

Children First Meeting Minutes

3-15-18

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

Board members: Carolyn Baker, Jolene Dilks, Dave Kirchner, Mike Linnenbrink, Mark Meek, Kayla (Markell) Schwartz, Chad Reckling, and Regina Wells

Quorum was met with 8 of 11 members present

Guests: Cyndi Mason – LCHD, and Heather Fuger – Central Lee Schools

Director: Ginger Knisley

Board members not present: Amanda Manning-Maras, Don Hunold, and Alka Khanolkar

There was a **motion** by Mark with a second by Mike to accept the agenda for today's meeting with the addition of a discussion item "Preschool status at Central Lee". All voted aye.

There was a **motion** by Mike 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 the 2018 federal poverty guideline. Ginger explained that there are several community planning and/or collaborative initiatives taking place in the region right now. Discussion took place around child abuse and neglect rates in the area. Mike shared that his daughter was in DC last week and had a good visit with Joni Ernst. Discussion also took place on the topic of business investment in early childhood and how it is being addressed by ECI, IWF, CPPC and business owners themselves. Gina shared information about progressive efforts in Centerville on this subject and the improvements they are seeing in employee retention.

Mid -year monitoring

The mid-year monitoring summary was reviewed and Ginger explained that she feels this is an informal process that allows for deeper conversations with providers as she has "monitoring contact" with most funded programs monthly throughout the year. More full details on performance and contract deliverables will be provided at the May Retreat.

Financial reports

There was a **motion** by Mark and a second from Carolyn to accept the February FY18 financial reports as written. All voted aye.

Program update to the board

Cyndi Mason shared the "2017 Healthy Child Care Iowa: CCNC update" and a "CCNC facts sheet" with the board. She explained the work that she does and how it is connected to a statewide effort. She also explained the new requirements for CCNC work within the new IQ4K system set to roll out in January of 2019. Board members asked questions and Cyndi clarified that the CCNC position in Lee and Van Buren is one person, not a program with multiple staff.

Central Lee preschool update

Mike introduced Heather Fuger, Central Lee Elementary principal and there were introductions around the table. Chad welcomed her to the meeting and shared that as a board, Children First is interested in visiting with local districts about how early childhood efforts are going and how collaborations can take place. Heather shared that Central Lee is just finishing the 1st year of the SVPP for four year olds and it is going great. They have had between 58 and 60 students with a maximum capacity of 80. The PTO has helped support the effort as state funds do not come in until year 2. The SVPP at Central Lee is fully integrated and has two teachers and a number of associates. They are preparing for their site visit next year and waiting to see if the bond passes which will move the EC area to the office area of the building and allow for the possibility of expansion to three year olds in the future. Central Lee has added “permission to contact preschool or child care provider” to their enrollment forms so communication across programs can happen. They use the Briggance and GOLD and a varied version of Briggance to screen children at roundup and during preschool. She shared that they are noticing a marked deficit in children’s fine motor skills and feels that electronic device use rather than the use of pencils, crayons, etc is partially to blame. Transportation has gone well with the new program and they are looking at ways to add more seatbelts to the busses. In some cases middle school leadership has occurred on the busses to assist with the younger children. Heather also shared that she spends more time in the role of social work with children and their families than she ever expected to in her position.

Public Comment

Ginger read aloud an email received from a provider showing gratitude for the Provider Forums and all the work of the CCNC and Children First.

Gina commended the board for funding a CCNC as she works with areas that do not have one and it makes many things more difficult.

Adjourn

There was a **motion** by Mark with a second by Kayla to adjourn the meeting at 10:52am. All voted aye.

The next meeting of the **Children First Board** is Thursday, April 19th, 2018 at **9:30am** at the Harmony Elementary School library (north of Farmington on J40).

gk

Date minutes approved _____ Board officer signature _____

