

## Children First Meeting Minutes

2-15-18

This meeting of the Children First Board and ECTF was called to order by board chair, Chad Reckling at 9:37am with the following present:

**Board members:** Carolyn Baker, Don Hunold, Jolene Dilks, Alka Khanolkar, Dave Kirchner, Mike Linnenbrink, Amanda Manning-Maras, Mark Meek, Kayla (Markell) Schwartz, and Chad Reckling  
Quorum was met with 10 of 11 members present

**Guests:** Morgan Small – Sieda, Julie Meir – CCR&R, Jamie Beskow – LCHD, Cyndi Mason – LCHD, Melissa Daugherty – VBPA, Missy Park – LCHD, Itzel Padron – IAEYC, Lauren Linnenbrink – IAEYC, and Sarah Tweedy – Raisin Em Up

**Director:** Ginger Knisley

**Board members not present:** Regina Wells

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

There was a **motion** by Kayla 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 flyers regarding the State ECI PPP committee, the next provider forum, the DVIP Souper Bowl, and PCAI presentations in Van Buren County.

### **Administrative/Indirect Cost Rate discussion**

Chad shared the deliberation process that took place at the meeting of the Finance Committee last week and Ginger provided the typed minutes from that meeting as well as a draft policy to add to the Policy and Procedure manual for the board. Board members asked questions regarding policy and procedure in the determination of indirect cost rates as well as how other ECI boards handle the issue.

There was a **motion** by Jolene and a second by Alka to accept the minutes from the 2/6/18 Finance Committee meeting. All voted aye.

There was a **motion** by Mark with a second by Kayla to approve the new policy regarding indirect and administrative costs numbered Funding Process 2, 3, and 4 in the Children First policy and procedure manual. All voted aye.

### **Financial reports**

There was a **motion** by Kayla and a second from Mike to accept the January 2018 fiscal report as written. All voted aye.

### **Program update to the board**

Lauren Linnenbrink and Itzel Padron from IAEYC shared a written update on the WAGE\$ program. Discussion also took place regarding TEACH and the upcoming IQ4K. Lauren explained that TEACH does outreach for WAGE\$ and word of mouth is a big factor. It was shared that there is not much interest in Van Buren County partly due to a lack of interest in higher education and bureaucratic requirements.

**Public Comment**

Chad shared an email he received regarding the April 3<sup>rd</sup> bond issue for Ft Madison schools and there is a group working on marketing the issue

Mike shared that Central Lee is also voting on a bond issue April 3 and having weekly meetings

Mike also shared a recording of the song Bleed the Same in deference to the school shooting in Florida

Chad asked Mike to contact the Central Lee elementary principal about sharing with the board about the preschool program there

Cyndi shared that the March 7<sup>th</sup> Provider Forum is open to board members as well as others in the community, she just asks for an RSVP so she can plan the meal. Cyndi will share the event flyer with school nurses in the area

Julie shared that Community Action of Eastern Iowa was awarded the contract for CCR&R

Sarah shared that Lee County has a serious child care shortage and that she has approached the city of Donnellson again regarding the old library building. They have decided to proceed with a sealed bid process and bids will be opened April 2<sup>nd</sup>. She is worried about families being displaced when school is out for summer as she will be unable to shuffle children around to stay within licensing guidelines.

**Adjourn**

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

Notes for the World Café portion of the meeting are on page 3 of these minutes.

The next meeting of the **Children First Board** is Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at **9:30am** at a Ft Madison location to be announced.

The next meeting of the **ECTF** is a retreat day at the Donnellson Community Room 9:30-2:30 on March 14<sup>th</sup> and will start with an optional bidder's conference regarding the FY19 Children First RFP process.

gk

Date minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ Board officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

At 11:00am ECTF members broke out into three groups under the following headings:

Family Support

Child Care and Preschool

Health, Mental Health and Safety

Board members spent approximately 15 minutes at each topic table and completed three rotations in order to have a discussion on each topic.

At 11:45am everyone came back to the large group to discuss what was learned and Ginger asked for input on next steps and tasks for the ECTF to tackle at their retreat next month.

Don asked for more information behind the demographics that help to tell the real story (such as the fact that although more families are working, they are still struggling and need assistance)

Board members agreed they would like to have some narrative and personal stories on what young families are dealing with on a daily basis in our communities and what kinds of supports are needed. Are there different obstacles that families are facing other than unemployment? How is the cliff effect impacting families?

It is clear Sarah needs more space for her child care operation and both counties just need more providers. The question was posed of how to engage the Van Buren County providers who are not on the radar... it is thought they could be accessed through informal networks such as the families who are using them for care.

Alka shared an article "The Scary Truth about what's hurting your family" regarding mental health screenings prior to kindergarten entry.

There was discussion regarding immunizations and how regulations don't apply evenly across all settings.

In terms of Mental Health initiatives it is questioned if EC interventions are following into K-12

Ponder this...what is the collateral damage of cutting mental health services to schools? What are the long term implications? How can we get the message across about early intervention?

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

gk