

Clinton/Jackson ECI Executive Committee Minutes
Tuesday, November 14, 2017; 7:00 a.m.

Clinton County Satellite Offices, small boardroom
226 11th Street, DeWitt, IA 52742

Board Members Present:

Jack Willey, Chair
Linda Hledik

ECI Staff Present:

Gwen Deming, Director

Approval of Minutes: Gwen asked the Executive Committee to review the minutes from the October 23, 2017 ECI Board Meeting. Jack Willey and Linda Hledik approved the minutes with a few minor changes. The minutes will be updated before being sent to ECI Board Members.

Grant Writing Training: Gwen reported the Clinton/Jackson DECAT Board had approved funding for a Grant Writing Training, to be held on March 8, 2018 in DeWitt. The training will be free of cost, and will allow space for 20 participants.

St. Joseph Preschool Funding Request: Gwen reported she informed St. Joseph Preschool the Clinton/Jackson ECI Board voted to provide \$300 toward food snacks. This donation will help the preschooler, who has severe food allergies, to attend school.

New ECI Board Members: Gwen reported Scott Bengston sent in his board member application. The application will be sent to board members for their review before the official vote on November 27, 2017. The Executive Committee agreed that the ECI Board will continue to recruit new members, as we can have up to fifteen per our by-laws. An ad will be placed in local newspapers: DeWitt, Clinton, Preston, Bellevue, and Maquoketa.

What's the Difference Book: Gwen shared a book written for preschoolers about the differences in people. She stated that this would be a great book for all preschools to have to help promote diversity and acceptance at a young age. The Executive Committee agreed and decided to gather pricing and the number of preschools in Clinton and Jackson Counties. The information will be shared with the ECI Board on November 27, 2017 to see if there is interest in purchasing books, in partnership with Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, for all the preschools in our two counties.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Request for Proposals: Gwen informed the committee about the forthcoming RFP from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, which is scheduled for release in January, 2018. This RFP will combine two previous grants, ICAPP (Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program) and CBCAP (Community Based Child Abuse Prevention). Prevent Child Abuse Clinton County and Prevent Child Abuse Jackson County will be subcontracting with agencies to provide programming in our communities. Gwen stated these funds could possibly help with our current contractors to enhance or provide funding for their programs.

Resilience Movie: This movie has been shown several times in our counties, Gwen stated. Discussion about schools benefitting, as well as anyone who works with children and families, promoted the idea of sharing it with as many groups as possible. This will help bring understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The community will be invited to attend the November 27th showing of the movie.

Safe Sleep: There will be a Safe Sleep Training, provided by Community Partnerships within the upcoming weeks. ECI in-home providers will be asked to identify families who would benefit from the training, as well as a pack n play. Shaken baby information will also be given at the training.

Be the ONE Messaging: Gwen shared the “Be the ONE” message with the committee, and stated Community Partnerships would be purchasing marketing items, such as bags, pens, etc. to spread the message that it takes ONE caring adult to help build resilience in children, which can help boost a positive outcome for children. The committee agreed this message works for early childhood as well.

Tool NN: The committee briefly discussed Tool NN, which will be used as the template for the revised Clinton/Jackson ECI Community Plan.

New Business: Gwen stated Shanell Wagler sent an email requesting information for the state Technical Assistance Team. The three questions sent would help the team look at options for creating statewide benchmarks for local ECI sites. The ECI Executive Committee looked at the questions and discussed the role our ECI Board plays in the community, as well as how the community perceives the role of our board. That discussion led to public awareness and how we could measure and boost it. Jack Willey suggested a survey with kindergarten teachers that allowed dialogue about their opinions about children’s success: attending Headstart or other preschool vs. no prior school experience. Gwen stated she would set up a Survey Monkey to distribute to the teachers.

The committee also discussed providing signs that would market Clinton/Jackson Early Childhood Iowa when I-Smile is doing dental screenings. Gwen stated she would request prices for sturdy, reusable signs.

Monday, November 27, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. is the next ECI Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted, Gwen Deming, Clinton/Jackson ECI Director

Any person needing special assistance or with special accessibility needs should contact Gwen Deming at GDeming@ClintonCounty-IA.gov or (563) 659-3651.