

Children First Meeting Minutes

11-16-17

Prior to calling the meeting to order, board chair Chad Reckling informed members that he had received and accepted Kathy Saltzgaver's resignation from the board. Children First is now a board of 10 members.

This meeting of the Children First Board was called to order by board chair, Chad Reckling at 9:33am with the following present:

Board members: Jolene Dilks, Alka Khanolkar in at 10:35 during item #8, Mark Meek, Dave Kirchner, Kayla (Markell) Schwartz, Amanda Manning-Maras, and Chad Reckling
Quorum was met with 6 of 10 members present and maintained with 7 of 10 present when Alka arrived.

Guests: Janet Phelps and Melissa Daugherty of VBPA

Director: Ginger Knisley

Board members not present: Carolyn Baker, Don Hunold, and Mike Linnenbrink

There was a **motion** by Mark with a second by Kayla to accept the agenda for today's meeting as written. All voted aye.

There was a **motion** by Dave with a second by Jolene to approve the minutes and attendance report from the previous meeting as written. All voted aye.

Director Report

Ginger gave a written Director Report including meetings attended, legislative update, and business from the last meeting. Attached to the report was a flyer for the upcoming legislative event in New London. Kayla shared with Ginger that Counseling Associates provides the Mental Health First Aid training. Ginger also explained the Handle with Care program getting started in Burlington and board members expressed interest in assisting to get it implemented area wide. Ginger will continue to discuss with Decategorization directors for both counties about this. Another topic discussed was the need to improve communications with school districts. Ginger will be working on this and the ECTF will be assisting with ideas.

Quarterly Report Summary

Ginger shared a written summary of first quarter reports with the board. There was discussion regarding the lack of CCR&R services in Van Buren County and possible ways to promote the service.

Extend Preschool Scholarship eligibility

Ginger explained that preschool funds allow for serving families over 200% FPL and Shanell has verified that the board can do this as they already have a co-pay system in place. The program is currently under utilized and Cheryl has 5 applications from families between 200% and 300% of FPL. Cheryl has reported she has enough funds currently to provide the \$75 per month scholarship to 4 more children. There was a **motion** by Amanda with a second by Mark for Cheryl to evenly divide the remaining funds by 5 and offer a scholarship at that amount to each of the families who are over income. All voted aye.

Financial reports

There was a **motion** by Jolene and a second from Dave to accept the October 2017 FY17 financial report as written. All voted aye.

Ginger presented a request from Lee Head Start to bill from the start of the school year even though the contract was not signed until November. Shanell has advised that this could be a “ding” on an audit but it is an allowable expense and this is a program that has been funded in past years and that an original application was submitted in the spring but had to be re-written after transportation services changed in scope and nature quite a bit once school started. There was a **motion** by Amanda with a second by Dave to allow bills to be paid from the start of the 2017-2018 school year. All voted aye.

Program update to the board

Janet Phelps of VB PAT was present to introduce Melissa Daugherty who will be replacing her when she retires next month and to give the board an update on the current programming. Janet shared that VB PAT has great group meeting participation and noted this is supported by funding for meals and gas cards through Decat. She gave the board an overview of the PAT program and how it is administered and shared that although numbers have gone down over the years, families seem to be more in need. She also shared a sample of an activity that would be done on a home visit. The board recognized and thanked Janet for her many years of service to families in our area.

Public Comment

There was no response to a call for public comment.

Adjourn

There was a **motion** by Mark with a second by Dave to adjourn the meeting at 10:40am. All voted aye.

See page 3 for retreat notes from this day.

The next meeting of the **Children First Board** is Thursday, January 18, 2018 at **9:30am** at a Keokuk location to be determined.

gk

Date minutes approved_____ Board officer signature_____

Children First board retreat notes:

After a short break for lunch the board began the retreat portion of the day. Ginger handed out packets including analysis of area assessments.

2018 Board meeting calendar

Board members reviewed the proposed 2018 meeting calendar that was drafted using the same locations, times and topics as 2017 and agreed that this is a format that works for them and for the communities they serve. They advised Ginger to move forward with planning the calendar as written.

Board membership and recruiting

Ginger shared the board term matrix and a page of notes regarding membership. She reminded board members that when all slots are filled (14) they actually have twice as many members as required in code. Some possible suggestions for Lee County business included a representative from Great River Gallery or Thomas L Cardella and Associates. For Van Buren County it was expressed that it would be nice to have Tonja Jirak return to the board as the consumer representative as she has been off for two years. Amanda indicated her dad is retiring and may be interested in serving as the health representative. Board members feel that the CCR&R employee from the region to our west who is moving to Van Buren county has a good amount of human services background and could be a good fit for that sector representation. Ginger will contact her.

Regional Community Plan, trend data, indicators

Ginger shared a timeline for the regional community planning, a note sheet with thoughts to ponder, a purpose statement for ECI local boards and the local ovals diagram.

The board reviewed a document created by Ginger and Tasha (DHLW director) that was a meta analysis of public health plans for the counties of Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Louisa, Van Buren and Washington and the community needs assessments for HACAP, Community Action of Southeast Iowa and Sieda as well as information from the United Way ALICE reports. Also reviewed were up to date indicator data and regional data on poverty, teen births, crime, child abuse and neglect, unemployment and the number and type of child care slots over the past four years.

Board members were very skeptical of the ALICE data regarding Lee County and Ginger will dig deeper into it and report back.

There was discussion regarding SVPP and the fact that it is a limited number of slots, a limited number of hours per day in some cases and that it creates a transportation issue for families especially in the middle of the work day.

“What does the information tell us about EC in our region?”

We need more quality child care slots

CCA reimbursement rates need to be raised

There is a need for partnering somehow to alleviate transportation issues especially around preschool programming

Mental health lack of services is of great concern

Are immunization rates accurate with only being those entered in IRIS?

“What information is missing, what do we need to investigate further?”

ALICE data for Lee County seems wrong

What is the % of three year olds currently in a preschool

Is there a loan forgiveness program for mental health providers like there is for dentists to serve underserved areas?

What is the rate of unemployment month/month? Are November rates due to seasonal lay-off?

“Are there new areas of concern? Should we be tracking something different? Should we be funding something different?”

Transportation and mental health seem to be priorities

More research or review is needed on living wage and cliff effect data

Some areas technically have mental health services but the quality is questionable but there are not many choices.

Young families feeling disconnected/not engaged with their communities, schools and neighborhoods is a concern.

Other notes:

*Amanda shared that Keosauqua is working with an engineering firm on ways to bring young professionals into the community and certainly EC is an important issue.

*Rotary worldwide is partnering with Habitat for Humanity to improve housing

*A chiropractor in Burlington and his daughter have applied to Rotary for a grant to train 8 people as lactation consultants in this area

*U of I is now managing VBCH and rotating specialists in. Perhaps increasing tele-health and maybe mental health

*Reopening an OB unit at Keokuk hospital is not in the short term plan in the next 2-3 years but it is in their long term plan

*Iowa Women’s Foundation is taking on the issue of child care across the state and is planning to provide a toolkit in the spring

*There is a new group “What’s Next Central Lee?” that may be an access point for communication with the school

Needs, gaps, emerging trends discussed:

CPR for providers – many board members believe there are multiple sources for this

Breast pumps – Medicaid is supposed to pay and research continues on possible ways to facilitate this

Utility bills getting extremely high before disconnect begins sets families up for unmanageable debt similar to predatory lending situations

Budgeting before and after the carve outs

Board members reviewed how the budget differs from when it was separated into “carve outs” and how it is now with many more programs being funded from a single pot of money. Discussion took place around the new ability to fund according to actual local need rather than because of what fund the available money was in. It was discussed that through this planning process the board’s priorities may change and they now have the ability to address those priorities with the funding. The caution is that there appear to be budget cuts coming for the current year and uncertainty as to what FY19 budgets will look like.

gk