



BOARD MINUTES – 06/09/2022

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) met on Thursday, June 9th, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room of the Wells Fargo Building, Fort Dodge, IA.

Members present:

Clarence Siepker
Bob Thode
Kristin Teske

Scott Becker
Tammy Varland

Members absent:

Justin Daggett

Tabitha Acree

Community members present:

Dawn Badker
Jami Huster

Tiffany Blair
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: Mr. Thode

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Siepker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17th Board Meeting.

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

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment/Board Questions

None.

Presentation: IQ4K (Iowa Quality 4 Kids)

Ms. Dawn Badker with Child Care Resource & Referral presented to the board regarding the transition from the Quality Rating System (QRS) to the IQ4K rating system for child care. IQ4K began in April 2022 and like the QRS, participation is voluntary. Ms. Badker reported that the new system provides more of a guided plan to increase the quality of child care and provides larger bonuses to providers for achieving and maintaining levels of quality. IQ4K requires child care providers to address/make improvements in each of the following areas:



- Nutrition and Physical Activity;
- Leadership and Administration;
- Professional Development;
- Teaching and Learning;
- Family and Community Partnership;
- Environment; and
- Teaching Staff Qualifications.

Ms. Badker stated that programs, including child care centers, preschools, registered homes and school age programs must apply online. Two IQ4K Specialists are available to assist providers in the LFC area:

- Tiffany Blair – Calhoun and Webster County
- Allison Gollhofer – Pocahontas County

Ms. Huster reported that ChildNet training has been scheduled for September 13, 17, 20,24, 27, October 1 and 4 at the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance. She thanked the board for their assistance in finding a location for the training.

Financial Statements

Board members reviewed financial statements for January, February and March 2020 and 2021 Tax Return as prepared by Bowser and Richman.

MOTION: Ms. Teske moved to approve the January, February, March and the 2021 Tax Return as prepared by Bowser and Richman.

SECOND: Ms. Acree

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Executive Committee Recommendations

Ms. Stanek reviewed the FY22 budget, noting that the Family Foundations program will not likely spend their allocated amount and current spending on quality improvement items for 3-year-old preschool programs is lower than anticipated. Stanek reported that there is a need for technology, specifically laptops, in child care centers in order to participate in online professional development classes. Executive Committee recommended that up to \$35,000 be utilized for the purchase of laptops for child care centers this budget year.

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to approve the recommended budget as presented, which included up to \$35,000 for technology for child care centers.

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Executive Committee members reviewed the **Summary of FY23 Applications Received** document with the board and the proposed budget for ECI for FY23. The following programs are recommended for funding/contracts:

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

MOTION: Ms. Teske moved to approve the FY23 budget and programs as presented.

SECOND: Ms. Varland

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Play and Learn Program Proposal

Ms. Stanek reported that she has had a number of conversations with Ms. Jenn Becker, regarding the Play and Learn project that requested funding for FY23. The program as outlined in the proposal submitted needs to seek additional funding in order to rent space and purchase additional items before it could begin. The process could take 6 months or more, depending on their fund-raising success. At that point they could then utilize our funds and begin play groups. Ms. Stanek requested that the board consider taking the project under the LFC umbrella, noting that it is a volunteer driven, low-cost program that aligns with the vision/mission. LFC can provide the support/structure the program needs to get started more quickly, reduce the cost and provide a service to the community. She requested that the funds identified for the program in FY23 be used to fund the items in FY22 as there is ample room in the budget to accommodate the expense.

MOTION: Ms. Varland made the motion bring in the Play and Learn project under the Linking Families and Communities' umbrella and provide funding for the items requested in FY22.

SECOND: Ms. Teske

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Closed Session per Iowa Code 21.5 (j)

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to enter into closed session at 1:25 p.m.

SECOND: Mr. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to adjourn closed session at 1:46 p.m.

SECOND: Ms. Becker

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Board Resignation

Ms. Stanek reported that she had received the resignation of Tabitha Acree from the board. Members expressed their appreciation for her service.

MOTION: Mr. Thode moved to approve the resignation of Ms. Acree.

SECOND: Ms. Teske



Discussion: Mr. Thode mentioned that he had a potential prospect for a board member and would reach out to that person.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Adjournment

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

MOTION: Ms. Teske

SECOND: Ms. Varland

Discussion: None

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

- Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

Next Meeting: September 8, 2022