

Children First Board meeting minutes

10-25-2021, via Zoom

At 1:02 pm this meeting of the Children First board was called to order with the following present:

Board members: Carolyn Baker, Dr. Amanda Gerber, Rich Harlow, Mark Meek, Kathy Osipowicz, Amanda Swan and Ryan Wilson.

Quorum was met with 7 of 11 board members present. All votes taken by roll call.

Board members not present: Mike Linnenbrink, Melissa Mahon, Kayla Schwartz, Meagan Vogel

Director: Ginger Knisley

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

There was a **motion** by Kathy with a second by Carolyn to approve the minutes from 9-13-21.

All voted aye.

Annual presentation to the board

Melissa Daugherty of VBPAAT gave her annual presentation to the board. She began with giving the board an overview of the VBPAAT program and shared that they are back to conducting home visits in person with most families. There are a few families who are either still choosing to do visits virtually or occasionally have a virtual visit due to illness in the household. Melissa is pleased that it is now in policy that they can do visits virtually in cases of illness or poor weather as this should help them keep their home visit rates in the desired range. Group meetings are also happening primarily in person with an option to join virtually. She shared an update to their program improvement plan and shared that they currently have 33 families enrolled with the goal of 44 families. Some referral sources are limited due to confidentiality issues but Melissa is working on breaking down those barriers. Housing and child care remain the biggest focus of needs for families.

Director Report

Ginger reviewed her written report which had been emailed out with the meeting materials. The report included updates on legislation, business from the last meeting, community planning processes, and other projects that are ongoing. She explained that the governor's child care task force has still not released a final report and recommendations and that is making it difficult to move forward with plans not knowing what direction the governor will be supporting. She shared that the FY21 annual report had been approved, the FY21 audit was complete, and the FY20 audit review was complete with no comment. The ECTF proposed each applicant for funding be given the opportunity for 10 to 15 minutes with the board to answer questions and the board is open to that being added to the RFP process. IDPH Collaborative Services was discussed and the board is in favor of limiting initial contracts for FY23 that may be impacted to 3 months pending award of IDPH contracts. They would want a full application from any new provider of services and are noncommittal on the idea of shared contracts with other ECI areas as well as any change in how dental services are billed. In regards to the Lee County ARPA application process, Ginger will offer support and assistance but not submit an

application. Rich shared that Chuck Vandenburg has been hired to coordinate the ARPA funds for Lee County and do other grant writing for the county. In terms of the Rural Iowa child care market study, the board is open to pledging some portion of the \$5,000 matching funds required if other partners come forward.

Financial Reports

Financial reports were reviewed for all activities through the fiscal agent in September 2021. There was a **motion** by Mark with a second by Rich to accept the fiscal report. All voted aye.

Board member report out

Ryan shared that the Y centers in Donnellson have a new director, Anna Dobson. He has been visiting with economic development about possible ways to address staffing issues and where expansions may be warranted. He also shared he is hoping to have more ability to attend board meetings moving forward.

Kathy shared that there will be a child passenger safety event at the LCHD with the assistance and promotion of the sheriff's department.

Rich shared that Michele Ross is spreading the message encouraging everyone to get booster shots and flu shots.

There was a **motion** by Rich and a second by Kathy to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 pm. All voted aye.

The next **Children First board meeting** will be held via zoom on Monday, November 22nd, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Gk

Date approved _____ Board officer signature _____

gk