

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Board
Meeting of November 3, 2020
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Minutes

Meeting materials emailed 11/2/2020.

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

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

Absent: Margie Mitchell and Linda Fredriksen

Staff: Diane Martens

Guests: Nicole Mann, Becky White, Heather Bloome, Tera Weets, and Chevis Krull.

Approval of Minutes October 6, 2020: Rupe motioned to approve the October 6, 2020 minutes, seconded by Castrey. All aye votes, motion carried.

Old Business

Fiscal Issues

FY21 Expenditures:

Martens reviewed the FY21 expenditure sheet with the board. Early Childhood funds are 9% spent at 25% through the year. School Ready funds are 22% spent at 25% though the year. Emailed to board 11/2/2020.

New Business

Presentation: Becky White, Child Care Resource and Referral

Consultation for child care homes and centers

- common topics; environment, behaviors, professional development

- consultants must have I-Consult credential administered by ISU Extension

- SCKECI funds can fulfill needs determined by DHS registration and licensing requirements

Recruitment and Retention

- all application for child care registration and licensing start with CCR&R and they send to DHS

- nine new applications to become home provider so this number is staying steady

COVID-19

- requests for technical assistance has increased

- technical assistance via phone, email, virtual meetings

- recently started in-person but it is limited

- DHS guidance tries to balance safety with keeping expectations realistic so that programs can remain open

- CCR&R initially distributed cleaning supplies, thermometers, etc. in a "drop and dash" format

Child Care Capacity

- most homes remained open, some centers closed –most have now reopened

- some have reduced capacity due to keeping same groups together

- DHS interactive map tracking available child care, still being updated

- child care available in Scott County

- some parents are hesitant to send their child to child care

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

child care for school age children is especially challenging due to various schedules

The Board thanked Becky for her presentation. Woods noted United Way is working to provide information to the legislature regarding child care and encouraged Becky and CCR&R to be a part of that conversation as well.

Committee Reports

Contracts Management:

Scholarships

As discussed at the October meeting, there is a preschool that must quarantine for two weeks. The preschool will not be collecting payment from full-fee/private pay families.

In the spirit of wanting to be supportive to the preschool and child care businesses the committee would like to include language in the child care and preschool scholarship contracts to say that if a center/preschool or individual child must quarantine the ECI scholarship funding would continue regardless of the center or preschool receiving other funds; private pay families, CARES, etc. The committee feels there are a number of funding scenarios that could possibly happen and that to begin getting into specific scenarios would be detrimental to the intention of supporting the industry. Also, in talking with the CCNC they see it as being supportive of protocols to slow the spread of COVID.

The committee recommends to change the contract to say it would be paid from July 1, 2020 through the end of the contract. This would be reviewed for the next fiscal year and may or may not be continued depending on the conditions of the pandemic. Martens has emailed Wagler and Winslow to make sure this is allowable.

In the case that this would be allowed by the state Kiebler made the following motion:

Kiebler made a motion, seconded by Castrey to approve preschool and child care scholarships to continue payment when quarantining is taking place at the child care center, child care home or preschool setting or when an individual is identified as needing to quarantine. This amendment will be effective for the current contract time of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. All aye votes, motion carried.

CCNC Quarterly Report

Tabled to the December meeting.

Family Support –home visit protocols

Initially at the start of COVID pandemic state ECI gave guidance for no in-person visits to take place. Local areas began having increased concern of the limitation of virtual visits with high-need families. In response to those concerns ECI has released "Guidelines for Virtual and Adapted In-Person Services" outlining protocols that could allow in-person visits. (emailed to Board 11/2/2020).

The Contracts Management committee has concern about "approving" in-person visits. They see it as the board having a higher level of involvement and there for more exposure to liability. They would prefer that Martens just be informed by our programs that an in-person visit was deemed necessary and that the information of the in-person visits is provided to them at board meetings. Martens is getting clarification from the state regarding some of the timeline communication.

Tera Weets mentioned IDPH has just released guidance for in-person visits. Weets will email the information to Martens.

Family Support –specific request for in-person visit

Tera Weets submitted a request (emailed to Board 11/2/2020) for an in-person visit:

The reason for this request is that our participants (both mother and father) are deaf and read lips. Telehealth services are difficult with video due to the size of the participant's screen and how small the view is. We are able to conduct many of our visits virtually via text (similar to TTY Device for the deaf) but there are many activities that are difficult to complete in this fashion. Examples include reviewing participant handbook, completing EPDS, Family Plan and Risk Assessment. We would propose 1-2 face-to-face visits per quarter to allow us to get these activities completed and then completing virtual home visits the rest of the time with the family. We would propose using the Conference Room at our Genesis VNA Maplecrest Location. It is spacious enough to allow for social distancing, private to allow for confidentiality, and there is a sink in the room to allow for appropriate handwashing. LaBridgette will also be given a thermometer for temp taking as appropriate. Also see submitted worksheet request.

The Contracts Management committee does not want to delay this visit taking place. Although the process for allowance of in-person visits is still being clarified, the committee would recommend this visit take place with safety protocols outlined by Genesis. Healy suggested having a sign language interpreter attend as well.

Kiebler made a motion to approve in-person visits only for this specific family with the visit frequency and safety protocols outlined in Weets' proposal, seconded by Castrey. All aye votes, motion carried.

Family Support –certification protocols

As we talked about many months ago, the state has developed a certification for family support professionals. There is new language for Tool FF (emailed to Board 11/2/2020). There are things area boards need to consider for the next contracting year.

Family Support Professionals must achieve the National Family Support Certification by the successful completion of the national family support certification exam. Beginning January 1, 2022 all direct service family support professionals (FSP) must be certified if they were employed on or before January 1, 2021. Direct service FSPs that are hired after January 1, 2021 will have one year to earn their certification. For more information on the national family support certification exam: institutebsp.org. The national family support certification can only be awarded by the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals.

The committee had concern with putting more on Family Support Professionals voicing that this is a lot to put on an industry that is overall not being really well compensated. Additionally, they wondered how much this would better the service for families. They requested Martens inquire to see if State ECI funds could be used to cover the testing costs. The committee also asked if MIECHV funds could cover the costs.

Questions of; What if they fail the first time - who pays? What happens if they don't pass after the 2nd time? Item tabled until we receive a response from the State.

Kiebler asked Weets if this certification seems worthwhile. Weets has participated on state committees intermittently for years as this certification was being developed. Weets responded that most staff are already certified to work with in the particular evidenced based program they are working in and have degrees and experience. The certification is a national credential so from that aspect Weets sees potential benefit. Weets said the test is fairly difficult. She noted the first version was very difficult. The test has now been made easier. Some of Weets staff have taken, and passed the test. One who has a master's degree did not pass. Rev. Kirk asked if study opportunities are available. Weets explained testing candidates have been told that following the test they will receive scores and will be given information of the topics of which they may need more support. Weets said they have not yet received this feedback.

Nominations

In reviewing the annual report Wagler asked about Jabari Wood's board membership due to Woods being an employee of Davenport Schools. Through the SCKECI preschool or child care scholarships it is possible that a family could choose a Davenport Schools facility. Wagler has said Woods can remain on the board until his term ends 3/2021. Woods expressed appreciation for serving on the board. He explained that the school district is doing more to look at the

broader community and resources available to families. He would like to have a role in more funding and resources coming to the wider community.

Other Business

State Early Childhood Iowa Meetings

Meeting continue approximately twice per month. The meeting are generally helpful.

PROGRESS

Martens reviewed the PROGRESS document with the board. She explained that following the creation of the last community plan this document was created as a means of tracking community events as they align with each priority area identified by the board. Martens reviewed the document with the board.

Legislative Recap

No report. Please vote.

Public Input

None

Next Meeting December 1, 2020