

Scott County Kids Early Childhood Iowa Board

Meeting of October 3, 2023

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Minutes

Call to Order: Castrey called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

Attendance: Chris Castrey, John Duax, Lauren Rupe, Jeremy Pessman, Dwayne Hodges, David Selmon, and Christine Gradert.

Absent: Megan Heidgerken and Ruby Batimana

Excused: Amy Huntington and Jerry Mohr

Staff: Diane Martens

Guests: Tera Weets and Michele Cullen, Genesis VNA

Approval of Minutes September 5, 2023 minutes:

Gradert made a motion, seconded by Selmon to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 meeting. All aye votes, motion carried.

FY24 Expenditure Report:

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

Child Care and Preschool Scholarships -amendments

There is \$16,197.39 of Early Childhood general carryforward funding that is unallocated. There is \$36,606.55 of School Ready general funding that is unallocated. A total of \$52,802.94.

The intent was to increase the amount of reimbursement to child care providers. Martens met with Friendly House, Child Care Resource & Referral and Eastern Iowa Mental Health Regions. Renee from Friendly House gave an update of the waitlist for both the child care and preschool scholarships. The amount to address the waitlists would take much of the funding. Through talking with Renee, the split that would work best would be \$20,000 for child care and \$33,000 for preschool.

CC waitlist has 7 children, approx. \$19,350 (2150 x 9 months)

PS waitlist has 12 children totaling 285 hours per week

285 x 29 weeks x \$5 = \$41,325 (took out spring break and Christmas) Last day of school is May 30. Renee noted it is hard to tell how many would start this late in the school year.

Contracts Management is suggesting increasing the Child Care Scholarship contract by \$20,000 and the Preschool Scholarship contract by \$33,000. There is question as to how well the preschool scholarships will be utilized this late in the school year. There is still interest in offering incentives to preschools and child care providers for using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire screener and for participation in the IQ4K rating system. Once we see how well the scholarships are used, we will revisit how much funding could be put toward incentives.

Renee is also advocating to increase the cap on the monthly amount preschool programs are allowed to receive. The current cap is \$5000. Renee is suggesting the cap be increased to \$7000. There are currently children on the waitlist wishing to attend preschools that are right at the \$5000/month limit.

Gradert made a motion, seconded by Selmon to approve the \$20,000 increase to the Child Care Scholarship contract and \$33,000 to the Preschool Scholarship contract and increase the amount preschools are able to receive each month to \$7000. All aye votes motion carried.

Family Support Report from State

The Family Support Annual Report 2023 was sent to each ECI area. The data is pulled from the DAISEY System. The reports contain data specific to each area. The data for Scott County is for Bright Beginnings (long-term home visiting) and Kids Nest (group-based parent education). The report shows there are 124 long-term home visitation programs funded by ECI in the state. Bright Beginnings compares very well. *Primary Caregiver has a High School Education or less* is the only exception, the state average is 69%, Bright Beginnings is just 38%. The state average for *Developmental Screening completed at least one time in reporting period on an eligible child* is 84%, Bright Beginnings has achieved 96%.

The report shows 28 group-based parent education programs funded by ECI in the state. Kids Nest also compares well in the state. *Primary Caregiver has a High School Education or less* is again the exception, the state average is 56% Kids Nest is 33%. The state average for *201% or more of Federal Poverty Level* is 20% Kids Nest achieved 5%. The state average for *Developmental Screening completed at least one time in the reporting period on an eligible child* is 61% Kids Nest achieved 96%. Due to reduced funding SCKECI is not funding Kids Nest this fiscal year.

Early Childhood Iowa – HHS Alignment

There have not been any updates about the HHS Alignment. The plan from HHS is expected sometime this month. Martens is planning to attend the ECI Association Conference in Des Moines in November.

Public Input

None

Meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm. Motion by Rupe, second by Selmon

Next Meeting: November 1, 2023