

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

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

Attendance: Rev. Kirk, Jennifer Kakert, Chuck Keibler, Lauren Rupe, Linda Fredriksen, Amy Huntington, Dwayne Hodges and Chris Castrey.

Excused: Chuck Keibler and Kristine Oswald

Absent: Megan Heidgerken and Margie Mitchell

Staff: Diane Martens and Nicole Mann

Guests: Gena McCullough, Michael Saponaro, Brandon Melton; Bi-State Regional Commission, John Erb; interning with Scott County Kids Decat and Rich Clewell, State ECI Board

Approval of Minutes September 7, 2021: Fredriksen motioned to approve the September 7, 2021 minutes, seconded by Huntington. All aye votes, motion carried.

Old Business

Fiscal Issues

FY22 Expenditures:

Martens reviewed the FY22 expenditure report emailed the Board September 29th. Early Childhood funds are 8% spent at 16% through the year. School Ready funds are 14% spent at 16% through the year.

New Business

Community Plan

The community plan was emailed to the Board 9/29/21. Ms. McCullough shared a Power Point highlighting updates of the community plan. Martens noted a couple of things to remove from the updated version including advocating to eliminate restrictions on funds (as this has been accomplished through legislation) and engaging with Parent Partners. Martens noted Robert Horton was a Parent Partner and served on the Board. Manners of tracking the updated plan were also discussed. Martens stated the "progress" document has been helpful although it has become cumbersome as data and notes from year after year are added.

Fredriksen made a motion to approve the updated community plan, seconded by Rupe. All aye votes, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Contracts Management

Friendly House –preschool status

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

Terry Hendershott, Director of Friendly House and Renee Rankin, administer of SCKECI scholarships, met with Contracts Management last week. Friendly House has been unable to find a certified early childhood teacher and no longer meets the requirement to be Iowa Statewide Preschool Program verified. In order for a preschool to be eligible for the Preschool Scholarship the preschool must be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or be Iowa Preschool Program verified. The Friendly House preschool program will continue without the verification. Mr. Hendershott explained that last year the school district required they have a certified teacher by September 30th. This year they were required to have a certified teacher by September 10th. They have reached out to many employment recruitment organizations and explored options for sharing a teacher with another preschool but no teachers have been available.

Ms. Rankin provided a summary of children attending Friendly House preschool using the SCKECI Scholarship. The summary provided the transitions families are choosing; finding a new preschool, using the child care scholarship, using a Friendly House scholarship, or paying the full fee. The estimated amount for the remainder of September is \$2660.00.

Castrey made a motion to allow billing for the full month of September, seconded by Rupe. All aye votes.

State Early Childhood Iowa

State ECI Board Meetings –Rich Clewell

Clewell commented on the SCKECI Board's good work on updating the community plan, noting the plan is the heart of board activities. Clewell said the state board had planned to have an in-person meeting in September but pandemic restrictions caused the meeting to again be held virtually. Clewell will be rotating off the state board in April.

Martens shared a few pages of the Power Point Janet Horras provided the state board in response to the SCKECI concerns with the Parent Pals coordinated intake system. Horras noted they take these accusations very seriously. Horras walked the state board through the Scott County Referral System. Horras shared that Bright Beginnings received 30 of the 71 referrals processed or 42%. Twenty-seven of those referrals originated from Bright Beginnings and three originated from Family Connects.

State ECI Coordinator Meetings

The bi-monthly meetings via Zoom are still taking place and are helpful.

Other Business:

Please let Martens know if you have suggestions of males who may be interested in serving on the board. We strive to be a gender balanced board and at this time we need more males to serve on the board.

Public Input

None

Meeting adjourned at 1:12pm

Next Meeting October 5, 2021