



BOARD MINUTES – 3/17/2022

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) met on Thursday, March 17th, 2022 at 12:30p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room of the Wells Fargo Building, Fort Dodge, IA.

Members present:

Clarence Siepker
Bob Thode
Tabitha Acree

Scott Becker
Tammy Varland

Members absent:

Justin Daggett

Kristin Teske

Community members present:

Rebekah Hungate
Jami Huster
Tricia Nichols

Stacy Kraft
Elizabeth Stanek

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: Ms. Acree

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Siepker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2022 Board Meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Varland moved to approve the minutes as printed.

SECOND: Mr. Thode

Discussion: Mr. Thode reported that he had arranged for the use of the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance conference room for Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) training for child care providers.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Board Questions

None.



Family Foundations Report

Ms. Tricia Nichols, Supervisor of the Family Foundations program at Webster County Health Department, provided an update on the program. Nichols reported that the three-county program, which also includes Calhoun Co. Public Health and Pocahontas Home Care Aide Agency, had recently been awarded a “bonus” for meeting the benchmarks as set by the State of Iowa as part of the Home Visitation Performance Measures Pilot Project. They met the targets set for: % of prenatal enrollment and % of first-time mother enrollment. They desire to meet all of the targets, which also include developmental screenings of children and maternal depression screening. They are currently reviewing their processes to enable them to meet these targets in the future.

Nichols also reported

- Family Foundations (all 3 counties) received their Iowa Family Support Credential in April 2022.
- Program still seeing impacts of pandemic with families.
 - Fear of inviting people into their homes.
 - Increased mental health challenges.
- Calhoun Co. Public Health and Webster Co. Health Dept. are each working to co-locate with doctors/hospitals to increase referrals to programs and direct families in need.
- Federal MIECHV (Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitation) funding has been allocated for home visitation services in Webster County for FFY23. Webster Co. Health Department will apply for those funds. Ms. Nichols stated that they value and want to maintain their partnerships with Calhoun and Pocahontas County for the project.

Budget Review

Ms. Stanek reviewed the current budget, noting that both budgets have funding available to spend and the Family Foundations program will not be able to spend their contracted amount.

Executive Committee Recommendations

Mr. Siepker reported that the Executive Committee met on February 28th and make the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1: Approve the Request for Proposal for FY23 as printed. Proposals will be due May 22nd.

MOTION: Mr. Becker moved to accept the recommendation and approve the RFP for FY23.

SECOND: Ms. Acree

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Recommendation #2: Approve the bylaws with changes, including reducing time to requests items be put on the agenda, updated link to online location of agendas, updated office suite number and reduce the Executive Committee size from 4 to 3 members.

MOTION: Mr. Becker moved to accept the recommendation; approving the bylaws as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Acree

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously



Recommendation #3: Approve changes in Board Policy 5.5: Accounting, 5.6; Accounting – ECI Fiscal; 5.12: Invoice Approval and Payment and Chapter 12: Vital Instructions to align with current practices and update terminology.

MOTION: Mr. Becker moved to accept the recommendation; approving the policies as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Acree

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Recommendation #4: Approve funds for architectural design work for the expansion of KidZone Daycare Center & Preschool (\$10,000) and funds for quality improvements in preschool classrooms that are not part of any state/federal funding program (\$80,000).

MOTION: Ms. Varland moved to accept the recommendation and approve the funds and projects as part of the FY22 budget.

SECOND: Mr. Thode

Discussion: Board members had a brief discussion about the importance of ensuring adequate funding is available to projects that we wish to continue to support. The sleep sack project was briefly discussed as a project that was new that we need to continue to support and ensure that connections are made to services early through local hospitals. Ms. Stanek reported that we have a supply of sleep sacks that should cover 2 years and each sack has a card of resources attached to it. We are working on getting more referrals to Family Foundations and all services needed early.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Closed Session per Iowa Code 21.5 (i)

MOTION: Mr. Becker moved to enter into closed session at 1:11 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Thode

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to adjourn closed session at 1:31 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Data Updates

Ms. Stanek reviewed **Mid-Year Program Performance Measures** and **Strategic Plan Data Update** documents.

Administrative Updates

Ms. Stanek provided an updated Board Terms list with committee assignments and shared the status of ECI and child care legislation. A few child care bills remain eligible for debate. The bills include the following:

HF2127 – Allow child care providers to charge the difference between their normal rate and amount paid by the Child Care Assistance (CCA) program.

HF2131 – Increases child care ratios in child care center classrooms for 2 yr. olds and 3 yr. olds

HF2198 – Allows 16 yr. olds to work unsupervised at a child care facility.



Ms. Stanek reported that while no budget bill currently exists, it is being reported by the Association of Early Childhood Iowa Boards & Advocates that ECI will likely receive a 2.5% increase in School Ready funds.

Adjournment

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

MOTION: Ms. Varland

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

- Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

Next Meeting: June 9, 2022