

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

**Call to Order:** Rev. Yolanda Kirk, Chair called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

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

Excused:

Absent: Judge John Mullen, Marge Mitchell

Staff: Diane Martens, Kathy Mumma.

Guests: Nicole Mann, Brandon Melton, Gena McCullough and Analisa Marceleno

**Approval of Minutes August 4, 2020:** Keibler motioned to approve the August 4, 2020 minutes, seconded by Castrey. All aye votes, motion carried.

## **Old Business**

### Fiscal Issues

FY21 Expenditures:

Martens reviewed the FY21 expenditure report that was emailed to the board 8/31/20. Early Childhood funds are 2% spent at 8% through the year. School Ready funds are 7% spent at 8% though the year.

## **New Business**

### Annual Report

The annual report was emailed to the board August 27th. The financial reports were emailed September 1, 2020. The programmatic portion that was emailed to the board August 27th was reviewed by Contracts Management. Contracts Management is recommending approval of the annual report. The financial reports will need to be signed by Mary Thee as she is the chairperson of Scott County Decat and they are our fiscal agent.

Keibler made a motion to approve the annual report, seconded by Huntington. All aye votes, motion carried.

### Committee Reports

Contracts Management

Committee Report

Child Care Scholarship

Renee, administer of Child Care Scholarships, has been asked if the Child Care Scholarships will allow parents to work from home. Renee was asked by a teacher. The teacher is starting the school year actually going to the physical classroom but was asking what would happen to her child's scholarship if she would have to switch to teaching virtually, from home. At this time there is specific language stating teachers must be in session in order to receive the scholarship for their children.

I lean toward allowing it as it would be difficult to be conducting an on-line class while being responsible for the safety and care of a young child. There is also the possibility that schools, as well as businesses, would have employees on-site and, then due to increase COVID issues, have to move to a virtual platform. The enrolling

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

and un-enrolling in and out of a child care setting would cause inconsistency for the child as the provider they had been enrolled with may or may not have openings to take them back additionally, it will be difficult for child care providers who are very much struggling with the many impacts of COVID.

The Contracts Management committee is recommending to allow families that are receiving the preschool scholarship to receive the scholarship if they are working from home so long as the child is attending a qualifying child care provider.

Woods made a motion, seconded by Kakert, all aye votes. Motion carried.

#### First Children's Finance recommendation letter

Heidi Schlueter contacted Martens requesting a letter of support for the Growth Fund program as they are apply for a contract. Contracts Management is recommending having Rev. Yolanda sign the letter. Keibler made the motion, seconded by Kakert. All aye votes, motion carried.

#### Child Care Resource and Referral – emergency funds

Martens had a zoom meeting August 26, 2020 with Becky White and a couple of her staff about the needs child care providers have encountered due to the huge storm. State ECI held a meeting last week to specifically talk about ways ECI can support providers effected by the storm. State ECI created a document outlining the items ECI funding could potentially help fund. Our local consultants shared that there are centers and homes in Scott County that lost food. Becky explained that in the case of home providers sometimes insurance will cover a certain amount to replace food based on the number of people in the family and the food for the child care business is not included. Food replacement (as explained on the attached list) would be within the boundaries of the Quality Child Care contract. We have not allowed gift cards. The list from the state allows for gift cards so long as receipts for the items purchased are also received. On the meeting with Becky and staff I said we would allow gift cards so long as we received receipts for the items purchased. I noted concern of giving a provider a card and CCR&R not being reimbursed by SCKECI if they did not receive the receipt from the provider. Becky said they would be able to find funding within their agency in the event that would happen. So I approved gift cards with that understanding.

The consultant working with St. Alphonsus shared that the center had a window air conditioner go out in one the rooms, because of this they are not allowed to care for children in that room as it does not meet DHS guidelines. Becky said the cost of the air conditioner would be \$150-200. This is within the guidelines of the Quality Child Care contract, it is just a higher cost then what is typically covered. I said this cost can be covered.

The consultants also shared that many centers are really struggling. COVID has created many more regulations which cost both time and money. On top of that most have lower number for children (more parents at home, some our keeping children at home with them and sometimes due to the COVID regulations of how many can be in a space) the lower number of children results in less income. Funding to cover lost income is high on their list of needs. This has been identified and discussed at the state level (on the attached list) but at there doesn't seem to be a way to use ECI funds for this purpose.

Becky and her staff have been consulting with child care providers virtually. Their work is much appreciated. Working with providers who are so stressed by situations they have so little control over can be a daunting task.

Questions/Discussion:

#### Nominations

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

## Renewal of memberships

First term board memberships expire for Jennifer Kakert and John Mullen this month. Mullen is unable to continue membership. Martens thanked him for his service to the board. Kakert is willing to serve a second term.

Keibler made a motion, seconded by Huntington for Kakert to serve a second term. All aye votes, motion carried.

## PROGRESS/Redesignation

### Bi-State Regional Commission- community plan update

Martens has been meeting virtually with Bi-State regarding the update of the Community Plan. Bi-State had a presentation to share with the Board.

Questions/Discussion: Kakert asked if demographic information will be included in the data. Brandon replied that it will be.

## State Early Childhood Iowa

State ECI continues to have helpful zoom meetings.

## Legislative Recap

None from Martens.

## **Other Business**

### Coordinator Evaluation

Rev. Yolanda met with Martens and reviewed her evaluation. Rev. Yolanda is proposing a 2.6% increase based on the merits of the review. Kakert made a motion seconded by Woods. All aye votes, motion carried.

## **Public Input**

**Next Meeting October 6, 2020.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.