

All appeals to the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board must be in written form to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will review the appeal at the next scheduled Board Meeting or with respect for timeliness, the Board may call a special board meeting to review the appeal. The Board will take the appeal under advisement and direct the Area Director regarding any further action to be taken.

The Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Area Board utilizes the Community Plan, the community assessments, and current available information in making decisions regarding services and funding for our area. Engaging community partners in the planning process is critical for successful programming. The committees established by the board also provide valuable input into the decision-making process. The Community Plan and budgeting process is part of the open board meeting policy.

MWECI Collaborative Funding Strategies

- 1) The MWECI Board requests information on the amount of funding each funded provider brings in from non-ECI sources in the RFP process and this is considered in the process of awarding of funds.
- 2) The MWECI Board has a history of giving priority to agencies and programs which show an effort to further support the funded programs through agency in-kind and blending of multiple funding sources to maximize the possibility of sustaining programs through uncertain economic times.
- 3) The MWECI Board has made efforts to investigate and pursue the blending of services over the years in order to use the most funds possible for direct services for children versus administrative charges.
- 4) The full board participates in the budgeting process and works each year to fit the programs which match its priorities into the legislated carve outs.
- 5) In regard to the program sustainability, the MWECI Board takes into consideration the location (rural area), the availability of other funding, the need for the service and the outcomes of the program.

Community Collaboration

Collaborative and Networking Opportunities

Together, we can achieve more. That can truly happen when community partners continuously engage in networking opportunities in which they constructively build an interdependent system, which includes a common mission, comprehensive communication and planning, pooled resources, and shared risks and products. Such opportunities have always been a strength in our local communities. It is fortunate that the ECIA is in the Southeast part of the state of Iowa which is a region with a strong reputation for open communication, sharing of resources and collaborative efforts across many disciplines.

Community Partners / Collaboration

Both the MEWCI Area Director and Board Members strive to provide coordination of early care, health and education services for children from 0 through 5. Many of the Board Members, as well as the MEWCI Advisory Group Members, participate in other community planning partners' regularly held meetings and yearly activities. The primary community partners currently include: Community Partners Protecting Children (both counties), Wapello County Resource Network, Mahaska County CAP, Mahaska Safe Kids, Children's Alliance of Wapello County, Mahaska Wapello Child Care & Preschool Director's Support Group, Healthy Communities (Wapello County), Mahaska Wapello De-categorization, Drug Effectuated Children (DEC - Wapello County), Oskaloosa Preschool Partners, Head Start Health Advisory, Southeast Iowa Children's Mental Health and Well-Being Collaborative, County Child Care Coalitions, and Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV-Wapello County).

Over the past few years the Area Director as well as Board members noticed that there were many individuals who travel into the county for human services organization meetings several times each month. Several core community leaders identified that a majority of these participants were interested in a single meeting one day of the month. A single meeting day, utilizing the **Community Partners for Protecting Children's** approach of four key strategies which are implemented together to achieve desired results, was established to incorporate the following organizations into one single meeting while maintaining their individual scope of service: Drug Endangered Children Task Force, Wapello County Children's Alliance, Substance Abuse Task Force, and CPPC. This newly formed group also chose a new name, vision and mission statement to assist with future activities and group decision making. The new name chosen was, Partners for Children and Families (PCF). Their vision statement reads, "Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy, safe and reach their full potential." The mission statement reads, "Families are able to provide a healthy, safe, supportive environment for their children."

Another good example of community collaboration in the MWECI area is the **Southeast Iowa Children's Mental Health and Well-Being Collaboration**. This collaborative project was facilitated by Prevent Child Abuse Iowa for Wapello, Jefferson and Van Buren Counties during FYE 2018 and expanded in its 2nd year to include Davis, Mahaska, Keokuk, and Lee Counties. Our Mission: To use our diversified knowledge, expertise, and networks to build, improve, and connect a sustainable system of preventative and responsive mental health supports for children and families.

YEAR 1 / ACTIVITIES COMPLETED:

- ✓ Core partners / monthly, all-day meetings. Format: AM = core group work / PM = community training.
- ✓ Connections Matter Workshops and "Resilience" film screenings were held multiple times in each county.
- ✓ Youth Mental Health First Aid and Protective Factors training were offered in regional area.
- ✓ Other training offered to the community: Critical Conversations (Mike Thompson) including cultural competency training and Dr. Resmiye Oral's training ACEs Family Assessment.
- ✓ Collected a variety of community resource guides. Keeping lists and contacts updated difficult.
- ✓ Tracking youth benchmarks (IYS) – next survey 2019.
- ✓ First printing of marketing items to address the stigma of mental health. Local distributions.
- ✓ Workgroup development of a universal release / intake / referral.

YEAR 2 / ACTIVITIES COMPLETED:

- ✓ Core partners / monthly, all-day meetings. Format: AM = core group work / Lunch Awareness Missing Sector Invitations / PM= community training.
- ✓ School Districts implemented the SABERS behavior assessment.
- ✓ Development of Children’s Mental Health Talking Points for Legislative Session. (CAMHI4Kids)
- ✓ Development of Trauma Informed Environmental Self-Assessment for Organizations. (Piolet Project).
- ✓ Development of continuum of mental health care Prenatal – Death / Lifespan approach. Refer to CAMHI pyramid model and 3rd Horizon Interventions across the life course chart from MH webinar.
- ✓ Mapping of individual county mental health funds, programs and supports to share with all community sectors. (Educate and identify gaps in service and knowledge / skills). (Identify primary, secondary & tertiary EB prevention and intervention services/programs).
- ✓ Continued development of awareness / marketing campaign / materials. Marketing duffel bags with materials for 7 counties = “Mental Health is HEALTH” – “Walk in their Shoes, “and the silhouettes w/signs.
- ✓ Training offered to the community: Dr. Resmiye Oral’s training ACEs Family Assessment, Connections Matters and Youth Mental Health First Aid.

The **Wapello County Child Care Coalition** (W4C) partnership project has been essential in assessing the need and creating a strategic plan to address additional child care slots in Wapello County / Ottumwa. First Children’s Finance (DSM) was contracted to guide this process. Leading committee members include: Pat McReynolds (MWECI), Becky Falck (Sieda), Brenda O’Halloran (CCR&R), Jay Álvarez (JBS), Sarah McGlothlen (Ottumwa Schools), Sharon Stroh (Wapello Economic Development).

Two surveys were utilized via a *SurveyMonkey* link. One was given to the HR departments of approximately 30 local companies (with 100+ employees) and the other was given to their employees. Surveys resulted in providing important data for a marketing analysis report and initial work on a strategic plan to address local needs. Combined efforts with **First Children’s Finance** and the **Iowa Women’s Foundation** resulted in a community wide disclosure of the collected data and opportunity to have input into the strategic plan with a solution focus element. Although the W4C hasn’t been able to make much of an impact yet, the past year’s activities and meetings have continued to increase public and private awareness of child care deserts and build relationships between sectors.

The MWECI Area Director has also worked to make local area groups aware of ECI efforts by sharing information and presenting early childhood economic programs to other local community boards such as JBS, the YMCA and MUSCO Lighting. These presentations have resulted in an increased awareness and support on the part local providers and businesses and has assisted in the future process of building public/private partnerships.

The Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board of Directors is dedicated to continuing the high level of communication/contribution/coordination/cooperation/collaboration that has been developed. They continue to seek out new avenues to cooperate and improve opportunities in all our communities. The Board of Directors continues to network with agencies and other community partners and stakeholders to identify new ways to move the collaborative process forward. The goal will always be to find ways to increase the self-sufficiency of agencies and individuals to provide needed programs and services and move on to new areas of assistance. There is however the realization that paucity of programs and services was not driven by any lack of desire to provide those programs and services, but by the economic and geographic realities that face our communities.

Review and Evaluation

Evaluation and Reporting Methods

The following components continue to ensure on-going evaluation and effectiveness of the community plan, funded programming, and the MWECI Board's operational activities.

Community Plan Evaluation

- Annual review of the community plan happens officially every fall and spring by the MWECI Board, Advisory Group and community at large. Community priorities, indicators and demographic data are reviewed in depth and shared at other community planning partners' meetings. Updates are noted in the community plan and in board meeting minutes. Community plan briefs are developed and utilized in both MWECI Board meetings and Advisory Group meetings, as well as in other community planning partners' meetings throughout the fiscal year.

Funded Program Evaluation

- Quarterly Impact written reports by funded programs are required per program contracts and submitted to the Area Director and reviewed by the Board at the following month's board meeting and during the annual site review.
- Open forum opportunities for funded programs to share verbal reports/updates to the Board are encouraged at each board meeting.
- On site annual review of programming (program monitoring) with each funded program are conducted by the Area Director and a volunteer board member during the months of April, May and June. Program monitoring information is shared with the whole Board prior to awarding of funds for the next fiscal year.
- All funded programs complete and submit for inclusion in the FYE Annual Report required data/information and performance measures for the report which includes outputs, inputs, outcomes and financial information. The FYE Annual Report is then submitted to the state and reviewed by the State ECI Office Team annually. (Please see the current FYE MWECI Annual Report for the specific required program performance measure data).

MWECI Board's Operational Activities Evaluation

- Open forum opportunities for community partners to share verbal feedback to the MWECI Board are encouraged at each board meeting.
- The MWECI Board completes an annual SWOT evaluation of their roles, responsibilities and operational activities and seeks community input on the internal collaborative functioning. Information is shared and action taken as deemed appropriate.

The MWECI Board utilizes input from the MWECI Advisory Group in many of their decision-making processes. The MWECI Advisory Group is charged with the following responsibilities: 1) Receive input from surveys, needs assessments, committees, citizens, and consumers and use this information to identify and recommend priority needs of the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Area. 2) Make recommendations to the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board of Directors for programs and services. 3) Provide technical assistance to the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board of Directors. 4) Be an advocate within the community for the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board of Director's Community Plan. 5) Facilitate collaboration and networking among members. 6) Conduct any other activities that the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board of Directors deems necessary.

Conclusion and Commitment

Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa (Board of Directors, Advisory, and Community Partners, Service Providers, and local Businesses) will continue to provide leadership and serve a pivotal role to facilitate participation of private and public organizations and individuals in the area to engage in the process toward collaboration to reach Iowa's State Result Areas and to increase community commitment to support a "system" for early childhood so that the Iowa vision for all children ages 0-5 and their families may be achieved.

"Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful."

Appendix A

Out of Area Service Policy

The Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Area Board has policies in place for out of area services. They are for families who live in the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa area and who request funding for services outside of the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa area, the policy of the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board is as follows:

Policy: For a family, who lives in the MWECI area, and is requesting funding for services being received in another early childhood area, the MWECI Board will consider approving funds for an approved funded service. The family would have to meet the program requirements established by the MWECA Board. The funded amount would be based on the policies established by the board for those families living in the MWECI area. The provider of the services would need to be in agreement with the policies on funding services outside the early childhood area as established by the board.

Example: A family lives in Mahaska County (MWECI) and the parent starts a new job in Marion County (Marion, Jasper, Poweshiek ECIA). The parent would like to enroll her child, age 5 or under, in a childcare facility or preschool in the Marion County area it would be close to her work. The board would consider approving funding for this family if the family met all the program guidelines as established by the MWECI Board and availability of funds. The funding amount to be paid toward the service would be the approved funding amount paid for families in the established ECIA area. The service provider would need to agree with the board's policies.

Example: A family lives in Wapello County close to the county line. They would like to have their child in a preschool. The preschool they would like to utilize is across the county line in another early childhood area but close to their home. The family requests preschool assistance from the MWECI Board. The board would consider approving funding for this family if the family meets all the program guidelines as established by the MWECI Board, and the availability of funds. The funding amount to be paid toward the service would be the approved funding amount paid for families in the established ECIA area. The service provider would need to agree with the board's policies.

For families who utilize services within the MWECI area, but live outside the ECI area, the policy of the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board is as follows:

Policy: A family, who lives in another Early Childhood Area (ECIA) would like to utilize a service in the MWECI area and would like to request assistance with the cost of the service from the MWECI Board. It is the policy of the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board to refer this family to the ECIA board in the area where they reside to request funding assistance. The MWECI Board would make available assistance to help this family contact the proper authorities in the other early childhood area.

Example: A family lives in Marion County (Marion, Jasper, Poweshiek ECIA area) and the parent works in Mahaska County (MWECI). They would like to place their child in a child care facility in Oskaloosa and requests funding assistance from MWECI. The board would refer this family to the Marion, Jasper, Poweshiek ECIA Board to request assistance from that board.

For families who live outside the State of Iowa is as follows:

Policy: It is the policy of the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Area Board to deny requests for funding of early childhood services to anyone living outside the State of Iowa.

A copy of the current MWECI Community Plan and any other documents referred to in this plan are available by contacting the MWECI Area Director or the MWECI Board Chair.

Appendix B - Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Fiscal Assessment Matrix

Agency	Counties Served	Program	Ages Served	Funding	Type of Funding	Source of Information
Cardinal Community School District QRS 4	W	SWVPP	4Y	\$237,276	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
		Early Intervention		\$41,754	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
		3Y Preschool	3Y	\$70,000	State	MWECI
		Head Start	3Y & 4Y	\$402,144	Federal	Sieda Comm. Action
EBF – Eddyville, Blakesburg, Fremont Community School District	MW	SWVPP	4Y	\$241,208	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
		Early Intervention		\$66,079	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
North Mahaska Community School District	M	SWVPP	4Y	\$148,298	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
		Early Intervention		\$36,578	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
Oskaloosa Community School District	M	SWVPP	4Y	\$487,734	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
		Early Intervention		\$174,899	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
		Head Start	3Y & 4Y	\$351,876	Federal	Sieda Comm. Action
Ottumwa Community School District Pickwick Early Childhood Center	W	SWVPP	4Y	\$784,329	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
		Early Intervention		\$365,856	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
		Shared Visions	3Y	161,528	State	Iowa Dept. of Ed.
		Head Start	3Y & 4Y	\$779,154	Federal	Sieda Comm. Action
		Preschool Transportation	3Y & 4Y	\$17,250	State	MWECI
				\$17,250	Local / Private	United Way
Seton Catholic School	W	Preschool Tuition	3Y & 4Y	\$	Private Pay	School CFO
		DE Textbook Revenue	67 students	\$1,324	State	Department of Education

Agency	Counties Served	Program	Ages Served	Funding	Type of Funding	Source of Information
Oskaloosa Christian School	M	Preschool Tuition DE Textbook Revenue	3Y & 4Y 176 students	\$ \$3,477	Private Pay State	School CFO Department of Education
Ottumwa Christian School – QRS 4	W	Preschool Tuition DE Textbook Revenue	3Y & 4Y 78 students	\$ \$1,541	Private Pay State	School CFO Department of Education
MWECI Preschool Scholarships	MW	Preschool Tuition	3Y, 4Y & 5Y	\$14,740	State	MWECI
American Home Finding Association – QRS 5	MW	Child Care Nurse Consultant	0-5Y	\$79,900	State	MWECI
Orchard Place / CCR&R Region IV	MW	Child Care Consultant Training & Consultation	0-5Y	\$35,288	State	MWECI
Great Prairie AEA	MW	PBIS Early Learning Training & Coaching (IT & PS)	0-5Y	\$70,188	State	MWECI
Sieda Community Action	MW	Child & Adult Care Food Program Homes Centers	0-5Y	\$ \$	Federal Federal	Sieda Comm. Action
Mahaska County YMCA Early Learning Program – QRS 4 Kids Corner Child Care Center 0-3Y & Webster Building 3-5Y	M	Child Care and Preschool	Infant, Toddler, Preschool and School Age		DHS – CCA MWECI	

Ottumwa YMCA Discovery Lane QRS 3	W	Child Care and Preschool Services	Infant, Toddler, Preschool and School Age		DHS – CCA MWECI	
American Home Finding Association	W	Ottumwa High School Child Care	0-5Y	\$42,500	Local Campaign DHS – CCA	United Way
Eddyville Child Care & Family Resource Center	M W	Child Care and Preschool Services	Infant, Toddler, Preschool and School Age		DHS – CCA	
New Sharon Child Care and Preschool	M	Child Care and Preschool Services	Infant, Toddler, Preschool and School Age		DHS – CCA MWECI	
Peek A Boo Point	M	Child Care and Preschool Services	Infant, Toddler, Preschool and School Age		DHS – CCA	
Indian Hills Child Care Center	W	Child Care and Preschool Services	Infant, Toddler, Preschool and School Age		DHS – CCA	
First Presbyterian Preschool – QRS 4	W	Preschool Only	4-5Y		Private Pay	
Living Hope Preschool – QRS 3	W	Preschool Only	3-5 Y		MWECI	
SIEDA Parents as Teachers	M/W	Family Support Home Visitation	0-5 Y	\$159,697	State	MWECI
SIEDA - MIECHV	Wapello	Family Support Home Visitation	0-5 Y	\$203,788	Federal	Sieda Comm. Action
SIEDA FaDSS	M/W	Family Support Home Visitation	0-18 Y	\$51,017 \$59,889	Federal State	Sieda Comm. Action
Wapello County Agricultural Extension District / ISU Extension & Outreach	W	Wapello County NEST Program	Prenatal – 5Y	\$19,322	State	MWECI

Great Prairie AEA	MW	PBIS Family Workshops and Parent Cafés	0-5Y	\$50,455	State	MWECI
Agency	Counties Served	Program	Ages Served	Funding	Type of Funding	Source of Information
Child Health Specialty Clinic	M/W	Evaluation, diagnosis and care coordination for children with special needs.	Birth-21		Federal State	
American Home Finding Association	W	MCH, Hawk-I Outreach, CHIPRA II Teen, Oral Health and Family Planning	PN, 0-5Y, 0-19	\$28,178 \$91,619 \$209,698	State Federal Other	Iowa Department of Public Health
American Home Finding Association	W	WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program	0-5 Infants	\$628,431 \$40,000	Federal	Iowa Department of Public Health
American Home Finding Association	W	First Five	10-19Y	\$88,534 \$31,106	State Other	Iowa Department of Public Health
American Home Finding Association	W	Foster Grandparents	0-5 Y	\$152,000	Federal	AHFA
Mahaska Health Partnership Public Health	M	Immunization Services	0-19Y	\$9,113 \$2,143	Federal State	Iowa Department of Public Health
Wapello County Public Health	W	Immunization Services	0-18Y	\$9,114 \$2,143	Federal State	Iowa Department of Public Health
Wapello County Agricultural Extension District	W	Iowa Nutrition Network School Grant Program	0-16Y	\$31,491	State- Other	Iowa Department of Public Health
Indian Hills Community College	W	Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) Program	Students	\$374,554	Federal	Iowa Department of Public Health