

Children First Board meeting minutes

11-22-2021, via Zoom

At 1:07 pm this meeting of the Children First board was called to order with the following present:

Board members: Dr. Amanda Gerber, Rich Harlow, Mark Meek, Mike Linnenbrink, Amanda Swan, Meagan Vogel and Ryan Wilson.

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

Director: Ginger Knisley

Guest: Michele Ross – LCHD Administrator

Board members not present: Carolyn Baker, Melissa Mahon, Kathy Osipowicz, Kayla Schwartz,

There was a **motion** by Mark and a second by Rich to approve today's agenda. All voted aye. There was a **motion** by Rich with a second by Ryan to approve the minutes from 10-25-21. All voted aye.

Annual presentation to the board N/A

Director Report

To open this agenda item Mike invited Michele Ross to share information with the board regarding the IDPH Collaborative Services. Michele gave the board an overview of the situation and shared that all Title V agencies in region 13 have agreed that LCHD will be the applicant and she is unaware of any other potential applicant at this time. She also shared that it is unfortunate Van Buren County is included in region 15 as this separates some long standing relationships and programs such as CCNC and dental daycare are served by LCHD in both counties currently. Requests have been submitted to IDPH to reconsider the map and move Van Buren County back to region 13. She added that the changes with the collaborative services are made a bit more complicated by the pending merger of DHS and IDPH to a single HHS department. Marion County appears to be the likely applicant in region 13 and Michele has not met with them yet. The RFP should be released in early spring of 2022 with an effective date of 10-1-22. Michele expressed that public health agencies are asking ECI boards to consider one year extensions to existing contracts while they work through this new process and adjust to the new service areas. The board thanked Michele for the additional information.

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. Dr. Gerber agreed that there is a current crisis among health care workers that may be made worse by the pending vaccine mandates. She reports 25% of the health care workforce has either died or left health care since the onset of the pandemic.

Mid- year RFP Ginger shared the proposed forms and timeline for a mid-year RFP and reminded the board they had approximately \$15-\$16k to allocate in each fund in order to be below the limit of 20% carry forward for FY22. The board agreed to the forms and timeline as written with

a public release and a limit of \$5,000 per application. There was a **motion** by Mark with a second by Dr. Gerber to that effect. All voted aye.

Financial Reports

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

Child Care Market Study Grant – support and budget amendment

Ginger reviewed the current partnerships in each county and the request that Children First provide one half of the required local match in each county for the market study grant applications. There was a **motion** by Mark to provide each county group a letter of support and a pledge of \$2,500 for the grant as well as submit the related budget amendment to the state. This was seconded by Dr. Gerber. All voted aye.

Quarterly Support Summaries

Ginger shared the funded programs' responses to her request for information on how they have adapted and changed their services as well as what they are seeing as great needs or gaps in services in our area. Dr. Gerber commented she is seeing a lot of families having to go to U of I for dental services and having a wait time of 10 days for urgent needs and 3 months for routine care. Ginger reported that dental is a real concern with few, if any dentists accepting Medicaid and MCNA in particular. Also a problem is that dentists listed as accepting Medicaid cannot legally accept private payment of any kind for Medicaid patients. Ginger and Rachael are in communication to see if a treatment plan can be put in motion to bridge the gap.

Board member report out

Mark shared that the only specific allocation made by Van Buren County supervisors from their ARPA fund is to provide stipends to county employees who worked through the pandemic. They have time to decide further plans and are erring on the side of caution.

There was a **motion** by Mark and a second by Dr. Gerber to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 pm. All voted aye.

The next **Children First board meeting** will be held via zoom on Monday, January 24, 2021 at 1:00 pm, although Ginger anticipates being in contact occasionally in the interim.

Gk

Date approved _____ Board officer signature _____

gk