

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Board
Meeting of March 2, 2021
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Minutes

Call to Order: Jennifer Kakert, vice chair called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

Attendance: Rev. Yolanda Kirk, Jennifer Kakert, Amy Huntington, Chuck Keibler, Jabari Woods, Margie Mitchell, Kristine Oswald, Linda Fredriksen and Megan Heidgerken

Excused: Lauren Rupe, Chris Castrey

Absent:

Staff: Diane Martens, Nicole Mann and Emily Cummings

Guests:

Approval of Minutes February 2, 2021: Keibler motioned to approve the February 2, 2021 minutes, seconded by Rupe. All aye votes, motion carried.

Old Business

Fiscal Issues

FY21 Expenditures:

Martens reviewed the updated expenditure report. Early Childhood funds are 38% spent at 58% through the year. School Ready funds are 53% spent at 58% through the year.

FY21 Carryforward:

Martens shared an Excel document of estimated carryforward. All Early Childhood contracts are expected to fully expend, there is a little less than \$12,000 in uncommitted funds. School Ready funds have two contracts that are estimated to have unexpended funds. Preschool Scholarships are estimated to have \$27,000 of unexpended funds. Bright Beginnings is also expected to have unexpended funds, Tera Weets will provide an estimate soon. Additionally there is just less than \$59,000 of uncommitted. At this time the total is \$85,968 the allowable carryforward is \$173,968.

New Business

Committee Reports

Contracts Management/Outcomes:

During site visits the second quarter reports were reviewed as well. The Outcomes report was reviewed.

-Roosevelt Head Start –Community Action of Eastern Iowa

From 2/19/21 Site visit review: cumulative year to date needs to be completed, Tricia Shannon will complete and email. Zero children have attended 85% or more, COVID is the main issue. If one family member has had an exposure to the virus all must quarantine, in some instances there is more than one child from a family attending Head Start.

-Wittenmyer Head Start –Community Action of Eastern Iowa

From 2/19/21 Site visit review: cumulative year to date needs to be completed, demographic information totals different numbers (should all be the same –the number of families served, demographic information should be a singular head of household only). Tricia Shannon will update and email. With 132 of 328 instructional hours completed they are at 40%. Shannon believes they will reach the 328 although COVID has brought challenges.

-Early Head Start –Community Action of Eastern Iowa

From 2/19/21 Site visit review: cumulative year to date needs to be completed, demographic information totals different numbers (should all be the same –the number of families served, demographic information should be a singular head of household only). Tricia Shannon will update and email. With 148 of 430 instructional hours completed they are at 34%. Shannon believes they will reach the 430. She noted the first two quarters of the year included Thanksgiving, winter break and a later start time for the beginning of the school year.

-Quality Child Care – Child Care Resource and Referral

The cumulative column needs to be completed. The unduplicated technical assistance contacts needs to be completed. The number of programs participating by category needs to match the total number of programs participating. Becky will re-submit the report with this information. Projected number of site visits to child care providers was set prior to COVID. Only two in-person visits have taken place and 17 virtual. The number of technical assistance contacts. There has been a large amount of technical assistance contacts. There has been a decrease of seven centers, White believes this may be due to restructuring of the Stepping Stones after school programs.

-Child Care Nurse Consultant- Scott County Health Dept

From the 2/21/21 site visit: The number of programs participating with the nurse consultant is below the projected outcome. DHS has extended Quality Rating Standard status' to allow programs to focus on the new protocols brought about by COVID, thus decreasing programs contacting the CCNC for this purpose. Fewer children with special health care needs have been identified, with the CCNC not being in programs as much the opportunity to identify these children is diminished. Technical assistance contacts is at 138% for centers and 133% for homes of the projected outcomes. The majority of this increase is the result of answering concerns regarding COVID.

-Child Care Scholarship School Ready – Friendly House

From the 2/22/21 site visit: There are now five children on the waitlist. The projection for the number of scholarships to be processed for the year was 90. At this time 32 have been processed. Renee Rankin explained that many times when people hear there is a waiting list they do not apply, thus decreasing the applications to be processed.

-Bright Beginnings NEST –Genesis VNA

From the 2/24/21 site visit: 39 families were referred to Bright Beginnings, 14 enrolled in the program this is a lower percent than usual. Tera Weets attributes this to not being able to meet with families face to face and begin establishing a relationship. Telehealth visits are being completed with clients more frequently in an attempt to keep them engaged. More families have been discharged from the program recently due to lack of participation.

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

-Family Connects – Genesis

From the 2/24/21 site visit: There has been a decrease in the number of births at Genesis, first quarter had 397, second quarter 280. Martens will follow up with IPDH to get county data. The program has had an increase in the number of referrals to community programs this is attributed to families needing more referrals in general as well as the impact of the program not being allowed to conduct in-person visits. (This is an ECI restriction, exception are possible.) Other community agencies are able to conduct in-person visits at this time.

-Preschool Scholarships –Friendly House

From the 2/22/21 site visit: There are scholarships available. COVID has impacted how much families have used the scholarship. A possibility for utilizing more funds would be to lift the restriction of \$5000 per preschool per month. It was noted the cost per unit submitted was an average verses a total. Renee Rankin will correct using the cumulative of the two quarters. It was also requested to add a line to show how many children went off of the program and how many were newly added.

Preschool Scholarships

During the site review for Preschool Scholarships Renee Rankin mentioned two of the participating preschools are getting somewhat close to the limitation of \$5000 per preschool per month. She mentioned this could be an avenue for expending more funds. Contracts Management discussed this and recommend keeping this stipulation in place. The Board was in consensus to keep this stipulation as well.

Quality Child Care

In reviewing expenditure reports we've noted the Quality Child Care expenditure reports we've noted the Quality Child Care has been struggling to hold trainings. The current contract includes them holding ChildNet 3.0 training. Offering the training this fiscal year is not possible due to COVID restrictions. During the site visit Becky White shared proposal for alternative on-line training. Keibler noted Child Care Resource and Referral is trying to find ways to reach providers. The proposal includes trainings from Lakeshore and University of Northern Iowa. The proposal was reviewed. Keibler made a motion, seconded by Woods to approve the proposal and amend the contract, all aye votes motion carried.

Nominations:

Jabari Woods' first term expires this month. The state had concern that because Woods is an employee of Davenport Schools and the Davenport Schools Villages receive child care and preschool scholarships funds there could possibly be seen as a potential conflict of interest. They agreed to allow Woods to finish out his first term.

Chris Castrey gave the contact information for a couple of potential board members. One of the candidate's husband works at Scott County so we were unable to proceed. The other candidate is Megan Heidgerken. Chuck Keibler and Martens interviewed Heidgerken February 26th. Heidgerken will serve as education representation. Kiebler is recommending Heidgerken for board membership,

seconded by Mitchell. All aye votes, motion carried.

Community Meetings

Legislative Recap

At a recent state ECI meeting Sheila Hansen provided an update and explained she is now working for Common Good Iowa. Common Good Iowa is a nonprofit organization build on a collective of Child and Family Policy Center and Iowa Policy Project.

State Early Childhood Iowa Update

Rich Clewell will plan to provide an update at the next meeting.

Other Business:

Site Visits: The final site visit was finished yesterday. Bi-State Regional Commission has attended. In some cases they will be having follow up to get more financial detail.

Public Input

None

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm

Next Meeting April 6, 2021