BVCS Early Childhood Iowa

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The Sac County Coalition met on October 9, 2017 to build on the awareness for the needs of families living in Sac County. The attendees reviewed Child Abuse, Child Care, Foster Care, population, Family Investment Program, Unemployment, Iowa Youth Survey (Sac County), Juvenile Delinquency, Mental Health, Health, Dental, Hunger, and ALICE (Housing, Transportation, Income) data.

Sixteen attendees were present from various service organizations including: Family Crisis Center, CASSA, Child Care Resource & Referral, Decat/CPPC, Jackson Recovery, Lutheran Services in Iowa – Foster Care Program, Lutheran Services in Iowa – BHIS, Head Start, Substance Abuse Treatment, Partners for Success, Tobacco Prevention, Parent Partners, AmeriHelath Cartas IA . 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 Sac County. Consensus for the most pressing needs at this time, related to the data reviewed, was Poverty and Mental Health, Employment, and Risk Factors –Children & Youth.

**Poverty**

* According to the 2017-17 Iowa Public k-12 Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch by District Schaller Crestland Free or Reduced Price Lunch was at 44.1. Calculating schools within Sac county including: East Sac County, Odebolt-Arthur, and Schaller Crestland the percent is 40.66.
* Child Care is Expensive. Child Care Resource & Referral County data sheet, for a family earning the median income of $63,750 with an infant in child care they would pay 11% in registered home and 12% in a licensed center of their income before taxes. According to the \*ALICE report child care for a family of four with 1 infant and 1 preschooler would be $736.00 a month.
* Child care provider pay is low in licensed centers. To support the statement child care provider income is low, 2016 Early Care & Education Workforce Study reported the Median Wage Scales in Centers: Lowest Teacher Wage is $7.50, Highest Teacher Wage is $9.50, Lowest Assistant Wage is $7.25, Highest Assistant Wage is $8.00.
* According to the \*ALICE report health care cost are high, families have little to no savings. Health care takes the largest portion of income, not leaving funds to pay for other household expenses.
* Sac County Food Assistance only average $49.00 per person/per month. Source: Iowa DHS, Food Assistance Report F-1. Comments: average family food budget is higher, seasonal employment, saving for months when not working.
* 22.3% have income at $75,000 per household, source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey.
* Poverty rate is high. 20% at the ALICE Threshold and 9% live in poverty. Median Household Income $48,581.00 state average $53,712 as reported by the \*ALICE report.
* Housing affordability had an index of good (65) with a scale of 1 being (worst) and 100 (best) \*ALICE. US Census Bureau reports the median gross rent, 2011-2015 at $534.00 (lack of housing for low income, and landlords accepting HUD).
* Hunger poverty 52% below 160% of federal poverty level (FPL) and 16% between 160% FPL and 180% FPL (high compared to other counties). Data Source: Feeding America-Map the Meal Gap 2017.

**Mental Health/ACEs/Trauma Informed Care** (Data sources needed to support claims).

* How to access to Mental Health services?
* Children’s Mental Health must travel out of county.
* Health services in the county are good, Title 19 is in the area. Problem related to Title 19 when people do not show up for an appointment, it is hard to reschedule, when doctors/dentist can take private pay clients.

**Employment**

* Huge need for childcare especially in-home care. Total County Population for children 0-5 years of age is 712, children 6-9 years of age 501 total of 1213. Spaces listed with Child Care Resource & Referral in Registered Homes is at 44, Child Care Homes (non-registered) 55 for a total of 99 spaces for childcare provided in-home settings. DHS Licensed Centers spaces for 151 children. Source of data Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral using NACCRRAware.
* Most families work outside of the home. All parents in the family in labor force with own children under 6 is 89.8%. All parents in the family in the labor force 6 to 17 is 79.6% according to the Iowa Census 2011-2015 American Community Survey.
* Unemployment rate in Sac County is 2.5, Buena Vista County 3.2, and Crawford County 3.8, County unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted. May make finding qualified workers harder for area businesses. Source: Labor Market Information Division, Iowa Workforce Development.
* Transportation, travel time to work in minutes 17.9, for workers age 16 years plus, source: IA QuickFacts. Comments: lack of mass transit, cost for vehicle maintenance/cost for high interest loans. Margin/majority of people that commute to work (may live out of the county).

**Risk Factors – Children & Youth**

* Sac County ranks 67 in the State for Child Abuse, according to the number of confirms or founded reports of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and cohabitation with a registered sex offender, per 1,000 children ages 0-17 in 2016 (IDHS 2016). Each Iowa County’s rate per 1,000 was ranked low to high, with the higher rates receiving higher rankings. Source: Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc.
* Sexual Abuse high for confirmed reports (7) in 2016, Source: IA Department of Human Services.
* Sac County receives a good amount of dollars to spend for child abuse prevention for relative site (DHS, ICAP, Decat, ECI). Source: Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc.
* 72% of students reported one or more times within the last 30 days that teachers had to stop teaching in order to deal with a major student disruption or behavior problem compared to 56% statewide average for 6th, 8th, and 11th graders in the Iowa Youth Survey, Sac County.
* The amount of alcohol/drug related Juvenile issues in District 2 (22 Counties). JCS-possession/purchase of alcohol by person under 18: Females (F) – 58 Males (M) -77. Operating while under the influence 1st offense: F -11 M-21. Possession of controlled substance – Marijuana 1st offense F – 46 M- 108. Possession of drug paraphernalia F-42 M-117. Public Intoxication F - 9 M – 10. Source: Iowa Juvenile Delinquency Annual Statistical Report.
* The amount of money collected from restitution (Juvenile) in District 2 was $47,883.54 (3rd highest in the state). Source: Iowa Juvenile Delinquency Annual Statistical Report.
* Number of children in Foster Care is 13. Source: Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Results Based Accountability. Lutheran Services in Iowa reported that currently there are four Foster Care Homes, but noted that, “not all Foster Care Homes may be active, and some are Respite Care for families only”.

\*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).

Meeting set for November 13th at 9:00 am to review community needs assessments, and review what services may be needed to assist children and families is Sac County.