

Children First Meeting Minutes

3-21-19

This meeting of the Children First Board was called to order by board chair, Mark Meek at 9:39 am with the following present:

Board members: Carolyn Baker, Rich Harlow, Mark Meek, Dave Kirchner, Kayla Schwartz, and Amanda Swan via phone on speaker

Quorum was met with 6 of 10 members present

Incoming board member: Meagan Vogel

Guests: Rachael Patterson-Rahn, LCHD I-Smile

Director: Ginger Knisley

Board members not present: Alka Khanolkar, Mike Linnenbrink, Amanda Manning-Maras, and Chad Reckling

Agenda approval

There was a **motion** by Dave and a second by Rich to approve the agenda for today's meeting with item #6 struck, all voted aye.

Minutes approval

There was a **motion** by Carolyn with a second by Dave to approve the minutes from the 1-17-19 board meeting as written, all voted aye.

There was a **motion** by Kayla with a second by Rich to approve the minutes from the 2-21-19 meeting, all voted aye.

Ginger pointed out that the attendance report shows three absences in a row and less than 50% attendance for both Mike and Alka. Mark advised Ginger to send a letter to each to determine if they could improve attendance or wish to resign from the board.

Board membership

Meagan Vogel introduced herself and shared that she was formerly with Counseling Associates and now owns her own business writing training modules for Human Service professionals. There was a **motion** by Kayla and a second by Rich to seat Meagan as the Lee County Business representative, all voted aye. Children First is now a board of 11 members.

Fiscal Reports

There was a **motion** by Kayla with a second by Carolyn to accept the January 2019 expenditure reports. Ginger shared that several accounts were paid for two or three months due to delay in processing over the holidays. All voted aye.

There was a **motion** by Kayla with a second by Rich to accept the February 2019 expenditure reports. Ginger made note of the director mileage being higher than normal due to covering more than one month of time. Kayla asked if programs were spending as expected and Ginger said they are. All voted aye.

Public Comment

There was no response to a call for public comment.

Adjourn

There was a **motion** by Rich and a second by Dave to adjourn the business portion of the meeting at 9:46 am, all voted aye. Amanda Swan was thanked for her participation and ended her call.

Program update to the board

Rachael shared an overview of the dental program with the board along with trend data being seen such as reduction in the severity of caries. She updated the board on the availability of services in the area as well as the other I-Smile activities. She also shared that there is currently a bill working its way through the Iowa legislature that would remove schools from the requirement for lead, vision and dental screenings. These screenings would still be technically required but by removing the schools, it is difficult to see how they would be tracked and/or enforced. Discussion took place around unique issues of dental services for young children and rural communities in general. There was a position at the U of I specifically designed to recruit dental graduates for rural communities and it was eliminated in the fall of 2018.

Director Report

Ginger gave a written Director Report including meetings attended, legislative update, and attached to the report was a proposal for creating an Association of Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards. Much discussion took place and the board agreed by general consensus that such an organization would be beneficial and they would like to participate if funds can be reserved for such a venture from either administrative ECI dollars or their miscellaneous fund. Discussion took place about board membership and the need to fill the Human Services position once Kayla moves into the Consumer position when Chad’s term is done 6/30/19. Ginger shared that Missy Park is visiting with a DHS employee about joining the board. Ginger also shared that the board is getting out of gender balance and will need to look at seeking out male board members for new recruits. Meagan suggested making note of individuals newly hired into positions in the community who may be eager to network and not be already overwhelmed with other obligations. There was a great deal of discussion about the work of the EC Advisory Committee and the ECTF on the concept of having a person dedicated to the task of Intense Mentoring of child care facilities either struggling to stay open, newly opening, or who have hired a new director. The idea is to provide intense day after day on site mentoring. The board is interested in sharing such a position with the DHLW board if they are interested in having a person like this for the 6 - county region.

The next meeting of the **Children First Board** is Thursday, April 18th, 2019 at **9:30am** at the old Harmony Elementary School in Bonaparte (not the current elementary on J40). There will also be an **Executive Committee meeting at 9:00 am** to conduct the annual evaluation of the Children First Director.

Gk

Date minutes approved _____ Board officer signature _____