

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Board
Meeting of April 6, 2021
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Minutes

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

Attendance: Rev. Yolanda Kirk, Jennifer Kakert, Chuck Keibler, Chris Castrey, Lauren Rupe, Margie Mitchell, Kristine Oswald, Linda Fredriksen and Megan Heidgerken

Excused: Amy Huntington

Absent:

Staff: Diane Martens, Nicole Mann and Emily Cummings

Guests: Tammy Trice; Open Door, Kayla Hartz; Hand In Hand, Lori Parcel; Bright Beginnings, Stacey Struck; Davenport Schools Children's Villages.

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

Old Business

Fiscal Issues

FY21 Expenditures:

Martens reviewed the updated expenditure report that was emailed to the Board 4/6/21. Early Childhood funds are 50% spent at 67% through the year. School Ready funds are 61% spent at 67% through the year.

FY 22 state allocation estimates:

State ECI has shared draft allocations for FY22. The draft allocations for Scott County are; Early Childhood \$350,729 which is a reduction of \$30,869 this is the last year Scott County is reduced due to the formula change. The School Ready allocation is \$959,174 which is a reduction of \$1281. Martens shared that if Early Childhood were budgeted at the FY21 amount there would be a \$28,908 shortfall. If School Ready funds were budgeted at the FY21 amount there would be \$5075 remaining. These figures include estimated carryforward.

New Business

Committee Reports

Contracts Management/Outcomes:

Bright Beginnings amendment proposal

In-person home visits are still not permitted with ECI funding, there is a provision for extenuating circumstances. Visits have been taking place virtually. This is getting more difficult as families are less secluded and more activities open up. Due to the decreased visits Tera Weets has proposed shifting some of the funding that would have been used for visits to upgrading curriculum, training, etc. The proposal was emailed to Board members 4/5/21. The Contracts Management Committee is recommending approval of the proposal.

Castrey made a motion to approve, seconded by Rupe. All aye votes, motion carried.

Bright Beginnings and NEST –Iowa Family Support Credential

Bright Beginnings and NEST just completed the process for renewal of their Iowa Family Support Credential. The comments from reviewers were very positive.

FY22 Re-Applications

Martens has scheduled the re-application reviews for April 23rd at 11am – 3:30pm via Zoom. If anyone is interested in joining the group please email Martens. Re-applications are due from contactors April 6th (today). Martens will be getting the applications to reviewers soon after that date.

Site Visits

Martens is in the process of writing up the summaries. Once she is done she will have Bi-State add the fiscal summary reviews.

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Coalition

A meeting took place March 18th, topics included discussion of Conscious Discipline topics, COVID update from Child Care Nurse Consultant, WAGES statewide update from CCR&R and promotion of SCKECI Preschool Scholarships. The next meeting will be April 21st. A Zoom invite has been sent. Topics for the April meeting include; review of data from surveys –Emily Cummings will lead that discussion, Stride Autism Center, and DHS funding. Board members and Contact Management Committee are included on invitations and welcome to attend.

Surveys

Surveys for both agencies and families were emailed March 22nd. Previous surveys (from prior community plans) were reviewed and Emily Cummings contributed questions to the surveys as well. Bi-State Regional Commission created the Survey Monkey.

Community Meetings

Davenport Schools

Martens has had two meetings with new early childhood staff members; Sandy Schmitz and Susan Downs. Martens included Renee Rankin on the second meeting to share information on the SCKECI Preschool Scholarships.

Stacey Struck from Davenport School Villages said preschool enrollment is down about 200 students, they have a little over 300 enrolled. She said they have not reduced classroom capacity due to COVID. She noted they have passed the count date for enrollment, this enrollment number establishes funding for the following year. She said staff have been canvassing neighborhoods and hand delivering flyers about the program.

Legislative Recap

None.

State Early Childhood Iowa Update

Rich Clewell has emailed an update. Martens will forward to the Board.

State ECI Coordinator Update

Meetings continue to happen about twice monthly. One was held this morning. The Governor's task force on child care is very active and will be reporting in July. Shanell Wagler stressed the urgency for compliance with the 20% or less carryforward policy.

Other Business:

Public Input

None

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm

Next Meeting May 4, 2021