



Linking Families and Communities Board Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.

Location: The Pizza Ranch
Manson, IA

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES Early Childhood Iowa Board met on Thursday, March 17, 2011, at 12:30 p.m. at The Pizza Ranch, Manson, IA.

Members present: Jim Dick, Joe Kramer, LuAnn Burgers, Liz Wessels, Tammy Varland, Mark Egli, Phil Condon and Dean Hoag, Sr.

Members absent: Kelly Vonnahme, Paul Beneke, Brad Assman and Melanie Fierke

Community members present: Elizabeth Stanek, Marcie Lentsch, Julie Kuhlmann, Amber Hansen, Jeanie Running, Tami Julius, Tricia Nichols and Melissa Kaufmann.

The meeting was called to order by vice-chair Dean Hoag at 12:30 p.m. Quorum was met. The Board made introductions. Members of the community also made introductions.

Motion was made by Ms. Varland, seconded by Mr. Kramer to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Minutes from the last board meeting were reviewed. Motion was made by Mr. Kramer seconded by Mr. Condon to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2011 Board Meeting. Motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Hoag called for the item, "Persons to Be Heard." No requests were made.

Ms. Kauffman, from Jester Insurance Services of Des Moines, reviewed the current insurance coverage of the board. She also reviewed her suggested changes. The changes are in response to Tool T that she had received from Ms. Stanek in October 2010. Tool T was disseminated from the Early Childhood Iowa office and outlines the insurance coverage that the state recommends. Ms. Kauffman went through Tool T and compared the current coverage to the recommendations. Ms. Kauffman stated the current policy voids some immunities provided by Chapter 670 of the Iowa code. Motion was made by Mr. Dick, seconded by Mr. Egli to proceed with getting a quote from other insurance carriers for the required coverage as recommended in Tool T. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The board reviewed the six month ECI project reports. Reports reviewed by the board were Family Foundations, Love & Logic, Positive Solutions for Families, Preschool Tuition, Preschool Transportation, Play & Learn, FCCERS and Child Care Consultant Project.

Ms. Stanek provided the board with an update on legislative issues and action. At present, no action has been finalized in regard to preschool. The House and Senate are very divided on their positions regarding preschool, the budget in general and many other things. The House Education Subcommittee is recommending a 6.5% cut to all ECI funds and a 57% cut to our preschool. Their recommendations also include a 57% cut to Shared Visions and replacing the State Wide Voluntary Preschool Program with a Preschool Program that is operated like the Child Care Assistance program. The Senate recommends 3.1% across the board cut for all programs, however there was an increase for colleges and regents were kept at status quo.

Ms. Stanek also reviewed the current budget with the board. Ms. Stanek stated that we will be under the 20% carry-forward limit for this year as we have been in the past.

The board then reviewed Financial Statements for December 2010 and January 2011 as prepared by Redenius & Bowzer, LLP. Motion made by Mr. Condon seconded by Mrs. Burgers to approve the financial statements as presented. Motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Stanek presented two ideas for consideration by the board. The first was to organize a children's fair, somewhat similar to Kids Fest, which is put on by Children and Families of Iowa in Des Moines. This would be a children and family event that would be a place for organizations to advertise their programs and children could participate in games, sing, dance and watch various performers. Ms. Stanek stated that this was not something she could do alone, but would need help from the board, other community organizations and businesses to carry out. She felt it would be very difficult to carryout this summer, but planning could certainly begin for next year. Ms. Stanek asked for input from the board as to if this is something they felt worthy to pursue or not. Ms. Stanek also stated that she would like to bring in a speaker on bucket filling that goes along with what our area early childhood programs and some schools (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports and our Positive Solutions for Families are based around. Ms. Stanek also asked for input from the board on moving ahead with this idea for this fiscal year. Motion was made by Mr. Dick, seconded by Ms. Burgers to continue to develop the idea of a children's fair and to move ahead with the speaker if funds are available. Motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Stanek reviewed the RFP for FY12 with the board. Ms. Stanek stated that pending the approval of the board the RFP would be due April 22nd. The Executive Committee would again be reviewing the applications and make recommendations to the Board at their June 9th Meeting. She noted that the budget had been changed from last year to include other sources of funding that are used for the program. Motion was made by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Ms. Burgers to approve the RFP and RFP process as presented. Motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Motion was made by Ms. Wessels, seconded by Ms. Burgers, to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Next Meeting: June 9th, 2011 (12:30 p.m.) at Pizza Ranch in Manson

Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek