

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Board

Meeting of September 5, 2023

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Minutes

Call to Order: Kakert called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m.

Attendance: Chris Castrey, John Duax, Lauren Rupe, Megan Heidgerken, Amy Huntington, Dwayne Hodges, Jennifer Kakert, David Selmon, Jerry Mohr and Christine Gradert.

Absent: Jeremy Pessman

Excused: Ruby Batimana

Staff: Diane Martens

Guests:

Approval of Minutes August 1, 2023 minutes:

Mohr made a motion, seconded by Huntington to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023 meeting. All aye votes, motion carried.

FY23 Annual Report:

Martens walked the committee through the FY23 annual report. The cost summary from Bi-State was received just this morning.

There are still very few scholarship programs using the ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaire). Martens has a meeting set for September 15th to discuss aspects of the scholarships. One aspect will be exploring the possibility of having Linda Cavozos, Care Coordinator Liaison-Eastern Iowa Mental Health Regions, conduct the ASQ screener at preschools receiving the scholarship. Additionally, the group will discuss increasing the reimbursement to child care providers. Gradert noted the ASQ Kits (provided to those attending ASQ training funded by Eastern Iowa Regional Mental Health) were just delivered this week.

Mohr made a motion, seconded by Selmon to approve the annual report. All aye votes, motion carried.

FY24 Expenditure Report:

Early Childhood funds are 3% spent at 8% through the year. School Ready funds are 4% spent at 8% through the year.

Martens reviewed the FY24 expenditure report with the board. A cost summary from Bi-State has not been received for this fiscal year so not all expenditures are stated.

Coordinator Evaluation:

Kakert gathered input from board members. The review was positive. Room for improvement was noted for sharing documents via Zoom as well as the use of acronyms. Kakert submitted the review to Bi-State with the recommendation of salary increase. Martens is at the top of the salary scale and is eligible for a 1% increase. Mohr made a motion to approve the review and salary increase, seconded by Huntington. All aye votes, motion carried.

Election of Officers:

This is Jennifer Kakert's last meeting. The slate of officers for approval are:

Chairperson: Chris Castrey

Vice Chair: Jerry Mohr
Secretary: Amy Huntington
Treasurer: Lauren Rupe

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

HHS Alignment:

Kakert and Martens attended the August 7th Roundtable meeting with Director Garcia. Director Garcia is looking to have uniform services throughout the state. A "hub and spoke" approach for delivering services was talked about as a possibility. Garcia noted thirty-eight ECI areas is too many.

August 21st the ECI Association offered a meeting with Eide and Walton, the lobbyists. The meeting was helpful. The plan is expected to be released in October. Then we'll have something specific to react to.

Martens is meeting with the Scott County Health Dept on Friday.

August 30th the Boards & Commissions Review Committee met to shares their preliminary recommendations. In regard to Early Childhood Iowa, the committee's preliminary recommendations are to keep the State Early Childhood Iowa Board and eliminate the ECI Stakeholders Alliance and Child Care Advisory Council. Kakert shared Director Garcia has an emphasis on creating a one stop shop of services with a focus on mental health. The intent seems to be to take back local control. Kakert noted SCKECI board members will have a key role this year, communicating to legislatures about the importance of Early Childhood Iowa and programs that receive funding to serve families. Kakert also recommended carryforward funds be used up.

Fieldtrips:

Meeting rooms in the Scott County Administrative Center are not available in October and November. This will be a good opportunity to visit contractors.

In October the board meeting will be held at Genesis VNA, the contractor for Family Connects and Bright Beginnings.

In November the board meeting will be held at Friendly House, the contractor for the Child Care and Preschool Scholarships.

Both meetings will also be available via Zoom.

Board members are encouraged to attend the "fieldtrips".

Other Business:

Friendly House contacted Martens 8/31/23. There is a family who lives in Scott County but would like their child to attend preschool at the Bennett Community School District. At this time we already have a child who attends Durant School District Preschool. As per the "Service Out of Area" policy the board would need to approve.

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

Public Input

None

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm. Motion by Keibler, second by Heidgerken.

Next Meeting: October 3, 2023