

Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Council Meeting  
Jessie Parker Building, Starkweather Room  
October 13, 2010, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Preston Daniels, Chair, Department of Human Rights (DHR)  
Richard Moore, Director, Iowa Child Advocacy Board  
Becky Swift, ODCP  
Diane Oak Goode, IWD  
Cyndy Erickson, DE  
Wendy Rickman, DHS  
Kathy Stone, Department of Health  
Kelli Tallman, ISU Extension, 4-H Youth Development  
Adam Lounsbury, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services

**Member Absent:** Shanell Wagler, Director Office of Empowerment

**Ready by 21 Results Team Members Present:**

Steve Michael, DHR, CJJJ  
Carol Behrer, Youth Policy Institute of Iowa  
Jessa Martal, SIYAC  
Jeff Critchlow, SIYAC  
Laurie Larkin, DHS  
Paul Stageberg, DHR/CJJJ  
Ruth Allison, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)

Minutes were taken by Dottie Schiltz, Recording Secretary.

**I. Introductions, Objectives, Review of Agenda**

Preston Daniels called meeting to order 2:04. Purpose of meeting was to review Department of education Grant Awards, act on recommendations, of the Results Team sub-committee, to increase the graduation rate, and review draft of "Keep the Connections" message platform. Quorum was present. Time allowed for review of minutes. Introductions made by all.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from meetings held August 11, 2010, and September 8, 2010, were reviewed for approval. Motion to approve August minutes made by Becky Swift; seconded by Cyndy Erickson. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to approve September minutes made by Wendy Rickman; seconded by Becky Swift. Motion passed.

**III. Department of Education Grants**

Cyndy Erickson reported on receipt of two federal Department of Education grants. The first grant is the Iowa State Agencies Supporting Safe Schools (ISAS3) with a goal to build capacity and statewide infrastructure to prevent youth substance use and violence and to support collaboration between the Iowa Department of Education (DE) and other state agencies, which aligns with the ICYD Council. It is a \$125,000 one-time "bridge" grant to replace the phasing out of federal formula funding (with a similar goal) for schools. The grant will support establishing a multi-agency statewide plan for creating safe, healthy, and caring learning environment to prevent substance use and violence. The ICYD Council will act as the multi-agency team. Specific activities include:

- Creating a statewide resource directory that identifies appropriate supports, services and resources to create and sustain safe learning environments.
- Establishing a process to support schools in implementing a continuous improvement process for drug and violence prevention that includes an implementation manual that has tools on ways to use data to identify needs, map resources, and match strategies with identified needs.
- Creating a training and communication plan to train school staff in the use of the implementation manual.

DE will contract with Iowa Consortium for Substance Abuse Research to pick out indicators for a healthier school climate. In addition, Dr Joyce Fischer, who works with School Administrators of Iowa will help facilitate the conversations with what to do statewide for accountable measures and goals under the grant. Also, funding is budgeted for the evidence-based practice literature review for resource directory.

The second grant is a Safe and Supportive Schools (IS3) grant that will be \$3.5 million per year for four years, totals \$14,120,939. The goal of this grant is to support statewide measurement of and targeted programmatic interventions to improve conditions for learning, school safety and reduce substance use. In addition, valid and reliable measures for school safety, engagement, and environment are required and high school students, staff, and parents must be surveyed. The survey must be developed, piloted, and administered during the first year of

the grant. In the last three years, specific school districts will be targeted and 80% of the funds will address the identified needs. The schools will be selected based on the highest need, with the survey results being one of the measures. Twelve districts were invited to participate in the grant proposal. Additional schools may be invited to participate. The original 12 schools are:

- Cardinal Cedar Rapids Columbus Council Bluffs
- Davenport Des Moines Dubuque East Greene
- Louisa-Muscatine Olin Sioux City Waterloo

In addition to resources from these two grants, the Department of Education (DE) has about \$400,000 carry over from the last drug-free schools grant, which has to be expended in the next year. DE would like to use that with the 10 communities that the ICYD Council conducted visits. The ICYD Council will be asked to assist in developing the plans for the funds that have to support needs related to school culture, climate, violence, and drug prevention.

The plan is to use Iowa Youth Survey as the foundation for the required survey because it is already in place. There are some things that are not included. We do not have the parent or staff piece of that survey. In addition, a school safety score, beyond the survey results, will include incident information, suspensions, expulsions, referrals, attendance and maybe a variety of other information already collected. The safety score will determine which high schools will get the assistance. It is anticipated that approximately 15 high schools will receive assistance. Those receiving implementation dollars are committed to taking survey every year. It is not intended to invent a new survey, the Iowa Youth Survey can be adapted. Major differences between the IYS and this new survey is that the new survey is for high school youth (grade 9-12), and will be given each year of the grant.

DE staff will be assigned to work directly with the communities. Another idea being developed is to have \$25,000-30,000 for youth engagement, which would receive student input to determine ways to use that money to improve their culture, climate, most pressing needs and goals. AEA consultants can support that work.

The first year starts with resource mapping to develop a directory that states what available resources from state and community agencies, with state-wide focus.

The Learning Supports Advisory Team will provide leadership for the initiative. In addition, the DE is requesting the ICYD Council to commit to developing the resources directory; and to provide support to the selected communities.

The ICYD Council asked for the Ready by 21 Results team meet and assist Cyndy and DE in moving forward and developing potential strategies to utilize the \$400,000 carryover in the 10 communities that ICYD completed focus groups in during the Spring of 2010.

#### **IV: Report from Sub-Committee on Recommendations for Action by ICYD Council**

Sub-Committee of Cyndi Erickson, Keli Tallman, Steve Michael, Carol Behrer, and Doug Wolfe met to develop recommendations, based on the review the reports and research, on the commonalities of communities' needs, strengths, best practice, and successful strategies to increase the graduation rate. The overarching statement is:

##### ***For Youth to be Successful:***

- ***Students Need to be Engaged and Attend School***
- ***Families Need to be Engaged***
- ***Schools and Communities Need to Support Youth***

This statement can be used as the foundation of the ICYD Council's Annual Report. Specific action steps and strategies need to be developed for each of the bullets. The sub-committee suggested policy areas and strategies for each bullet (see handout). This is what the community and literature believes would make a difference. These are three good areas and we would need to determine what our steps would be to support those. There is consensus these are the things that the ICYD Council will work toward to increase the graduation rate.

The sub-committee posed the following questions to the ICYD Council:

What each respective agency can do to make a difference?

What the ICYD Council as a group can do to make a difference? and

What will be included in the ICYD Council Annual Report, due on February 1, 2011?

Discussion ensued. From an individual organization perspective, the concern lies with where the trade off is, if we had to pick one thing between supporting teams or having adequate number of case managers presents a quandary.

This council is a policy-making recommendation group

They are broad and yes, it does not need to engage the group but would work towards goals. Recommendation made for Counsel to put to task and find balance of what is too much or too little. Work force development could work around family friendly work place, etc.

Daniels echoed Stone that the Council has not determined what to specifically agree on, the picture presently is too broad. It was suggested to break the message into smaller details and determine what individual groups/agencies can or cannot do. Stone recalled the review done that provided all sorts of information, which stated “here is what we believe contributes to our goal”. She suggested retain those, and then determine what is used as starting point.

Is this council ready to support the compulsory school age to be 18? Moore noted it is a way to say we propose this to help reach the goal of increasing the graduation rate. More discussion and Lounsbury stated if we approve the recommendations presented, then what? It was suggested that it will be the foundation of the Annual Report. It is also possible to back to the communities and share the findings and develop plans to address the issues.

Daniels: Recommended that we send the overarching statement out to the communities and report that there is a need to break into smaller pieces and specify what each piece can do. Educationally, based on research these are things that are needed. It was suggested to use the three listed phrases (bulleted above), worded so that first year is educational gathering and identify the current resources, and then in 2012 to provide what we have, and move to more concrete actions. The goal is to compile a document and get it into the leadership’s hands by January 2011.

Daniels recommended keeping supportive information to a half page of basic information that can be reviewed easily and able to capsule into a position. For example, it makes sense to educate folks to keep kids in school, and we follow that with a short paragraph (couple statements) to describe where it is in Iowa now. This will provide the policy makers with bigger picture. Each of these needs rationale and statements of current situation. It does not require a proposal to change compulsory law but gives them something that can be done that will help in that aspect.

So if we give the three broad statements to the agencies, and get the agencies to provide their agency specific information to the sub-committee, there will be more clarity once the committee gets the agencies information. More discussion took place. Information requested to be provided back to subcommittee by October 31.

#### **V. Review “Keep the Connections” Message**

Council reviewed draft brochure product developed by “Keep the Connections” as a tool to get the message to the Governor and Legislative leadership about ICYD. Before finalizing the document, input from the ICYD Council is sought. Comments included increasing diversity in the photos, ensuring spelling corrections have been made, and to list all of the ICYD Council member agencies. The purpose is to raise the visibility and viability of the Council. If the handout is to be a marketing brochure, a need exists to see something more around the graduation goal established and about the collaborative efforts we have done in relation to the ten communities visited.

The Message Platform, which is the script to use in talking with the Governor’s Office and Legislative leaders, was discussed with suggested changes regarding the “asking” message that in the draft form states:

*“Make the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Council the seat of executive power for all decisions about youth in Iowa by having the ICYD Council report directly to you through the appointment of the Lt. Governor or First Spouse to chair the ICYD Council.”*

The ICYD Council is not currently in position to be the “seat of executive power for all decisions about youth in Iowa”, so that language needs to be changed. In the beginning of the ICYD the Governor’s Office was represented at the meetings. That has changed, so reinstating a senior staff person to the ICYD Council maybe should be the ask. Modifications will be made to both documents.

Daniels summarized the discussion: The ICYD Council is in statute, to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. The Council has these recommendations and identified issues that address the graduation rate. The Council would like to continue with the collaborative philosophy and maintain the expectations that all of these agencies work together for the youth and share what we have for the benefit of kids and parents. In conclusion, Daniels noted group was providing good input, have heard good things, and are moving in the right direction. The Annual Report should provide options for the identified issues, continue to promote the ICYD Council, and build reputation before a substantial ask. **Wendy Rickman moved to approve that philosophy as stated by Daniels, Adam Lounsbury seconded. Motion passed.** Comments and discussion continued regarding commitment and statement being put together and to get support from all Departmental heads.

Meeting time concerns were discussed. Recommendation made to put SIYAC on agenda earlier so they are not rushed or left off. The second Wednesday is not good for DPH and DHS. Starting in January 2011 ICYD will be held monthly on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

#### **IV. SIYAC Update**

SIYAC held its first meeting for new school year in September. Jessa Marfal and Jeff Critchlow presented the update. Jessa is Chair of the “Life After Graduation” Committee. Jeff is on the Youth Outreach Committee. There are nine members in their second year of their term and 11 new members. SIYAC Committees are still in planning stages, Jessa reported that the Life After Graduation Committee is planning programs/lessons for underclassman eighth and ninth graders, comparing graduating high school students going on to secondary (to include trade schools) as opposed to not going on, and how it affects their lives, and researching pros and cons. Within next six months, they hope to provide the information they acquired. ICYD members provided resource information that would be helpful to their research. Interviews for AmeriCorps position will finish up tomorrow, with selection being made by end of month.

Jeff will be working with Legislative Affairs committee. He looks forward to working with that group in the future; the response to emails has not been greatest. Last year, SIYAC recommended raising the compulsory graduation age to 18. Their opinion of three-point strategies, Jessa agreed with Jeff, noting there is a need to touch base on those people who just don’t go or sit in the lobby or hallway. Jeff shared that at his school he feels the students are more friends-oriented rather than families, grades, or teachers. He suggested having input from peers and to have peers distributing the information.

The ICYD Council members offered support and will provide additional information when requested.

#### **V. Other Business - None**

**X - Next Meeting** –Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 2010, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**XI – Adjourned** at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by  
Dottie Schiltz, Recording Secretary