

Promise Partners

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Empowering a caring community
that promises the well-being
of every child.

Introduction:

Promise Partners formed in 2008 to ignite the power of collaborative action to achieve the mission *“Empowering a caring community that promises the well-being of every child in Pottawattamie County.”* We are the cross-sector community board with public-private partnerships. We are committed to bring diverse stakeholders together to collaborate toward a common agenda and support a shared course of action.

We are currently leveraging over 1.8 million dollars into our county as the designated Early Childhood Iowa area (ECI), Decategorization Board (formal child welfare and juvenile justice system), Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC), Prevent Child Abuse, and Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) serving Pottawattamie County. Our Board of Directors subcontracts and monitors the direct services for these funds. Without Promise Partners, these resources would not be available to our community.

Promise Partners’ role as the overarching coordinating board is to convene partners to raise awareness, align current efforts, identify gaps, identify evidence-based strategies, establish the data and communication hub, and seek additional resources.

Promise Partners objective is to promote practice and policy solutions that drive aligned action to achieve our mission in an effective and efficient manner for an empowered and thriving community.

Connections Matter Committee

Purpose

Connections Matter is an initiative designed to engage community members in building caring connections to improve well-being. Research shows that communities connected through caring relationships have better physical and mental health, increased workplace productivity and school success, and less crime and homelessness. Greater social connectedness also strengthens families from the start to reduce the likelihood that child abuse will occur.

Overall Roles and Responsibilities

After establishing firm foundations using public relations and internal connections, we expanded our committee in order to effectively meet needs of identified communities from the awareness phase to the follow-up planning, documentation and action steps.

Key Actions Include:

- **Education:** To train & retrain in new curriculums
- **Infrastructure:** Develop a committee structure, delegate responsibilities to committee members. Create a follow-up plan and identify targeted communities.
- **Impact:** Gather pre and post data, Create self-assessments for community members, Create a survey and other data questions, Conversations with State and data collections.
- **Engagement:** Community champions and networking
- **Expansion:** Grow committee; each committee member completes a 1-on-1 community conversation to recruit.

Meetings

The meetings shall be held the first Thursday of the month, with the exception of July and January, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am in the Promise Partners 1st floor conference room, located in the Career's Building on the Iowa School for the Deaf Campus, 3501 Harry Langdon Boulevard, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Membership

The Committee seeks diverse representation from cross-sectors and systems as well as parents and consumers. All members need to review the committee charter and sign the membership commitment form annually. A list serve of members will be maintained and new members may join at any time. Members will receive agendas, minutes and materials via email.

Procedures

The committee shall appoint a chair and a co-chair that shall serve a 2-year term, but can be reappointed for additional terms upon consensus of the members. Promise Partners shall provide a staff to provide assistance to the committee and provide backbone support.

The co-chairs shall have the shared responsibility of facilitating meetings.

Current Leadership includes:

- Co-Chair: Jordan Morse, WIC/Child & Family Resource Network
- Co-Chair: Erika Kirchhoff, FAMILY Inc.

Meeting minutes and agendas shall be sent via email to the list serve of members as well as posted at www.promisepartners.org.

Policies and priorities shall come from the Governance Board as recommended by Coordinating Council with input from members. Committees shall report activities and progress to the Board.

The committee will use a "Fist to Five" process for consensus.