

# BVCS Early Childhood Iowa SAC COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Vision:** "Every child beginning at birth will be healthy and successful"

Date: December 9, 2013 Time: 9:30 am

Location: Sac County Court House Annex, 116 South State Street (lower level)

SIGN-IN AND INTRODUCTIONS: Mollie Scott, Decat/CPPC; Jayne Wilhelm, New Opp.-Sac County Mentoring; Retta Mitchell, CCR&R; Carrie Coats, Sac Health Family STEPS; Kristi Neumann, CAASA, SA Prevention; Mollie Mandernach, DHS; Jenny Sorensen, New Opp., Inc.; Mark Segebart, State Senator; Ranell Drake, Sac Supervisor; Annette Koster, BVCSECI.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Mollie S made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Retta M, all in favor.

AGENCY - COMMUNITY SHARING/NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN COMMUNITY:

Senator Mark Segebart shared three initiatives the state will be looking at from the State Child Care Advisory Council 1) child care assistance reimbursement rates, 2) reinvesting in the Iowa Quality Rating System, and 3) recommendation for revising the Regulatory System for Home-Based Child Care. Discussion was held about each subject.

Annette K shared information about the Child at Heart Award. The Child at Heart Award is given to "champions of children" one for a local person and one state-level award is given at the Early Childhood Day on the Hill set for February 12, 2014. Nominees must have a letter of support from the local Early Childhood Iowa board. This year the BVCS ECI are will recognize all enters that are submitted for nomination. If you would like an application please email Annette.

The Levels of Excellence (LOE) site visit for BVCS Early Childhood Iowa will be on April 30, 2014. Part of the LOE is to have community partners participate in the review. The partner section will be held from 10:00 – 1:00 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Odebolt. All are invited to attend to share how your program works with the BVCS ECI area.

Annette K shared that one of the Iowa AEYC Board Public Policy Priorities will be Supporting Early Childhood Iowa's strategies at the state and community level, including restoring ECI are funding to the 2008 levels.

Retta M reported the date for the BVCS ECI Seminar will be held on Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>. The seminar will offer six hours of training for early care and education programs.

Quality Improvement Grants (QIP) is due to Mid-Sioux CCR&R by January. Have to be at least a Level 2 on the QRS to apply.

Carrie C reported the Family STEPS program has 22 enrolled with a cap of 25. Referrals come from WIC, Head Start, and self-referrals. A question was asked about referrals from doctors. Carrie reported Buena Vista Regional Medical center does refer. Annette K offered that with New Opportunities receiving the First Five initiative that may help in the future.

Discussion was held about referrals to the Angel Tree. Families sign up at the Sac County Outreach Center offers the program. The toys will be delivered from Toys for Tots and distributed soon. Food is also donated from various churches and organizations. Annette K asked about the Food Pantry, during the holiday season more donations, in January more donations are needed with hygiene supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, diaper, wipes, etc... being items in need. Christy Boeckman is currently in charge of the program, but will be leaving in January.

Jenny S reported Head Start currently has 19 children in the classroom. One staff person is transferring. Head Start has a potential job opening for teacher aid position or bus monitor. The bus monitor rides the bus from Auburn to Sac City, assists in the classroom, and monitors the bus on the way home.

WRAP-UP & ADJOURN: Jayne W made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mollie S, all in favor.

The next Sac County Advisory Council is scheduled for Feb 10, 2013.

Would you like to volunteer to be the Carol Crampton speaker at the February meeting?

Next scheduled meeting for BVCS 3-County Board meeting "Big Board":

Wednesday January 29, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. - Trinity Lutheran Church 612 S Dewey Street, Odebolt

Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Respectfully submitted: Annette Koster