

Children First Board & ECTF meeting minutes

8-8-19

Donnellson

At 9:40 am this meeting of the Children First board and ECTF began as an informational session while awaiting quorum with the following present:

Board members: Carolyn Baker, Rich Harlow, Mike Linnenbrink (arrived at 10:07 am), Kayla Schwartz, and Amanda Swan

Incoming board member: Ryan Wilson

Board members not present: Amanda Manning-Maras, Mark Meek, and Meagan Vogel

Director: Ginger Knisley

Guests: Missy Park – LCHD HOPES, Jamie Beskow – LCHD 1st Five, Melissa Daugherty – VBPAT, and Jolene Dilks – The Learning Tree (arrived at 10:39 am)

Introductions took place around the table as Ryan is new to the board

Director Report

Ginger gave a Director report including updates on board business, legislation, and board membership. Ginger pointed out that the board now has no education representative. She also pointed out that there are 3 Van Buren County members and 6 Lee County members. She asked for everyone to brainstorm who they thought would be a good fit for any of the board openings which include: Education for either county, and Van Buren positions for Consumer, Health, and Human Services.

FY19 Annual Report Data was reviewed and Ginger explained it was all necessary to review as the board assures the state every year that they are reviewing this data. The full annual report including fiscal statements will be approved at the September meeting.

Quorum was achieved at 10:07 am when Mike arrived and there was a **motion** by Rich with a second by Amanda to call the meeting to order. All voted aye. Board secretary Kayla called the meeting to order.

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

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

Seat new board member

Ryan introduced himself and shared he has been with the Ft Madison YMCA for 11 years, is a high school coach, and a chamber board member.

There was a **motion** by Amanda with a second by Carolyn to seat Ryan as the Lee County Human Services representative. All voted aye. Children First is now a board of 9 members.

Financial Report

Financial reports were reviewed in detail for FY19 June payments, FY19 July payments and FY20 July payments.

There was a **motion** by Rich and a second by Mike to accept the financial reports for June and July 2019 expenditures. All voted aye.

There was a **motion** by Amanda with a second by Ryan to adjourn the business portion of the meeting at 10:17 am. All voted aye.

The next meeting of the Children First board will be **Thursday, September 12th at 9:30 am** at the Keosauqua Community Services Building.

The next meeting of the ECTF is **Wednesday, September 25th at 9:30 am** at Dr Getwell’s in Keokuk.

Gk

Date approved _____ Board officer signature _____

Board members report out

Mike shared that the Donnellson Library has a number of children hanging out at the library all day and the librarian has started handing out fruit to them. On the topic of food, Missy share that Salvation Army is serving food to children from a van in various communities on a set schedule of days. Also on the topic of food, Ginger shared that the Iowa Food Bank will now provide schools with the weekend backpack food upon request. There is uncertainty if the Ft Madison food pantry will remain in the Rashid building or if Head Start will be taking it over. The city council and the Rashid family have to make a decision on the topic.

On the topic of Mental Health, Jamie gave the board an overview of the Children’s Mental Health bill and some of the plans and implications coming from it. She explained the Regions have until April to submit their plans of how to implement the requirements in the Children’s Mental Health bill and as of right now there is no funding attached to it. For the most part we have a lot of great programming available but not enough coordination and collaboration. It is hoped this will improve with the new plans. The bill is very specific on who will be served through the regions and funding will be braided.

Jolene shared that the Learning Tree has about 7 openings at the moment. One of those openings is for an infant but that will probably fill by the end of the week. She reported that the equipment purchased with Children First funds has allowed them to move rooms around and establish a preschool in the basement. It has also allowed them to have more developmentally

appropriate practices in place with children able to access materials on their own. Finally, she reported they are working on solutions for transportation between the child care center and the public school. She believes they have the morning figured out but still need to find a solution for the afternoon. Ryan shared the Y is also struggling with the issue since Ft Madison schools changed their range for transportation down to the state minimum due to a lack of bus drivers. He has been told they lost 7 drivers in the past year. Mike questioned if paraprofessionals at the school may be able to be utilized to transport small numbers of children.

The meeting was closed at 11:05 am.

gk