

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Board

Meeting of December 7, 2021

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Minutes

Call to Order: Rev. Yolanda Kirk called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

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

Excused: Dwayne Hodges

Absent: Megan Heidgerken

Staff: Diane Martens and Nicole Mann

Guests: McKinley Bailey; Building Better Families and Early Childhood Iowa Association

Jessica Redden; Scott County Health Department –Child Care Nurse Consultant

Tera Weets; Genesis VNA -Bright Beginnings & NEST

Approval of Minutes October 5, 2021: Kiebler motioned to approve the October 5, 2021 minutes, seconded by Fredriksen. All aye votes, motion carried.

Old Business

Fiscal Issues

FY22 Expenditures:

Martens reviewed the FY22 expenditure report emailed the Board December 6th. Early Childhood funds are 17% spent at 33% through the year. School Ready funds are 30% spent at 33% through the year.

FY20 Audit and annual report

At the September 7th board meeting Carol Connors addressed the board explaining that the FY20 figures are slightly off from what was reported last year due to changing the time of payment for board insurance.

Martens has assembled a meeting for the purpose of reviewing the FY20 annual report and FY20 audit and having Bi-State provide documentation for the differences. The meeting is scheduled for the 14th at 9am. Board members attending will be Jennifer Kakert, Lauren Rupe and Chuck Kiebler. Any additional board members wishing to attend are welcome, just email Martens.

FY21 Audit

The audit for FY21 is delayed. Bi-State explained that Scott County Kids and Bi-State both supplied information in a timely fashion but RSM is delayed due to staffing issues. The audit is now scheduled to be presented at the February Decat meeting.

New Business

Presentation: Jessica Redden, Child Care Nurse Consultant

Redden shared that she is conducting "normal" in-person visits as well as email and phone technical assistance. She has been helping centers and homes manage COVID as well as other illnesses. Redden noted staffing in

general is difficult, compounding the issue now when staff get COVID they are out for 10 days this is increasing the challenge to child care businesses. Redden shared that Child Care Nurse Consultants are being tested for their interrater reliability for the new health and safety checklist for the new IQ4K which is the replacement to QRS scheduled for implementation April 1st. Redden has passed and is prepared to conduct the assessments for child care homes and centers wishing to achieve a level 3 or higher.

Early Childhood Iowa Association, McKinley Bailey

McKinley Bailey, the ECI Coordinator for Building Better Families and chairperson for the Early Childhood Iowa Association addressed the Board. Bailey shared the association has had successes with the legislature. Thirty-one local ECI boards have joined the association to date. He noted Senator Chris Cournoyer from Scott County is the chairperson for the education subcommittee. The Association recognized Senator Cournoyer for her work for early childhood. Kiebler asked Bailey how the Association communicates legislative action with ECI coordinators. Bailey explained the Association emails coordinators, especially during the legislative session. The cost for Scott County to join is \$1389, the cost must come from administrative funds. The Association also recommends paying at least 10% of the total dues with private funds, but it is not a requirement for membership. At this time there is \$20,447.81 in School Ready unallocated administrative funds. The Contracts Management Committee is recommending the Board join. They are recommending Board members contribute for the private funds.

Kakert made motion that the Board join the Early Childhood Iowa Association, seconded by Mitchell. All aye votes, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Contracts Management

Bright Beginnings, training request

Bright Beginning is request of \$1000 for Circle of Security training. There is \$4823.97 in unallocated School Ready funds. At the time of preparing the FY22 re-application it was not known that an employee would be resigning. Circles of Security is now an on-line training.

Contracts Management asked if Weets would be able to make reductions in other areas in order to cover the cost. Weets was in attendance via Zoom and explained that it is possible that there will be \$1000 to cover the cost however she will not know that until April or May. At this time home visits are on target but she may have some flexibility with the NEST budget. Since she does not know for sure that there will be underspending cannot knowingly overextend spending.

Keibler made a motion, seconded by Mitchell to reserve \$1000 of the SR undesignated funds for Bright Beginnings in the case that they need \$1000 for Circles of Security. All aye voted, motion carried.

Scholarships

Martens reached out to Renee Rankin at Friendly House after reviewing the Child Care Scholarships, asking if families were still on the waiting list. Martens noted child care scholarships being 30% spent at 33% through the year.

Rankin explained there are a couple of children whose parent(s) work for a school district so they don't need care in July and most of August which makes the expenditure less in the first quarter. There are still children on the waiting list for child care. If they still need scholarship \$7350 would cover the three children currently still

waiting, for the months of December through June. The families are currently attending a home care so the providers will need to have the additional site review.

The Contracts Management suggested increasing by \$3500 and reviewing as needed.

Mitchell made a motion to increase the Child Care Scholarship contract by \$3500, seconded by Fredriksen. All aye votes, motion carried.

1st Quarter Reports

The quarterly reports were reviewed by Contracts Management. The note of funding to the Child Care Scholarships was noted earlier in the meeting. Additionally, Martens will be following up with Head Start for some clarification.

Nominations

Election of Officers

Rev. Yolanda will be moving out of the area. We thank her for her services to the SCKECI Board. The slate of officers is:

Chairperson: Jennifer Kakert

Vice Chairperson: Chris Castrey

Secretary: Lauren Rupe

Mitchell made a motion to approve the slate of officers, seconded by Huntington. All aye votes, motion carried.

State Early Childhood Iowa

State ECI Board Meetings

No update.

State ECI Coordinator Meetings

The state continues to offer Zoom meetings for coordinators every other week. The meetings are helpful.

Other Business:

Martens has coordinated a Family Support meeting for December 16th at 2pm at the Scott County Administrative Center. Anyone wishing to join is welcome.

Public Input

None

Meeting adjourned at 1:31pm

Next Meeting January 4, 2022