

Children First Board meeting minutes

1-25-2021, Zoom only

At 1:03 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, Amanda Swan, and Meagan Vogel (in at 1:06 during item #3). Quorum was met with 7 of 9 board members present.

Board members not present: Kayla Schwartz and Ryan Wilson

Director: Ginger Knisley

Guests: Amy Hayes; CCNC for LCHD

Incoming board members: Melissa Mahon and Dr. Amanda Gerber

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

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

Seat New Board Members

Ginger shared that there were two new prospective board members from Van Buren County, Dr. Amanda Gerber (Van Buren Human Services representative) and Melissa Mahon (Van Buren County Health representative). Dr. Gerber introduced herself and shared she lives in Bonaparte with her wife and two children and has a clinic in the old elementary school as well as travelling to Nebraska for shifts. She was referred to the board by Jamie Beskow. Melissa shared she works for the Bloomfield Anesthetist group in various locations across the region and lives in Keosauqua with her two children. She was referred to the board by Malia Love who was formerly her nanny. Both have a passion for young children and families and a desire to make a difference in their communities.

There was a **motion** by Carolyn and a second from Kathy to seat both new board members. All voted aye. Children First is now a board of 11 members.

Annual Presentation to the Board

Amy Hayes gave an oral report to the board on her activities this year as the Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) for our area. She shared she has been very busy with COVID work for the health department, conducting a lot of CPR classes four participants at a time, and providing online support to providers in the area. She has been able to make a few in person site visits and assist programs with their QRS applications. She shared the Learning Tree is now a QRS level 5 provider. She also shared what she knows about the COVID vaccination program at this time.

Director Report

Ginger gave a Director report including updates on board business, legislation, statewide director's meeting, and board membership. She shared there is quite a bit of interest in early childhood at the state and national level legislatively and this is being monitored closely. She reminded the board this is their year for designation and shared that she would be preparing a timeline for work specific to it soon. Active initiatives in various states of planning and progress include the child care temporary staffing, IWF projects, Community Resilience, EC Summit and website and car seat safety. She asked if the board is interested in an in person spring retreat in May to discuss their funding decisions for FY22. It was agreed that a hybrid version would be welcome with those wanting to meet in person being able to and those not wanting or able to meet in person having the ability to log in. Ginger plans to purchase a meeting Owl by then to enhance this structure. Ginger will start to plan for the spring retreat to take the place of the May meeting and search for an appropriate location with availability and strong internet service. (Donnellson community room and library are two possible options)

Financial Report

The expenditures and revenues were reviewed by the board and Ginger explained the claims for services in November were paid January 4th and would be on the January report at the February meeting. There was a **motion** by Carolyn and a second by Amanda to accept the financial reports for November and December 2020. All voted aye.

On the topic of finances, Ginger shared that KOKX radio station asked if Children First would sponsor a public service announcement in the month of February regarding internet safety for children that would be directed at adults to be aware of who and what children are accessing online. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the dangers to children while online and overwhelming support for such an awareness campaign. Ginger will ask for a sentence to include messaging regarding very young children, clarify if it will be on Facebook as well, ask if the radio station tracks response to their campaigns, and ask if a recording of the ad can be emailed to board members.

There was a **motion** by Mike and a second by Melissa to pay \$360 for one month of sponsorship of the KOKX internet safety awareness messaging. All voted aye.

Spending of surplus funds

Ginger shared a summary sheet of the current situation and asked to form a budget committee to meet a few times in the next month to discuss the options available and how they tie into our community plan. It was agreed this would be wise. Ginger will email the full board to determine who is interested and settle on a few meeting dates. Those interested initially are Kathy, Carolyn, Mark and Amanda (only available on Mondays for now). Mike asked that children's mental health continue to be a priority.

Board member report out of EC issues & Public Comment

There was no other items of note. Mark thanked everyone for a very good meeting.

Adjourn– There was a **motion** by Kathy and a second by Carolyn to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 pm. All voted aye.

The next **Children First board meeting** will be held via Zoom with a possible in person option on Monday, February 22nd at 1:00 pm. This meeting will be a combined meeting with the board’s advisory council – Early Childhood Task Force (ECTF).

Gk

Date approved _____ Board officer signature _____