

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Board
Meeting of August 4, 2020
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order: Rev. Yolanda Kirk, Chair called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

Attendance: Rev. Yolanda Kirk, Chuck Keibler, Linda Frederiksen, Chris Castrey, Lauren Rupe, Marge Mitchell, Amy Huntington, Kristine Oswald and Jabari Woods.

Excused: Jennifer Kakert

Absent: Judge John Mullen

Staff: Diane Martens, Kathy Mumma.

Guests: Nicole Mann

Approval of Minutes June 2, 2020: Huntington motioned to approve the June 2, 2020 minutes, seconded by Castrey. All aye votes, motion carried.

Old Business

Donna Moritz retired from Bi-State effective July 31, 2020. Martens and Mann are meeting with Bi-State on Thursday.

Fiscal Issues

FY20 Expenditures: Martens reviewed the expenditures sheets. Early Childhood Funds are 95% spent at 100% through the year. School Ready funds are 94% spent at 100% through the year. Moritz had explained during the Contract Management meeting that additional administrative costs; salary for ECI and Bi-State will be added.

Progress

Board Survey

Martens noted a few surveys have been received and encouraged those who have not yet submitted one to please send it in. Martens will be meeting with Bi-State tomorrow regarding the community plan.

New Business

Committee Reports:

Contracts Management

Family Support – Longevity in Programs Documents regarding Longevity in Programs

ECI Coordinators across Iowa were recently notified of clients served in home visitation programs for more than four years. Martens contacted Tera Weets, Supervisor, Bright Beginnings program funded by SCK ECI and she provided a brief explanation of each of the families served for an extended time. At this time, ECI does not have a limitation on the length of time a family can be served. Martens read through the specific circumstances and the length of time the families were served and it looked reasonable to her. Since her background is not home visitation, she asked Amy Huntington and Dr. Don Healy to review the information. Martens asked if a protocol should be added to the contract. The following was suggested: “Continue to allow programs to determine the appropriate time families are served, based on the needs of the family.”

Outcomes

The end of year reports were due August 1st. The annual report will be submitted through the I-Gov Site. The board will need to review and approve the report at the September meeting.

Martens is working with contractors to create documents that explain the items of the report, defining what is being counted, what equations are being used, etc.

Nominations

If special accommodations are needed please contact Scott County Kids 563/326-8221.

Re-election

Chuck Keibler's first term is up this month. Chuck is willing to continue for his second term.

Mitchell made a motion to approve re-election of Chuck Keibler, seconded by Rupe. All aye votes, motion carried.

State Early Childhood Iowa

State ECI Board meeting is on September 6, 2020. Report at October meeting.

State ECI Coordinator meeting and State Reports

Home-Visitation:

On March 18th, ECI issued protocol to allow only telehealth visits. This protocol was sent to expire the end of July. July 29th the protocol was extended to September 30th.

Virtual Preschool:

Friendly House was approached by a preschool asking if they could receive the preschool scholarship, if they offer virtual preschool. Martens emailed the following to Shanell Wagler and Amanda Winslow, State ECI Leadership:

"Hello Shanell and Amanda, We were hopeful that things would be back to "normal" for preschool for the 20-21 school year – but here we are. We only have four school districts in Scott County, but at least so far it seems they are taking different approaches for the upcoming school year. Some are planning at least some virtual aspect, some have said students will not be physically in school full-time. Preschools, both school district and private, have a variety of plans as well.

We've been approached about preschool scholarships covering costs for virtual preschool. I am pretty leery about this. There are so many things to consider.

There are so many on-line learning programs, will what local preschools offer be better? Is this going to place a burden on parents who are already overwhelmed with working from home, juggling care, etc.? Are families going to be able to access it, internet connection, laptop, phone?

One benefit could be keeping a bit of cohesiveness to the same group of children – that they would still see each other, just virtually. Another benefit may be having a teacher who knows them monitoring social, emotional and learning behaviors.

Are there any recommendations about funding virtual preschool? Is there a list of criteria to consider when approached about funding virtual preschool? I'm sure it is the same as in-person preschool in that quality varies greatly. I'd appreciate any suggestions about what we should consider. Thanks for your anticipated help."

Legislative Recap

None

Other Business:

Community Events

Virtual Baby Shower

A virtual baby shower is being planned by Community Partnerships for protecting children and other community agencies.

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Drive-Thru Resource Fair and School Supplies

Friendly House has held a “Back to Swell” event for the last few years. Due to COVID, they have reached out to Community Partnerships for Protecting Children and it’s going to be a drive thru event on August 13th. A number of community agencies will be sharing information of their services. They have backpacks, school supplies, vouchers for physicals and haircuts and shoes. Supplies are limited.

Other

Rev. Yolanda sent everyone an evaluation form for Martens. She asked the group to return to her by next Tuesday, August 11th.

Public

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 1, 2020.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.