



BVCS EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA

3 –COUNTY BOARD MEETING

April 20, 2016 time: **10:00 am – 11:30 am** Trinity Lutheran Church 612 S Dewey, Odebolt

TOPIC	DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATION, EVALUATION, ACTION	ACTION
<p>I. Introductions and Call to Order</p> <p>Board Attendees: Doug Noble; Rhonda Ringgenberg; Ranell Drake; Mike Bunde; Quorum not met</p> <p>Others Present: Pam Bogue; Retta Mitchell; Sonya Jonas; Jackie Duffy; Jennifer Chapman; Amy Trucke, Tiffany Smith, Janet Gritten, Annette Koster.</p>	<p>Board members present requested the contractors invited to the meeting provide their presentations.</p>	
<p>II. Approval of Agenda Approval of Previous Minutes</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>III. Early Childhood Iowa</p>		
<p>Family STEPS</p>	<p>Amy Trucke, Jennifer Chapman, Tiffany Smith, and Janet Gritten presented for the Family STEPS program. Current number of families participating Crawford 65, Buena Vista 44, and Sac 23. Amy T from Crawford commented on barriers working with Karen speaking families, if in the office they can use Language Line but not out in the home due to data on cell phones (personal). Some speak English but are not comfortable enough to answer questions confidently. Focus mainly at visits with meeting basic needs, some clients have us read their mail, fill out applications for various programs. Mike B asked about curriculum Amy replied, we have nothing for the day to day basic needs. Crawford County Hospital has established transportation for medical visits which helps with transportation to appointments. Buena Vista reported families struggle to find day care. High school students not able to return to school. Buena Vista is serving Karen speaking families and recently hired an interpreter. Some attend classes for learning English but others teach themselves on the computer or TV (cartoons). Most refugees from Burma (Karen language) have some form of schooling, are from refugee camps, and do get a driver's license. Janet G Shared a story about Desarae, She is married with 4 kids, and pregnant with their 5<sup>th</sup>. She received CAASA services for abuse. Maintained working full-time while going to school. An Ages and Stages Questionnaire revealed possible hearing impairment. At first the family refused a referral to Early ACCESS as they wanted to try to be a "good parent" on their own and with doctor's assistance. Doctors did fit the child with hearing aids, and they are currently working with Early ACCESS and Boystown services for child with hearing impairments. The family complies with information including sign language. Desarae completed college with a degree in Human Services degree and is working full time in that field. The Family STEPS Worker continues to visits on Leve 3 status which is once a month, she utilizes curriculum and does extracurricular activities with the kids. She like the screenings and has used materials shared with her over the years in her current job, with the families she works with. Referrals to the program come from a various partners WIC, hospitals, DHS, 1<sup>st</sup> Five, and word of mouth. Family STEPS is currently in the re-credential process for the Family Support Credential. The Family STEPS staff reported being a Credentialed program the workers have more paperwork (documentation) making it harder to see families, families are frustrated with paperwork. Adjustment for both the Family STEPS Worker and family. Address basic routine, pay bills,</p>	<p>Informational</p>

<p>Child Care Consultant</p>	<p>doctor, and curriculum last – main goals are meeting basic essentials first.  The three counties offer a universal program with different needs identified in each county, lower education and immigrants.  Tiffany S commented in the big picture the program is beneficial to have support when no other supports are available connecting families together at socializations.</p> <p>Retta Mitchell and Sonya Jonas presented for Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&amp;R). Retta M shared the services being provided in Buena Vista, Crawford, and Sac Counties. She is there to both encourage and orient new providers and to support quality in established Child Care Homes. Current struggle is there is not enough child care providers in the counties. In answer to the high schoolers problem not being able to find childcare, mentioned by the Family STEPS Program, it may be related to provider accepting full time versus part-time children. The communities are starting to see the need. In Buena Vista County two new centers are opening and a new before and after school program.</p> <p>In the three county area eighteen (18) of the registered homes and centers have a Quality Rating System Rating (QRS). Of those eighteen (18) fourteen (14) are a 3 star or above with one (1) having all 5 stars. There are nineteen (19) 5 Star QRS rated across the State of Iowa and one (1) is in Crawford County.</p> <p>CCR&amp;R offers an annual conference with the funds provided through BVCS ECI. This year the conference had over 80 participating Music by Mar. The presenter received a standing ovation. Annette K mentioned she forwarded the thank you messages to the board she received by email. Quality Improvement Grants this year also included a chance for new providers to get started.</p> <p>Retta shared a story. Through our partnership with Iowa Public Television children in several child care homes have had the opportunity to use iPads downloaded with age appropriate games. One provider even had the children request the concrete items and purchased a scale and dinosaurs for the children to use based on their interest after playing on the iPad. Extending her curriculum with the children. A picture shows the children having fun taking their own photos. This promotes self-esteem, a sense of community, and practicing computer skills for the future, and how to cooperate and share with one another. Many of our quality rated homes to above the ordinary to give children new learning opportunities every day.</p> <p>The Federal Block Grant new this upcoming year will require preservice training of 12 hours prior to starting or before pre-registration. The new DHS preservice training rules for center staff and registered home when taken the first time will be for 12 training credit hours. They will need to be taken again when registration/licensing is up for renewal. Non-registered provider who receive State Child Care Subsidy will have a site visit. Trainings will be offered face to face and on-line. In addition to an Emergency Preparedness Plan. The outlook is for this area will have three pre-service trainings one in each county.</p>	<p>Informational</p>
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Notes taken by: Annette Koster, Program Director  
Next meeting Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016