



MEETING MINUTES PARENT EDUCATION WORKGROUP
January 14, 2010

Present: Bill Landers, GWAEA; Lynette Jacoby, UAY; Suzanne Henry M.D.; Carol Nordquist; Randy Knudson, Four Oaks; Laurie Nash; Andrew Coghill-Behrends, NCJC; Donna Epley; Linda Severson; Phyllis Tucker, ICCSD

1. There were no issues brought up concerning the quarterly report reviews.
2. Program Monitoring by Workgroup members: Laurie asked members whether they would like to stay on the review group for the programs which they have been reviewing or would like to change around this year. Family Support site visits will take place as usual in February after the second quarter reports have been received and sent out. Several members said that they thought it helpful to remain with the same programs for several years. Laurie is hoping to have a non-agency person, who is a member of the workgroup, coupled with an Empowerment Board member, who is also a member of the workgroup, on each review. As before, she encourages each member to contact the site representative ahead of the visit to set up a time, and also hopefully to visit one of the activities of the program, prior to the site visit.
3. Laurie gave an update of the state budget and expected cuts. She is not expecting cuts before the end of this fiscal year. However, cuts are certain for the next year, although the amounts are not yet known. It is anticipated that smaller county Empowerment Boards will be merged, but Johnson County should not have to. There is some talk of Empowerment being moved from the State Department of Management where it is now located, to the Dept. of Education, in the proposed new restructuring of governmental departments. Laurie feels that this would not be in Empowerment's best interests, as it could result in competition for funding, which is not the case at present.

4. “Day on the Hill” is February 3rd, and hopefully there will be workgroup members who will be interested in going to Des Moines to represent Empowerment issues to the legislators.

Linda Severson brought up the opportunity also to learn about our legislators at the annual League of Women Voters “Legislative Forums” coming up on the last Saturday of January, February, and March from 9-12 at Iowa City Hall.

5. Andrew brought up a billing question from his work at NCJC. Much discussion about this ensued on the part of workgroup members who are agency workers. It seemed to be resolved by Laurie’s decision to add a new billing code, at least for the present, for when there is just one visit for the month and the child is not present. She will track how often this is used to see by the end of the fiscal period if there are enough such visits to change the policy. The reporting will begin January, 1010 and not be retroactive.

6. New report formats for home visiting were handed out as well as the old ones for comparison, for all to look over. Phyllis brought up the possibility of using another form, “The Idaho Survey”, which is also a parent survey that is being used by the ICCSD family support workers for the PAT program. It has almost the same questions as those on the state tool . She will send copies of it to everyone. Discussion of this will be on the agenda for the February meeting.

Next Parent Education Workgroup meeting is February 11, in a room to be announced.