



Minutes July 8, 2005

The meeting was held at King's Family Restaurant, Route 8, in Franklin. Agencies represented were as follows:

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| ▪ <i>Childcare Information Services</i> | Laura Lehnortt |
| ▪ <i>EITA</i> | Janice Belgredan |
| ▪ <i>Easter Seal Society</i> | Lea Weaver |
| ▪ <i>Oil City Area School District</i> | Yvonne Paranick |
| ▪ <i>Parent</i> | Veronica McCauley |
| ▪ <i>Penn State Cooperative Extension</i> | Bibiana Chestnut |
| ▪ <i>Regional Counseling Center</i> | Susan White |
| ▪ <i>Riverview Intermediate Unit</i> | Heidi Girty |
| ▪ <i>Twin Creeks Head Start</i> | Dot Shaffer |
| ▪ <i>Venango County Early Intervention 0-3</i> | Penny Thompson |
| ▪ <i>Venango County HS</i> | David Schwille |
| ▪ <i>Venango County MH/MR</i> | Jim Sandok |
| ▪ <i>Welcome Every Child</i> | Stacey Skinner |

The meeting was called to order by Veronica McCauley, Co-Chair.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2005, meeting was made by Jim Sandok and seconded by Heidi Girty. The motion carried. Meeting minutes can be viewed at the Venango County Early Intervention web site (<http://home.usachoice.net/vcei>).

Old Business

Laura Lehnortt distributed information regarding the family welcome packets, and she discussed the need for new LICC brochures. She distributed ideas for comments and suggested that each agency provide Candy Reina with 75 brochures for inclusion.

Lea Weaver distributed the survey results from the Children's Day at the Mall. Options for survey collection and rewards for completed passports were discussed. This year it was difficult using tickets, because it required more staff at these tables.

New Business

LICC members discussed moving the Health and Safety Fair to the Cranberry Mall during Fire Safety Week in an attempt to improve attendance.

The budget for 2005-06 was reviewed and approved by the LICC members in attendance.

Susan White reminded members about the Teddy Bear Picnic on July 22, 2005, during the Oil Heritage Celebration.

Bibiana Chestnut noted the Venango County Fair will be held in August, and offered fair booklets to anyone interested.

Program Reports

Lea Weaver of the **Easter Seal Society** shared that T-ball for children two years and older will be starting July 26. They are currently looking for organizations to sponsor this activity. Also, a certified vision therapist will soon be available in Venango County on Mondays.

Janice Belgredan of **EITA** reminded members that as of July 1, Early Intervention is a part of the Department of Education. Concerning the inclusion of "quality child care," a forum will be held on July 13 to gain perspective concerning Early Care and Education policies.

Yvonne Paranick representing the **Oil City Area School District** explained that they are getting ready to implement full-day kindergarten. She has been very busy with First Book activities. Books will be given out to children in Oil City and Franklin on July 18 with Councilwoman Sonja Hawkins as a guest reader. OCASD will also be participating in the Oil Heritage Parade.

Heidi Girty of **Riverview Intermediate Unit** reported that the IU is experiencing many personnel changes.

Veronica McCauley, **Parent**, has been working with Barb Feroz on educational research using focus groups and individual interviews.

David Schwille of **Venango County CYS** indicated that funding sources and available funding for Human Services in Venango County are unpredictable at this time.

Bibiana Chestnut of **Penn State Cooperative Extension** offered information regarding a fall conference on October 15 at the Titusville Early Childhood Learning Center with Jack Hartman. The topic is "Using Music for Anger Management Issues." Also, Family Group Decision Making is taking referrals for their services.

Laura Lenhorrh of **Child Care Information Services** reported that Venango County is taking the lead with regard to collaboration between Early Intervention and Early Care and Education. She indicated that we are a great role model for other counties. Changes in requirements for CCIS participation were also discussed.

Dot Shaffer of **Twin Creeks Head Start** mentioned that they are going through a re-authorization process with results being made available in the fall. Most centers are filling up quickly, but there are still some openings, especially in Clintonville.

Jim Sandok of **Venango County MH/MR** reported that Early Intervention continues to meet and serve the needs of children in Venango County. He discussed some of the differences in funding since EI changed from MH/MR to OCD.

Next Meeting: Friday, September 9, 2005, at 11:00 a.m.
King's Family Restaurant

