

Scott County Kids
Early Childhood Iowa
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 1-7-20

In Attendance: Rev. Yolanda Kirk, Amy Huntington, Chris Castrey, Chuck Keibler, Jennifer Kakert, Lauren Rupe, Margie Mitchell, Linda Fredriksen

Excused: John Mullen, Larry Barker and Kristine Oswald

Absent: Jabari Woods

Guests: Donna Moritz; Bi-State Regional Commission, Nicole Mann; Scott County Kids Decat, Tricia Shannon; Head Start, Laura Waddick; Head Start

Staff: Diane Martens

Call to Order

Rev. Yolanda Kirk called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m.

Introductions

Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes for December 3, 2019 minutes

Rupe made a motion, seconded by Keibler to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2019 board meeting. All aye votes, motion carried.

Old Business

Fiscal Issues

FY20 Expenditures

Moritz provided the board with an updated expenditure sheet for FY20. Early Childhood Funds are 29% spent at 42% through the year with \$132,409.25 spent. School Ready Funds are 41% spent at 42% of the year with \$412,179.81 spent. Total funds are at 38% at 42% through the year with \$544, 589.06 spent.

Bylaw revisions

The proposed bylaws were reviewed at the December 3, 2019 meeting, there were no questions. Keibler made a motion, seconded by Mitchell to accept the changes to the bylaws. All aye votes, motion carried.

New Business

Presentation: Head Start: Tricia Shannon, Community Action of Eastern Iowa. At the December meeting the Board reviewed quarterly reports. Roosevelt achieved having all children attend 85% of the time or more. The Board was interested to know more about how Roosevelt had accomplished this and if there is anything SCKECI could do to keep this going and possibly replicate to other classrooms.

Shannon began by thanking the Board for their support of Head Start. She then introduced Laura Waddick. Shannon explained for every \$1 received from SCKECI Head Start is able to receive a \$4 Federal match. Head Start must be fully enrolled at all times. They have a waitlist of 180+ for Early Head Start. Head Start serves the whole family including family goal setting which could be anything from more stable housing to goals for reading with their child. Screening for children include; speech, hearing, vision, articulation, Ages and Stages Questionnaire –Social Emotional. If a screening is not within a normal range concentrated efforts are given to the child for twenty days. If improvements are not observed in the twenty days a referral is made to the appropriate community resource (AEA, Family Resources, etc.).

Waddick explained CLASS is a classroom observation tool scoring teacher interactions. The highest score possible is a seven. The projected scores for the quarterly outcome reports are those set by federal Head Start.

When asked specifically about the good attendance at Roosevelt, Shannon replied that she double checked the data but noted no changes for Roosevelt and that nothing different happened in that classroom than others. She said there are just times that things meld together well. She said there are daily phone calls if a child is not in attendance. Head Start also works with families to problem solve attendance issues. She noted that it is also helpful to explain to parents what their child misses out on when they are not there or only attend part of a day.

Keibler asked how Head Start is doing with staff turnover. Shannon replied that they struggle to hire teachers, explaining that Head Start pay is fairly competitive with school district for the first year but after the first year the school districts are able to give increases that Head Start is not able to compete with. Shannon said they are doing more recruitment at

colleges. Shannon shared that some teachers who have opted to work at retail settings due to higher wages have returned because Head Start is able to offer a consistent Monday through Friday work schedule.

Committee Reports

Contracts Management

The January 2nd meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

Outcomes

Martens made modifications to the Family Connects report (included in packets). Martens shared the modifications with Tera Weets, she is in support of the clarifications.

Martens has been working on revising the Quality Child Care quarterly report. Proposed revisions have been sent to Becky White for review.

Nominations

No report.

Public Awareness

No report.

Community Meetings

Martens attended the December 16th Women United Advocacy Committee meeting. Representative Cindy Winckler, Senator Jim Lykam, Senator Mark Lofgren and Senator Roby Smith were in attendance. The Women's United Committee is advocating for:

Increase appropriations to Early Childhood Iowa from \$500,000 to \$1million. Raise the family eligibility level from 145% to 185% of poverty for every family. Advocate for policies that support strengthening investments in salaries for child care providers including recognizing child care as a high-demand occupation within Future Ready Iowa. (handout included in packets).

State Early Childhood Iowa Meetings and Activities

An email was sent December 20th informing that Iowa will not be receiving renewal funds for the Preschool Development Grant. Funding from the first year is what funded the data sheet shared at the November meeting. The state ECI folks are still focusing on the strategic plan implementation.

State ECI Coordinator Meeting: 12/4/19

Wagler is on the State Children's Mental Health Committee. The committee has been working to identify a screener of emotional health. They will likely support using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire –Social Emotional (ASQ-SE). One of the state required outcomes of the scholarships is screening. If the State Children's Mental Health Committee adopts ASQ-SE as the screener ECI is planning to have ASQ-SE be the only screener to be counted for the state outcomes. Martens suggested the SCKECI Board may want to consider making the ASQ-SE a requirement for centers or homes that receive scholarship funds. At this time Wagler is having conversations to see if Child Care Nurse Consultants would be able to provide the training for child care providers to administer the ASQ-SE.

Legislative Recap

No report.

Other Business

PROGRESS

The first review will be priority one: Advance healthy physical and mental development for all children with a priority for at-risk children.

Public Input-None

Next Meeting: February 4, 2020

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.