



BOARD MINUTES – 03/16/2023

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) met on Thursday, March 16th, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. at Linking Families and Communities' Conference Room.

Members present:

Clarence Siepker
Bob Thode
Scott Becker
Pastor Nick Thackery

Tammy Varland
Kristin Teske

Members absent:

Justin Daggett

Community members present:

Elizabeth Stanek
Kristi Swier

Joyce Westphal

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Clarence Siepker at 12:30 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: Mr. Becker moved to approve the agenda as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Thackery

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Siepker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 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 Presentation

Ms. Joyce Westphal and Ms. Kristi Swier, both of Westphal Mental Health Consultation, presented on the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation project that is currently underway in the 3-county area. They reported that the Circle of Security training has been well received by 20 child care center staff. After training is completed, the staff are then provided mental health consultation to help address behaviors in their



classrooms and to provide support to staff. Ms. Swier reported that the consultation piece has proved to be difficult for staff to fully engage as they are meeting in the evenings on their own time. Both Swier and Westphal reported positive outcomes and responses from surveys from participants. The program currently has interest from two other centers, one in Pocahontas and one in Webster for the spring/early summer.

Financial Statements & Audit Report

Board members reviewed financial statements for November 2022, December 2022 and January 2023 as prepared by Bowser and Richman and June 30, 2022 Audit Report prepared by T.P. Anderson & Co.

MOTION: Mr. Thackery moved to approve the November 2022, December 2022 and January 2023 as prepared by Bowser and Richman and June 30, 2022 Audit Report prepared by T.P. Anderson & Co.

SECOND: Ms. Teske

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

FY23 Budget Update

Ms. Stanek reviewed the current budget with projected spending amounts for each program with the board.

Executive Committee Recommendations

The Executive Committee reviewed their recommendations with the board, which included:

- Board Policy 5.29 to meet the federal fund procurement policy requirements for the Child Care Business Incentive Grant that was awarded.
- FY23 Budget recommendations:
 - Increase YOUR Head Start contract to \$52,498.06 and increase of \$5,880.06, adding a provision to utilize \$15,000 for a sunshade for their playground.
 - Amend the contract with Calhoun County Public Health to allow up to \$10,000 for incentives for program participation.
 - Commit \$100,000 for the child care center project.
- Approve the FY24 RFP process, including the renewal application and new program application, as presented.
- Approve the Executive Evaluation as presented.

MOTION: Ms. Varland moved to approve the Executive Committee's recommendations as presented.

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Data Updates

Ms. Stanek reviewed the *FY23 Biannual Program Dashboard* and *Data Trend Update to the Early Childhood Plan* with the board.

Director Updates

Ms. Stanek reviewed *Director Update – 3/6/23* with the board.

- The Breathing to Balance Kids classes have begun in each county though attendance at the first session was slim.
- Child Care Center Director Meetings began in February. Attendance was slim; however, the session was recorded and has been set to all center directors for viewing.



- Fort Dodge Play and Learn Center is going well and has good attendance. The center is completely staffed by volunteers and open limited hours.
- An offer to purchase the Women's Center property has been received by UnityPoint. The CEO has requested a letter from LFC on fund-raising progress.
- Legislatively, there are a few surviving child care bills after the first funnel. The move of Early Childhood Iowa to the Department of Health and Human Services is in a bill, though currently keeps everything the same for local boards at this time, though it could still change.
- There is reason for concern in the coming year for many changes to ECI, ECI areas, operations, etc.

Mr. Thackery reported that Oktoberfest committee is meeting and has a new members, Jay and Jenny Ort to help with fundraising. The next meeting is April 13th at 5:30 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Adjournment

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

MOTION: Ms. Varland

SECOND: Ms. Teske

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

- Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

Next Meeting: ~~June 8th, 2023~~ June 1st, 2023