

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Board
Meeting of October 6, 2020
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Minutes

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, Jennifer Kakert, Chris Castrey, Lauren Rupe and Amy Huntington

Excused: Marge Mitchell, Jabari Woods and Kristine Oswald

Staff: Diane Martens, Kathy Mumma.

Guests: Nicole Mann, Rich Clewell, Heather Bloome, Laurie Johnson, Mary Shihadeh, and Analisa Marceleno

Approval of Minutes September 1, 2020: Rupe motioned to approve the September 1, 2020 minutes, seconded by Keibler. All aye votes, motion carried.

Old Business

Fiscal Issues

FY21 Expenditures:

Martens reviewed the FY21 expenditure sheet with the board. Early Childhood funds are 6% spent at 16 % through the year. School Ready funds are 12% spent at 16% though the year.

New Business

Presentation: Jessica Redden, Child Care Consultant

Child Care Nurse Consultant activity in our community since COVID-19 began:

- Supporting child care providers, mainly through phone calls and emails
- Began making in person visits in July, but have had very few requests. Possible reasons for this include QRS expiration dates being extended and providers are still limiting visitors.
- Plans for upcoming months include immunization record reviews. Audits will still be required for 2020-2021.
- Plan to give flu vaccine to child care providers onsite at centers and at the health department. Seven centers have already requested vaccine. Waiting on vaccine shipments.

Child Care Nurse Consultant observations of child care during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Most of the technical assistance requests are COVID-19 related. The guidance changes frequently and it can be difficult for providers to keep updated. Frequent topics asked about include:
 - General guidance questions for policy and procedure development
 - Specific scenarios involving children or staff testing positive for COVID-19; or children exposed to COVID-19 outside of child care; or excluding children or staff with signs or symptoms of illness
 - Other health and safety questions including cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting guidance; immunization questions; medication; and playground concerns
- Child care providers have shared some of their biggest concerns. These are the common concerns:
 - The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Enrollment numbers are lower than normal
 - Many parents can't or won't pay if their child is instructed to quarantine due to an exposure or if excluded due to illness
 - If the center has to close due to an outbreak

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

- Many providers have expressed concerns about their own health and the health of their staff or household members.

Committee Reports

Contracts Management:

No meeting due to lack of agenda items. After the meeting was cancelled, Martens received an email from Renee Rankin at Friendly House. Martens sent the following email to the board on October 5, 2020 after receiving a response from the State ECI team:

Hello SCKECI Board,

A question has come up that I wanted to give you the background on prior to the October 6th Board meeting. There is a preschool that must quarantine for two weeks. The preschool is asking how that will impact the contract requirement that children must attend 80% in order to keep the scholarship. Since the children are not able to attend I would say this would not be counted as absent days. This is what we allowed last fiscal year, at the beginning of the pandemic.

Additionally, although the preschool will not be in session they will still be paying their employees. The preschool will not be collecting payment from full-fee/private pay families.

Should the SCKECI Scholarship be paid to the preschool during these two weeks?

I did reach out to the state ECI folks and this is the response:

I'm sorry for our delay but it is good you've reached out again. Funding preschool scholarships is a local board decision. I would agree with the board's thought about providing grace during the quarantine time and not counting against attendance expectations. As for paying for the two weeks I would say your board would need to decide.

Will there be any virtual learning opportunities available? Was there language in the FY21 contract to include no payment if in-person attendance/sessions were not offered? It would be important to make sure the contract language aligns with the board's decision otherwise a contract amendment would be needed. I know these are still unprecedented times and Shanell may have another perspective or insight but I know we haven't landed on specific guidance for preschool scholarships at this time.

Rupe made a motion to table the decision until more information is received from Friendly House, seconded by Keibler.

ECI Association:

An ECI Director reached out to Martens to see if Scott County would be interested in now participating. Membership cost is based on the allocation to an ECI area. The cost for Scott County is \$1115 plus an additional \$156 which would have to come from private funds. Martens' recommendation is to continue to observe the activities of the association this year and consider participation next year. The question Scott County had last year is how issues of advocating for large or small ECI areas would be resolved. Funding would have to come from administration funds, it seems the state is still cautious of funds being spent in this manner.

Bright Beginnings:

Tera Weets contacted Martens regarding DHS worker who had reached out about a mom who has been receiving Bright Beginnings services for about two years. DHS recently became involved with the family and it is believed there will be a founded case of child abuse. The DHS worker is strongly advocating that Bright Beginnings continue services with this family. The SCKECI contracts does not allow both DHS services and SCKECI services to take place with the same family at the same time. This is due to needing to be good stewards of the funds. The DHS worker feels this is a unique circumstance in that a good relationship has been built between the Bright Beginnings worker and the mom. She also

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noted the mother was not the perpetrator. I contacted Shanell Wagler at ECI. Wagler responded “*There is no state policy that prevents an ECI-funded program from continuing or offering services when DHS is involved.*” Martens has temporarily approved, but is seeking approval or disapproval from the board today.

Keibler made a motion to approve Bright Beginnings to work with this one family while the family is also receiving DHS services, seconded by Huntington. All aye votes, motion carried.

State Early Childhood Iowa:

State ECI Board Meeting: September 11, 2020 Rich Clewell

Clewell addressed the board regarding racial equity/inclusion. The board has worked very hard, but has not been real successful. The Iowa State Board is thinking about how we might incorporate it into the core values. Virtual home visits is the second item being looked at. IDPH recommendation is to go virtual. Some areas allow it and some do not.

State ECI Coordinator Meetings:

State ECI meetings continue to be helpful. The next meeting will be tomorrow (10/7). IDPH guidance is to still not have in-person visits and continue virtual visits this guidance extends to October 16th. The state ECI team is meeting with agencies to see if there would be a way to safely conduct in-person visits. Martens shares the guidance/restriction updates with Tera Weets.

Legislative Updates:

Please vote.

Other Business

Fiscal Agent

Scott County Decat is working with Bi-State Regional Commission in the transition of Donna Moritz’s retirement.

ICAP Grant

Martens applied for the ICAP grant. The maximum award is \$1000. The funds are to be used for work items, many of the items listed were public safety equipment such as bulletproof vests, back-up alerts for large trucks, etc. Martens requested funds for a new laptop. The laptop Martens has been using actually belongs to Decat. The full \$1000 was awarded. The cost of the laptop will exceed the \$1000, there are funds in the office line items to cover the additional cost.

Public Input

None

Next Meeting November 3, 2020