

Children First Board meeting minutes

10-26-2020, Zoom only

At 1:04 pm this meeting of the Children First board was called to order with the following present:

Board members: Carolyn Baker, Rich Harlow, Mike Linnenbrink, Mark Meek, Kathy Osipowicz, Kayla Schwartz, Amanda Swan, and Meagan Vogel. Quorum was met with 8 of 9 board members present.

Board members not present: Ryan Wilson

Director: Ginger Knisley

Guests: Missy Park; LCHD HOPES program

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

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

Annual Presentation to the Board

Missy Park gave an overview to the board of current operations of the HOPES program. She referenced the typed report she provided which Ginger emailed to the board last week. In addition to the typed report she shared that they are utilizing the free phones for families program and it is working well with 5 of the 7 phones in operation at this time. She stated that families and workers would all like to return to face-to-face visits but that is not feasible at this time. She also shared that there have been fewer families in crisis such as utility shut off notices and they have even had two families purchase a vehicle. HOPES staff have worked at educating families on budgeting and being mindful with the extra funds some of them had in the form of enhanced CARES unemployment benefits and it appears to have paid off. Kayla questioned if the board could pay for additional minutes/data on the phones for families if the program expires. Ginger stated she would work with Missy and the IDPH and keep the board posted if this becomes a need.

Director Report

Ginger gave a Director report including updates on board business, legislation, statewide director's meeting, and board membership. She shared that one listed meeting (Aunt Bertha launch) was not attended as there was a communication blackout that day but she has the recording of the event and the associated links and resources and will follow up. In addition to an issue with the new guidance for ECI funded family support programs Ginger shared there is some confusion on the reporting of visits and whether or not virtual visits should be entered into the statewide data system. Area directors are negotiating clarification with the state office

and there is no new information at this time. Discussion also took place around the idea of musical playgrounds being installed in various area communities. Mike would like to see some other features in addition to music and Ginger said she would research it. The board agreed that this is a great cause and gave Ginger the go-ahead to pursue a regional effort and bring a proposal of project to them at a future meeting to be funded with reserve funds. Kayla exited the meeting at 1:30pm. Quorum was maintained with 7 of 9 board members present.

Financial Report

The expenditures and revenues were reviewed by the board and Ginger explained there were few claims paid within the month but the first quarter SR payment has arrived. In other good news she shared that the dental program has started on site services and started billing now. There was a **motion** by Mike and a second by Rich to accept the financial reports for September 2020. All voted aye.

Legislative Priorities of the Association of ECI area board and advocates

The priorities were emailed to the board last week and some board members offered their personal preference on rankings as well as good discussion via email with Ginger over the last week. Ginger shared that the other ECI boards that had responded as of this morning had ranked the priorities the same as the Children First members who had offered feedback. Those rankings are as follows:

- 1) Support a comprehensive and integrated early care, health, and education system for the youngest Iowans through funding for ECI.
 - 1) Allocate up to \$10 million of the child care specific, one time stimulus funds...
 - 2) Link the ECI line item in the Education Budget Bill with allowable growth...
 - 3) Use the unspent funding received from CDBG....
- 2) Develop systemic solutions to the child care crisis
 - 1) Use the unspent CDBG fundsto increase CCA rates
 - 2) Allocate \$3 million to expand WAGE\$...
 - 3) Increase CCA eligibility...
- 3) Develop a statewide Children's behavioral health system that includes ECI....

There was a **motion** by Rich with a second by Amanda for Ginger to share the above ranking of the legislative priorities to the annual meeting of the association. All voted aye.

Family Support programming guidance

Tabled to the next meeting if further action is necessary

Board member report out of EC issues & Public Comment

Carolyn shared the drive through trick or treat in Donnellson yesterday was very well attended and fun. Mike attested to the hours of cars lined up around town.

Rich shared as a bus driver these current times are challenging and hopes for a return to normal soon.

Adjourn– There was a **motion** by Carolyn and a second by Kathy to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 pm. All voted aye.

The next **Children First board meeting** will be held via Zoom with a possible in person option on Monday, November 30th at 1:00 pm.

Gk

Date approved_____ Board officer signature_____