

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Board
Meeting of March 1, 2022
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Minutes

Call to Order: Kakert called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

Attendance: Jennifer Kakert, Lauren Rupe, Linda Fredriksen, Amy Huntington, Chris Castrey and Megan Heidgerken

Excused: Dwayne Hodges and Chuck Keibler

Absent: Margie Mitchell and Kristine Oswald

Staff: Diane Martens, Nicole Mann –SCK Decat, Amber Jerson –SCK Intern

Guests:

Approval of Minutes December 7, 2021:

Huntington made a motion, seconded by Rupe to approve the December 7th minutes. All aye votes, motion carried.

FY22 Expenditures:

Martens reviewed the FY22 expenditure report with the Board. Early Childhood funds are 48% spent at 58% through the year. School Ready funds are 55% spent at 58% through the year.

FY23 Re-Application timeline

Contracts Management is recommending approval of the proposed FY23 Re-application. Fredriksen made a motion to approve, seconded by Huntington. All aye votes, motion carried.

Quality Child Care proposed amendment

Becky White shared with the Contracts Management Committee that there was a misunderstanding on the revised, final version of the Quality Child Care contract. She is requesting to change the contract to allow home providers who have attended all 10 sessions of the ChildNet training to receive \$450 for materials to help them advance in the ChildNet process. The items to be purchased would be identified with guidance from a CCR&R consultant. Currently the contract does not allow for the \$450 until providers become ChildNet certified. Certification requires a number of additional requirements may be difficult for providers to complete within this fiscal year. Contracts Management is recommending the proposed amendment.

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

Re-designation State Comments

The meeting was very positive. Amanda Winslow indicated in the last portion of the visit that there were no deficiencies. Kakert commented that this was a more positive experience than previous re-designation reviews.

Follow-up Child Care Scholarship Expenditures

Martens reached out to Renee Rankin, who administers the scholarships at Friendly House. Rankin said ten children were added between December and February. She explained COVID and other illness have impacted expenditures as the amount paid is prorated due to families falling below 85% of attendance. There are no children on the waiting list at this time. Families call about the scholarship each week, Rankin mails them the application.

Site Visit Schedule

The site visit schedule was emailed to the SCKECI Board and Contracts Management Committee 2/11/22. Participation in the visits is encouraged.

Association of Early Childhood Iowa/Legislative Update

At the February 24th ECI Director meeting we learned ECI will be under the Department of Human Services through a memorandum of understanding. Kakert reached out to Rep Winckler and received a legislative correspondence that said *"We are not moving the board, but we are moving the two ECI staff members via MOU to report through DHS. We can plan to review this new reporting structure after 3 months and prior to any final recommendations to the legislature."*

The impetus for this is promoting better connectivity in the child care space as DHS is stewarding large amounts of federal dollars to be used for child care in Iowa.

It does not change ECI's mission, authorities, funding, etc."

Martens noted ECI Directors want to communicate that ECI has responsibilities beyond child care. Kakert noted appreciation that there still seems to be value for local control.

Website

Martens is awaiting a link so that the community plan and recently uploaded minutes can be shared with the community at large.

Other Business:

Public Input

None

Meeting adjourned at 12:54pm

Next Meeting April 5, 2022