

Children First Meeting Minutes

4-18-19

This meeting began as an informational meeting while awaiting quorum at 9:30 am.

Ginger reviewed the FY20 funding application packets with the board members present and discovered a lack of score sheets included in the packets. The meeting site host made copies for some of the packets and Kayla and Amanda Manning-Maras indicated they could print their own if Ginger emailed them out.

This meeting of the Children First Board was called to order by board chair, Mark Meek at 9:45 am with the following present:

Board members: Carolyn Baker, Mark Meek, Dave Kirchner, Amanda Manning-Maras, Mike Linnenbrink, Kayla Schwartz, and Amanda Swan

Quorum was met with 7 of 11 members present

Guests: Cheryl Flaatten, Community Action of Southeast Iowa and Jolene Dilks, Learning Tree Daycare Center

Director: Ginger Knisley

Board members not present: Rich Harlow, Alka Khanolkar, Chad Reckling (Chad arrived at 10:00 am during the Director's report), and Meagan Vogel.

Agenda approval: There was a **motion** by Dave and a second by Mike to approve the agenda for today's meeting, all voted aye.

Minutes approval: There was a **motion** by Kayla with a second by Carolyn to approve the minutes from the 3-21-19 board meeting as written, all voted aye.

Director Report: (Chad entered the meeting, quorum was maintained with 8 of 11 members present) Ginger gave a written Director Report including meetings attended, legislative update, state board update, and attached to the report was an abbreviated copy of the ECTF retreat minutes covering the topics of emerging trends and work on goals from the regional community plan. During discussion of the state board meeting Mark shared that several counties in the state of Iowa are suing over the issue of the children's mental health system being an unfunded mandate. Ginger will track the situation and report to the board at future meetings. Also discussed at this time was board membership. Mike is in attendance today and apologized for missing meetings and expressed his desire to remain on the board. An email was received from Alka indicating she would resign if that was the board's wishes, Mark instructed Ginger to respond that she is welcome to stay on if she is able to participate.

Program update to the board: Cheryl Flaatten gave the board an oral report of the Partnering with Providers program she manages. She shared details of the fall conference, on site coaching, mini grant programming and also shared ideas for the future such as mentoring and development of a substitute pool.

Executive Committee recommendation/Director evaluation: Mark shared that the executive committee had met this morning. He stated that the executive committee is pleased with the director's performance and recommends a 3% increase in salary effective July 1, 2019. There was a **motion** by Chad with a second by Amanda Swan to accept the recommendation as stated, all voted aye.

(Mark left the meeting for another obligation and Amanda Manning-Maras took over chairing the meeting)

Funding request from Learning Tree: Board members had a copy of the written request for funds in their packets. Jolene shared in more detail how the equipment purchases would enable the center to make better use of their space and allow for the expansion of enrolled number of children by about 13 more slots. There was a **motion** by Kayla with a second by Dave to approve the request for funds in the amount of \$5,000 to be facilitated and billed by Cheryl. Discussion took place with Mike asking about the wisdom of purchasing equipment. It was explained that the purpose of the EC funds is to increase the quality and capacity of child care and this request fits that description. Also shared was the history of programs returning purchased equipment to the Children First board for redistribution in the event of a program closure. The EC funds spending year to date and estimated carry forward were reviewed for availability of funds. All voted aye.

Fiscal Reports: There was a **motion** by Kayla with a second by Carolyn to accept the March 2019 expenditure reports. All voted aye.

Ginger shared a proposed regional effort to offer a mental health training for providers, schools, and area agency staff working with children to be held in Ottumwa and asked for the board's approval to use EC funds to purchase take home supplies for participants in the amount of \$1,100. Three ECI areas are proposing to put in an equal amount to support resources going home with participants. Leftover supplies will be distributed between the ECI areas of Mahaska/Wapello, Iowa/Keokuk/Jefferson, and Children First as they are paying for them. There was a **motion** by Dave with a second by Chad to approve this expenditure. All voted aye.

Public Comment

Mike shared as the faith representative that this is holy week and he would encourage everyone to participate as they were comfortable and thanked the board for the opportunity to share.

Chad shared that there was a meeting of his DHS colleagues and most did not know about ECI. Shanell Wagler gave them a presentation such as ECI 101 and Chad encouraged them to get involved with their local ECI boards across the state.

Chad also shared that Raisin Em Up in Donnellson is closing effective May 1st. There was little he was able to share due to his position with DHS. Cheryl indicated she would visit the site in person following the meeting and she and Ginger would come together after that to determine necessary next steps. Board members expressed great concern for the loss of child care slots and Sarah's leadership in our local early childhood system. Several ideas for maintaining care in the area were discussed and Ginger will be facilitating the community process as is appropriate over the next 12 days. One point that was made was the need to convince major employers in the area to take an interest in investing in and supporting early childhood efforts.

Adjourn

There was a **motion** by Kayla and a second by Mike to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 am, all voted aye.

The next meeting of the **Children First Board** is Thursday, May 23rd, 2019, **9:30am to 2:30 pm** at the Great Day Café in Keosauqua for community planning and to discuss FY20 applications and make budgeting decisions for the new year.

Gk

Date minutes approved _____ Board officer signature _____