**Mental Health & Risk Factors**

* According to the Iowa Youth Survey Data, 21% of all grades (6th, 8th, and 11th) reported that during the past 12 months, they felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities compared to 18% statewide.
* 6% of students reported having their first drink (more than a few sips) of alcohol, wine, or liquor) at age 8 or younger compared to the state average of only 5% reporting use that young. Source: IA Youth Survey.
* All confirmed or founded types of child abuse in Crawford County: 46 Denial of Critical Care, 5 Physical Abuse, and 3 Sexual Abuse. This data counted each confirmed or founded allegations of neglect and abuse for each child. Each child may be confirmed of multiple types of abuse on a single report, and may have multiple reports. Source: Iowa Department of Human Services.
* White males are the top list of offenders in District 3 as reported in the State of Iowa Juvenile Delinquency Annual Statistical Report.
* Foster Care more homes are needed. Number of children in Foster Care in Iowa’s Counties: 2016. Reportedly Crawford County had 68 in care. Source Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Results Based Accountability. Currently Lutheran Services in Iowa stated that there are currently 10 Foster Care and Adoption Homes, not all homes are active and some are Respite Care for family only.
* Need more information on mental health to compare, try NAMI.
* Trauma (need data source)
  + Delinquency
  + Oppositional Defiance Disorder
  + ADHD
  + PTSD

**Child Care**

* High percentage of working families. All parents in the family in labor force with own children under 6 is 68.8% All parents in family in labor force 6 to 17 is 74.0% according to Iowa Census 2011-2015 American Community Survey.
* Childcare is costly. For a family earning the median income of $56,640 with an infant in child care they would pay: 12% of their income before taxes, if their child was is a licensed child care center. Data source: State Library of Iowa & Iowa NACCRRAware database.
* Strong need for infant child care. The number of Registered Child Development Homes in Crawford County is 10. Registered Child Development Homes can care for 4 infants under the age of 24 months, possibly 40 slots (not including licensed centers). Vital Statistics data from the Iowa Department of Public Health shows the number of live births in Crawford County in 2016 was 254.
* There was a decrease in child care spaces from July 2016 to July 2017 listed with Child Care Resource & Referral.
* 2,479 child population for children ages 0 – 9 years versus 640 childcare spaces listed with Child Care Resource & Referral.

**Poverty**

* 15% of families living at poverty $23,850.00 (family of 4) above the state average of 12%, \*ALICE.
* 20% of families are at/below the \*ALICE Threshold state average 19%. Bare-minimum budget does not allow for any savings, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses (medical, transportation, and housing).
* Crawford County Median Household Income $47,437 is below the State average $53,712 \*ALICE.
* According to \*ALICE Crawford County (5.3%) is above the State’s unemployment rate (4.4%) 2014 Point in Time.
* Housing affordability had an index of good (57) with a scale of 1 being (worst) and 100 (best) \*ALICE. US Census Bureau reports the median gross rent, 2011-2015 at $541.00.
* According to the 2017-17 Iowa Public k-12 Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch by District Denison Free or Reduced Price Lunch was at 74.17. Calculating schools within Crawford county including: Ar-We-Va, Charter Oak-Ute, IKM-Manning, and Schleswig the percent is 62.05.
* 8.9% have an Overall Food Insecurity in Crawford County reported by Map the Meal Gap – Feeding America.
* Profound/significant poverty in Buena Vista, Crawford, and Sac Counties. Percentage below 160% poverty (SNAP, WIC, free school meals, CSFP, TEFAP) Buena Vista at 73%, Crawford at 78% and Sac at 52%. Source Map the Meal Gap 2017.
* Dental Health average 48.53% (0-5 years) and 61.87% (6-14 years) percent receiving any dental or oral health services in dental office/clinic, FQHC, screening center or physician’s office. Source FFY 2016 EPSDT Dental Services Report. 22% of the water systems do not contain Fluoridation.

\*ALICE an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, are households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold).

Next meeting November 21st at 1:00 pm, ISU Extension in Denison.

Please bring any community assessment to the meeting to further the awareness discussion.