

Children First Board meeting minutes

6-20-19

Ft Madison

At 9:44 am this meeting of the Children First board was called to order by board chair, Mark Meek with the following present:

Carolyn Baker, Rich Harlow, Dave Kirchner, Mike Linnenbrink, Mark Meek, Chad Reckling, Kayla Schwartz, Amanda Swan, and Meagan Vogel

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

Director: Ginger Knisley

Guests: Cyndi Mason, CCNC

There was a **motion** by Mike with a second by Dave to approve today's agenda. All voted aye.

There was a **motion** by Kayla with a second by Amanda Swan to approve the minutes from the last meeting as written. All voted aye.

Fund request from Susie Rettig

Ginger reminded the board they had received a packet of documents via email regarding this request and introduced Cyndi to give a history and overview. Chad asked if there was a board policy requiring funded programs to be QRS rated, and Ginger clarified that the only quality requirement in board policy was in regards to Preschool Scholarships. Dave asked if the board was permitted to use ECI funds for un registered providers or if they would have to wait until she was registered, and Ginger clarified there is no such requirement. Cyndi gave a history of Susie's work such as QRS participation and willingness to accept infants, as an EC provider and a summary of her recommendations regarding the funding request. There was a **motion** by Mark and a second by Dave to approve the funding request as a reimbursement for purchases after July 1, 2019 with the stipulation that purchased items not be sold, but rather donated, in the event of Susie discontinuing care in the future. All voted aye.

Director Report

Ginger gave a brief Director report including updates on board business, legislation, and the State ECI Board meeting. There was a lengthy discussion regarding mental health and the board would like the ECTF to work on gathering information about what is currently available, what could be created, and how the board can help to move mental health efforts forward. Some barriers discussed were: difficulty in getting Medicaid certified as a MH provider, the 60%+ rates of Medicaid clients in Lee County vs. just a few years ago, issues around Medicaid reimbursements, more people getting diagnosed with mental health issues at all age levels. ETC

ECI Area Board association

Ginger reminded the board of the discussion that took place at a previous meeting and that, lacking quorum, the board members agreed by consensus that they would support joining the association. There was a **motion** by Dave and a second by Mike to use admin funds for the allowable membership portion and misc funds for the private pay portion. All voted aye.

Board membership

Ginger reported she has still not heard from Alka. There was a **motion** by Kayla with a second by Chad for the board chair to accept Alka's resignation from the Children First board. All voted aye. Children First is now a board of 10.

Regarding the potential board membership of Ryan Wilson, CEO of Ft Madison YMCA, Ginger shared the guidance from Shanell. They reviewed current policy and determined that Ginger should move forward with recruiting Ryan to the board as the Lee County Human Services representative as they do not perceive a conflict of interest. The YMCA hosted preschool is a "participating site" for CCNC services but receives no special consideration over any other EC site in the area, as well as the fact that Ryan oversees the entire organization but is not directly involved with the EC programs.

State ECI Contract

Ginger shared that other than dates, dollar amounts and two typographical errors, there were no changes to the state contract from FY19 to FY20. There was a **motion** by Chad with a second by Rich to approve the contract for FY20 ECI funding. All voted aye.

Financial Report

There was a **motion** by Kayla and a second by Amanda to accept the financial report for May 2019 expenditures. All voted aye.

Officer Elections

The board reviewed the history of the board officers since 2012 and agreed the system works well. There was a **motion** by Dave with a second by Amanda to reconfirm the current slate of officers for a second term. All voted aye. Ginger passed around the committee sheet for board members to sign up for any committee they may be interested in.

Public Comment

During the public comment portion of the meeting Mark presented Dave and Chad with certificates of appreciation for each of them serving a full 6 years as Children First board members. Both have been valuable board members and will be missed.

Board members report out

Mike shared statistics from the National Educators Association around the lack of availability of school counselors and social workers across the country.

Chad shared he gave his contact information to a clinical psychologist at Iowa State and asked to be contacted to possibly share ideas on dealing with the mental health work force shortage in our area. Discussion of communities utilizing incentive programs to draw professionals in took place.

Dave shared there was an article by Columbia University in New York regarding the fact that the USA does not rank in the top 30 countries in terms of federal investment in early childhood.

There was a **motion** by Dave with a second by Chad to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 am. All voted aye.

The next meeting of the Children First board will be **Thursday, August 8th at 9:30** am at the Donnellson Community Room and will be a combined meeting with the ECTF.

Gk

Date approved _____ Board officer signature _____