

**T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA**  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 3, 2009

*Present:* Tom Rendon, Jody Caswell, Cathy Eddy, Tracey Mavis, Sharon Mays, Nancy Merryman, Kim Richman, Teresa Sammons, Deb Scrowther, Marsha Swanson, Terry Wangberg  
*Staff:* Barb Merrill, Pat Dautremont, Pam Ellis, Brian Fett, Stacie Steveson, Toranna Wermes  
*Guests:* Amy Curtis for Stacey Walter  
*Excused:* Isbelia Arzola, Rosemary Geiken, Cathy Ketton, Ann Lundvall, Debra Morrison, Karen Thelin, Stacey Walter, Jamie White  
*Next meeting:* Wednesday, May 6, 2009: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Location to be determined.

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**I. Welcome and introductions:** Tom Rendon, T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Chair.

**Committee new members:** Nancy Merryman (Mount Mercy College), Debra Morrison (CCR&R Region 2, Teresa Sammons (Center Director-YMCA Child Development Center & SA), and Stacey Walter (United Way of Central Iowa) have agreed to join our committee. Nancy and Teresa joined us today. Amy Curtis joined us today on Stacey's behalf.

**II. Recipient's story – Teresa Sammons:** Teresa gave us a moving story of her professional development history and that of her center staff and the impact T.E.A.C.H. has made for all of them. Their center now has sponsors on T.E.A.C.H. both Teresa and 8 of her staff. They are taking their courses online and have developed their own cohort and support system at the center.

**III. Dates for meetings for 2009**

Wednesday.....May 6, 2009 ..... 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....September 2, 2009 ..... 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....December 2, 2009 ..... 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**IV. State, federal funding-Fiscal implications for T.E.A.C.H.:** Tom led a brainstorming session to consider new sources of funding for T.E.A.C.H.

Department of Education: Part B, Part C, state-wide VPP, state-wide local Empowerment grants, AEAs, and Title 1 Stimulus; Reduced tuition and Federal Financial Aid; Head Start and Early Head Start: Head Start Loan Forgiveness; Gambling: Legislative and individual casinos; Workforce Development: training dollars; Infant Toddler: CCDF Quality. Also, foundations, tax check off, endowment/business, Higher Education Opportunity Act, Iowa State Extension, Economic Stimulus, HRSA, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa.

**V. Current events and policy recommendations and discussion:**

**Waiting List: - Input on priorities for predicted waiting list. Proposal from T.E.A.C.H. staff:** The matrix was agreed upon with minimal changes. The possibility of not starting any new recipients this summer was discussed and is likely.

**Policy changes within T.E.A.C.H. – input wanted regarding home providers who go out of business due to the economy –** Possibilities included payment plans or formal statements of intent. The suggestion was made that we document their emergency and then contact them again after six months to determine if they are able to be back into business, and if not, and they have another job, timing would be right to bill them. This will be considered on an individual basis by the appropriate Counselor and the Program Manager.

**WAGE\$ proposal – Barb, Pam, Toranna:** – WAGE\$ rewards child care workers with supplements based on their educational level and commitment to current location. Caseload for counselors is 2 to 3 times greater because there is less work for each recipient (sign on and twice yearly verification of employment). WAGE\$ is all education based, not experience based. Since Sue Russell did an event at the Iowa AEYC Conference; Barb has talked with Legislative people, DHS, and United Way. Iowa AEYC wouldn't have to be the license lead agency but it does make a good fit.

**New College Directory Format – preliminary info – Marsha Swanson:** Using Iowa's as a model, Child Care Services Association (CCSA) created a new format and requested all T.E.A.C.H. states to participate in creating a national one for community colleges. Marsha collected all the data and it has been sent to CCSA for approval.

**Workforce study update –** Iowa Workforce Development has been contracted for this. Input on questions was done at the Iowa Early Childhood Iowa Congress this February and the study is progressing.

**Propose a model for student teaching (on hold until funding levels rise).**

**VI. T.E.A.C.H. update report**

**Budget update:** – Because of carryover from the previous year, if we had flat funding next year, that would be equivalent to a cut. If Empowerment professional development is cut by the Legislature, we would have a cut of over 50%. In order to keep 500 on T.E.A.C.H. we will need 1.5 million, more if we want to continue to grow 50% each year.

**Data/participation report:** – So far this fiscal year we have a total of 512 recipients; 69 CDA, 410 Associate, 49 Bachelor. Of those recipients, 16 had both CDA and Associate contracts.

**T.E.A.C.H. conference April 28-29, 2009 in North Carolina.** All the T.E.A.C.H. staff is attending. Marsha Swanson and Jennifer Anderson are joining us. Barb is presenting at two workshops.

**Annual signing of conflict of interest policy** Every calendar year we need to have all Advisory Committee members sign conflict of interest and confidentiality statements.

**VII. Announcements and updates from your system or your part of the state:**

**ECI Professional Development Component group update:** – **Barb, Tom:** They are restructuring under the broader Early Childhood Iowa framework. Subcommittees are underway. Planning to take a team to National Leadership Day at PDI in June.

**Alliance update:** – **Terry, Marsha:** They had their quarterly meeting in February. Discussion included CDA for credit and non-credit, developing common assignments for each course. Not yet ready to talk about field experience course. A two day retreat is scheduled for July.

**NAEYC Accreditation Seminar March 19:** Programs tell of roadblocks, barriers, and successes they had. Last year about 50 attended.

**Play Symposium May 15-16:** – NAEYC picked Iowa as one of three states, we don't have to pay the facilitators. Friday afternoon is for a small group of policy makers and leaders, Saturday is for teachers/instructors.

**Other announcements and information for the group:** – Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant. Nancy Merryman is on the disposition team. They devised an educational tool, used around the state in teacher education programs. The tool is not used to screen people out. The dispositions were pulled from professional teachers and literature. They did not get into generic workforce dispositions.

**VIII. Future Advisory Committee Meeting Dates**

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Wednesday.....September 2, 2009 ..... 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....December 2, 2009 ..... 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**IX. Adjourn**

*Thank you for your participation and your commitment to Iowa's child care workforce.*