



BOARD MINUTES – 09/08/2022

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) met on Thursday, September 8th, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. at the Fort Dodge Play and Learn Center (Wells Fargo Building, 2nd Floor, 822 Central Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA.

Members present:

Clarence Siepker
Bob Thode
Scott Becker

Pastor Nick Thackery
Tammy Varland

Members absent:

Justin Daggett
Kristin Teske

Community members present:

Barb Riley
Kristi Vogel

Elizabeth Stanek

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Clarence Siepker at 12:35 p.m. Quorum was met.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Siepker asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. No changes were suggested.

MOTION: Ms. Varland moved to approve the agenda as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Siepker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to approve the minutes as printed.

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment/Board Questions

None.

Program Presentations

Ms. Barb Riley, Executive Director, and Kristi Vogel, Maternal Health Coordinator, from Calhoun County Public Health presented on the Family Foundations program and the new Coordinated Intake program. Ms. Riley



shared that the 90% of the families enrolled in the Family Foundations program, which covers all three counties, are low-income (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, have a special needs child (one an Iowa Family Service Plan or Individualized Education Plan) and/or parent has a high school diploma or less education. She noted the following:

- Getting additional families in the program has been a challenge since the pandemic.
- Webster County has received federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting funds, which will serve the majority of their families that were previously billed under the Family Foundations program.
- This federal award requires Webster County to become nationally credentialled through the Parents As Teachers program. The organizations and staff that deliver Family Foundations are all going to become nationally credentialled through Parents As Teachers.
- Programmatically, 94% of children are screened using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire.
- Staffing for Family Foundations is provided:
 - Calhoun – 2 degreed staff and 1 non-degreed
 - Pocahontas – 1 degreed staff
 - Webster – degreed staff (number currently in flux).

Ms. Vogel shared that the Coordinated Intake program makes a visit with mothers/families at Stewart Memorial Hospital in Lake City during the Gestational Diabetes test that all pregnant moms have to take. Ms. Vogel makes the visits and completes assessments. She provides information on resources and talks about health, SIDS, etc. The goal of the program is to build trusting relationships and help families get the resources and services they need and want. The program is going slowly to start and Ms. Vogel has weekly contact with Stewart Memorial staff to get referrals.

Financial Statements

Board members reviewed financial statements for April, May and June 2022 as prepared by Bowser and Richman.

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to approve the April, May and June 2022 Financial Statements as prepared by Bowser and Richman.

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Board Member Election

Mr. Siepker, Ms. Stanek and Mr. Thode introduced Rev. Nick Thackery, who had expressed interest in being on the board.

MOTION: Ms. Varland moved to elect Rev. Nick Thackery to the board of directors.

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Program Presentation

Ms. Stanek introduced Jen Becker, Volunteer Director of the Fort Dodge Play and Learn Center, which is now operating under the umbrella of Linking Families and Communities. Ms. Becker, a former elementary teacher, is overseeing the center and serving as the main person on-site when the center is open. Ms. Becker reported that currently the center is offering "Open Play" sessions in which families must sign-up to attend. The center limits play to 20 children per session and is now charging a small fee for the service to cover supplies, etc. Ms. Becker would like to add structured play opportunities in the next year. The sessions have been well attended thus far and it has been wonderful to see the engagement of parents with their children and between the



families that attend. Ms. Stanek reported that additional volunteers are being sought and will go through an application process, background check and orientation prior to volunteering.

FY22 ECI Annual Report

The board reviewed the ***FY22 Early Childhood Iowa Annual Report Data, FY22 ECI State Report, and Program Trends 2019-2022***. Discussion was held.

MOTION: Ms. Varland moved to approve the FY22 ECI State Report as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

FY23 Budget Update

Ms. Stanek reviewed the budget with the board noting the carry-forward from FY22 has been updated to reflect the actual carry-forward amounts.

Updates and Board Discussion

Ms. Stanek

Board Evaluation

Ms. Stanek provided hard copies and also referred board members to the link for the electronic version of the board evaluation.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Siepker asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Becker

SECOND: Ms. Varland

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

- Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

Next Meeting: December 8, 2022