

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Board
Meeting of January 5, 2021
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Minutes

Call to Order: Rev. Yolanda Kirk, Chair called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

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

Excused: Kristine Oswald

Absent: Margie Mitchell

Staff: Diane Martens

Guests: Tricia Shannon, Emily Cummings, Tera Weets and Michael Terry

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

Old Business

Fiscal Issues

FY21 Expenditures:

The expenditure sheet was emailed to the board 1/4/21. Early Childhood funds are 20% spent at 42% through the year. School Ready funds are 38% spent at 42% through the year.

Martens spoke to Tricia Shannon regarding the Head Start expenditures. Shannon has assured that the funds will be expended. The federal year ends in October and those fund are used first.

A follow up to the question of expenditures for the scholarships. I contacted Renee at Friendly House and received this response; "Currently, I have just over \$4,500 that would be unspent if the centers do not close down and families remain eligible through the whole year. I actually just put a couple more children on Scholarship at the Durant Community School Preschool as of December 1. At this point, I usually show that I will underspend funds. It is so hard to guess but I am continuing to put children on the Scholarship."

New Business

Presentation: Tricia Shannon, Head Start

Shannon explained that this program year they chose to be at 50% capacity in order to better handle the requirements of pandemic protocols. Shannon noted children younger than five often don't understand the concept of social distancing. Being at 50% capacity has allowed for staff to be available for increased cleaning requirements. Shannon explained they have not had to close any Head Start centers although some individual classrooms were closed when needed, she credits 50% capacity in keeping centers open. On December 6th they did close all centers, this was about two weeks prior to the winter break. COVID cases in Scott County were spiking following the Thanksgiving holiday. Shannon said the virus was not spreading within the centers. Families, particularly staff, were contracting the virus from sources other than the classroom. All centers re-opened today. Shannon explained that even when classrooms are closed they are reaching out to families. Most participate in Zoom meetings, some by phone. Staff deliver activity materials to families. Activities and goals are

encouraged versus screen time. A private Facebook group is available for families to post photos and communicate, this has been successful in creating a sense of community with the families.

Committee Reports

Contracts Management:

We did not have the December 17th meeting, at that time there were not agenda items. Since that time there are items that have come up.

Quality Child Care

Martens was contacted by the consultant supervisor at Child Care Resource and Referral. She is seeking some clarification on the Quality Child Care contract. This contract allows consultants to purchase items for DHS registered child care homes. The supervisor explained there are more and more non-registered providers receiving DHS subsidy. A number of years ago, when this contract started, people could care for children, receive DHS subsidy and were not required to have a home visit. Now that DHS is doing the home visits the need for health and safety items is being discovered.

The section (4.12.1) for urgent health and safety/provider need items in the contract states: "In the case of ordered items (purchase for specific providers), the Contractor shall provide documentation of all provider requests reviewed by committee members, the item, the amount requested and approval or denial. Documentation of how purchased materials relate back to DHS licensing or QRS requirement shall be maintained by Contractor. Smaller items will be tracked fiscally although distribution will not be recorded.

Martens is suggesting changing this section of the contract to read: Documentation of how purchased materials relate back to DHS licensing, **Child Care Home approved for Child Care Assistance** or QRS requirement shall be maintained by Contractor.

Keibler made a motion to changing this section of the contract to read: "Documentation of how purchased materials relate back to DHS licensing, **Child Care Home approved for Child Care Assistance** or QRS requirement shall be maintained by Contractor." seconded by Huntington. All aye votes, motion carried.

Family Connects

On recent state meetings about the data from Daisey, the data collection system for home visitation programs, it was noted Family Connects data is skewing the overall data. The Family Connects program often conducts just one home visit (originally prior to COVID, now virtual) per the model of the program. Due to very limited numbers of visits the data in Daisey is skewed. Family Connects is funded by School Ready funds. Originally ECI had separate categories in School Ready which dictated how much funding had to be spent in home visitation, preschool, quality and other. A few years ago the categories were eliminated. In talking to Shanell Wagler about the possibility of moving Family Connects out of Family Support so that the Daisy data would be better she said that although at a state level they are monitoring and are concerned about the decrease in family support spending, the need to have better data is more of a priority. Additionally, Family Connects will still be the same program, providing the same service of connecting families to services in our community,

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checking on baby-mom wellness. Martens is working with Weets on what outcomes may be appropriate as the outcome data requirements for the pre- post- natal category are very limited.

Other Business

Community Meetings

December 9th Martens met virtually with Bruce Berger and Heather Anderson from the City of Davenport and Roger Pavey and Becky White from Community Action of Eastern Iowa umbrella agency to Child Care Resource and Referral. The city has funding and they were inquiring about child care needs. CCR&R reported there are openings available for child care. The city did have an interest in the concept of child care scholarship for school aged children. Martens shared the scholarship documents SCKECI uses and also provided Shaney Fords contact information.

On a recent Iowa Afterschool Alliance meeting day treatment centers were mentioned as something to gather more information about. Martens coordinated a meeting with Scott Hobart and Dave Tristan for Juvenile Court Services and Britney Samuelson and Crystal Hall from Iowa Afterschool Alliance. Hobart and Tristan have a lot of knowledge about the day treatment services that had been available in Scott County and were able to share a lot of information. Tristan plans to serve on the subcommittee.

There have been a number of state presentations about Sesame Street. There are train-the-trainers happening across the state. Sesame Street has a lot of great materials on how to talk to children about a number of difficult topics. With the stress of the pandemic and children often being home more the Sesame Street website offers a tangible way of getting information to parents as well as videos and activities to children.

State Early Childhood Iowa Meetings

December 29th the ECI State Board presented an informational meeting to learn more about the current focus areas in the early childhood system. Rich Clewell hosted. The invitation was shared 12/17/2020. The presentation materials were emailed December 30, 2020. Martens encouraged board members to look at the materials.

PROGRESS

State ECI hosted a meeting regarding redesignation. Area's shared ways they have been preparing. Martens shared having the Scott County Health Department presenting prior to the pandemic.

We will need to collect information on funding coming into other agencies in Scott County. This has always been a requirement.

We are working with Bi-State Regional Commission to update the community plan.

Emily Cummings is participating in the I2D2 meetings, these are the meetings with Iowa State University for integrating state data systems (DHS, Dept of Ed, Dept of Health).

On December 9th Clinton/Jackson ECI hosted a community meeting called 0-5 in 60 minutes. It was a kick off to gathering community input. Martens would like to do something similar in Scott County.

Legislative Recap

No report.

Public Input

None

Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm

Next Meeting February 2, 2021