



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) Executive Committee met on Thursday, May 26th, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. at Linking Families and Communities.

Members present:

Clarence Siepker

Bob Thode

Members absent:

Tabitha Acree

Community Members Present

Elizabeth Stanek

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Clarence Siepker at 9:300 a.m. Quorum was met. The meeting

Approval of Agenda

No changes to the agenda were made.

Update: Child Care Proposal

Ms. Stanek shared the proposal that she had submitted for a property donation for the purpose of converting the building into a child care center. Ms. Stanek reported that she had met with the CEO on May 19th to discuss terms and negotiate employee preference, etc. Ms. Stanek is scheduled to present to the organization's board later today at 4:30. Ms. Stanek reported that Governor Reynolds released two new funding opportunities for child care. The Child Care Business Incentive Grant will be the opportunity that will be beneficial to the potential project as it will provide up to \$1.5M for building renovation. The grant requires a 50% local match. The in-kind of the property/building donation counts toward the local match. Applications open June 17th are due July 18th.



Ms. Stanek will keep the committee members apprised of the outcome of the meeting.

Budget Review & Recommended Changes

Ms. Stanek provided a budget update with anticipated spending, as well as, potential project ideas. Ms. Stanek reported that the Family Foundations program isn't spending as much as originally anticipated and not as much preschool funding is needed. Ms. Stanek recommended technology for child care centers for online training, would be a good use of funding. Many centers have iPads; however, they are not compatible with the online training system that is in place and being expanded. Currently requests for 15 laptops have been received. Committee members will recommend to utilize that funding to assist child care with technological needs, including security and cameras.

FY23 Budget and Proposal Review

Ms. Stanek reported that the legislature had approved a budget, however the expected 2.5% increase for local ECI areas did not materialize. The school ready budget allocation for FY23 will be decreasing approximately \$40,000 in School Ready and \$10,500 in Early Childhood from FY22. Ms. Stanek reported that we will have carryforward to buffer those reductions and noted that federal MIECHV (Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting) funding will be available for Family Foundations services in Webster County, which will reduce the amount of funds allocated for that program in our budget.

Ms. Stanek provided:

- FY23 draft budgets for the Early Childhood Iowa funds.
- FY23 Administrative Budget
- Proposals received in response to RFP for FY23:
 - (CCNC) – Webster Co. Health Dept.
 - Business Investment Program (BIP) – Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.
 - Professional Development (PD) – Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.
 - Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation – Westphal M.H.
 - Coordinated Intake & Referral – Calhoun Co. Public Health
 - Family Foundations – Calhoun Co. Public Health
 - Head Start Transportation – Your Own United Resources, Inc.
 - Play and Learn – Fort Dodge Community Foundation



Members discussed the budgets and proposals. The committee will recommend a budget that includes the administrative budget as presented and the following programs for funding:

Program Name	Contractor	Amount
Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC)	Webster Co. Health Dept.	\$35,576.00
Business Investment Program (BIP)	Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.	\$25,873.00
Professional Development (PD)	Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.	\$7,559.00
Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	Westphal M.H.	\$60,900.00
Coordinated Intake & Referral	Calhoun Co. Public Health	\$20,601.00
Family Foundations	Calhoun Co. Public Health	\$145,735.50
Head Start Transportation	Your Own United Resources, Inc.	\$46,618.00
Play and Learn	Fort Dodge Community Foundation	\$5,996.00

Board Membership

Members discussed board membership. Ms. Stanek reported that she had received a letter of resignation from Ms. Acree. Members discussed options for replacement, as well as adding members and organization of the agency if the child care project materializes. Ms. Stanek will discuss with the State ECI Office to get additional input for consideration.

Ms. Stanek reported that the State ECI Office and operations have been transitioned to the purview of the new Health and Human Service Department. At this point operations will be the same for FY23 as they have been in the past (when it was operated under the Department of Management), however there is concern on how that will affect ECI in FY24.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Siepker closed the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

--Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

NEXT MEETING: TBD