



EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA STATE BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 2016

Meeting. The Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) State Board met on September 9, 2016.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair. During the meeting the Board elected David Arens as the new Chair and Rich Clewell as the new Vice Chair. Outgoing Chair Joanne Lane challenged the Board to continue advocating for young children and their families.

Presentation from Area Boards. Members of the Cedar Jones Area Board and Director Sherri Hunt presented on the programs that they maintain across Cedar and Jones counties. Programs and services include:

- Childcare nurse consultants
- Childcare Alliance Response Team (CART)
- I-Smile dental program
- Preschool scholarships
- Read Every Day to get Ahead (RED Ahead)

As a Board, they work to collaborate with school districts, other Councils, community action programs, Public Health, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP), and others to ensure that they are not duplicating efforts. Challenges they face include collaborating with minimal funding, restricted categorical funding, and overall limited resources.

ECI Projects. The Results/Accountability and Public Engagement groups presented on work plans they are building that integrate into ECI's strategic plan.

- Public Engagement – The Public Engagement Group is working on raising awareness of the importance of the first five years of life and the importance of ECI as an organization. The Group is doing this by engaging communities, legislators, and businesses. The Group is also trying to identify nontraditional partners in raising awareness.
- Results Accountability – The Results Accountability Group is working on updates to the ECI Needs Assessment. This is happening in conjunction with the Needs Assessment Core Group, which is aiming to make the assessment more applicable so that the information gleaned can be used by other programs, such as Title V, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Human Services, and others.

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