

Children First Board meeting minutes

1-24-2022, via Zoom

At 1:03 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, Mike Linnenbrink, Kathy Osipowicz, Kayla Schwartz, and Amanda Swan (entered the meeting at 2:05 pm during agenda item #5).

Quorum was met with 7 of 11 board members present at the start and maintained with 8 of 11 during item #5. All votes taken by roll call.

Director: Ginger Knisley

Guest: Rachael Patterson-Rahn, LCHD I-Smile Coordinator

Board members not present: Melissa Mahon, Meagan Vogel and Ryan Wilson

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

Annual presentation to the board

Rachael gave the board an oral report on the dental program funded by the board as well as other I-Smile programs and current dental landscape of the area. She shared that the LCHD dental team is now fully staffed with 3 hygienists and 1 assistant. Although the hygienist primarily serving the Children First funded program was on medical leave in the fall, Rachael anticipates being able to meet the conditions of the current contract. All but 2 EC sites have their visits scheduled for the spring. Rachael thanked the board for the supplemental funding in 2021 which allowed them to purchase dental related books and toys to be used as incentives for sites to increase their consent return rate and therefore increase the number of children participating in the dental program. Rachael shared that in her 15 years in the dental field she has never seen a worse situation with service availability for Medicaid enrolled individuals. With the current 2 payer system in Iowa, there is not one dentist that accepts MCNA for dental in our 5 county area. The CHC dental clinics are overwhelmed and wait listing many patients. She is still researching the legalities around private pay (Children First funded) for children on MCNA. She is hopeful some will benefit from Silver Diamine treatments which LCHD is now able to do under their public health agreement although it requires a more in depth consent process. She commented that the sole legislative priority of the dental association this year is to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Director Report

Ginger shared her written Director Report which included information regarding legislative activities, the state ECI board, the ECTF, and various community planning topics. Also included was the news that IDPH has stated the Collaborative Services map will not change which leaves Van Buren and Lee counties in separate regions starting 10/1/2022 for MCH services which will impact the CCNC and dental contracts of this board. Both Lee and Van Buren County were awarded child care market study grants representing 2 of the 7 awarded across the state.

Ginger is advocating with the Lee County Board of Supervisors to consider speeding up their process of awarding the child care related ARPA funds they hold as one area provider has been awarded a \$200,000 child care challenge fund grant that she will not be able to accept unless she is also awarded the ARPA funds from the county. Ginger presented the Iowa Secretary of State initiative Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking (IBAT) as shared with her by board member Carolyn and the board agreed that they would like Ginger to apply for membership on behalf of the board. A refresh and review of the EC-PBIS program that Ginger and Tasha have been working on was given and it was noted that this project was now included in the mid-year funding considerations later in the agenda.

Financial Reports

Financial reports were reviewed for all activities through the fiscal agent in November and December 2021. Ginger shared that she polled all current contractors for estimates on spending in order to determine an estimate of adjustments needed for the mid-year funding process. CCNC has started greatly increasing contracted activities and billing accordingly, RVAP reports ability to get started next month on their contract, the Learning Tree anticipates their security door will be installed by May, and Ginger has not heard back from Lee County Head Start. She also shared that 5 ECI areas underspent in FY21 and that would result in a slight increase to funds for FY23 for the remaining 33 areas including Children First. There was a **motion** by Rich with a second by Mark to accept the fiscal reports. All voted aye.

Mid-year funding discussion and decisions

Ginger gave the board a written summary of the estimated budget situation for the remainder of the year, the 3 applications received through the mid-year funding process, and additional funding requests received to date.

Mike expressed he had a conversation with Ginger regarding the frequency of applications from The Learning Tree and was assured that they have been given no preferential treatment nor have they been given any additional information or technical assistance that hasn't been available to all area providers and the general public. Kayla shared that she expects they are more in tune with Children First opportunities as Jolene used to serve as a board member. Ginger shared that the board will still have a surplus of around \$7,000 to spend down by June 30, 2022 even if they choose to fund all items as presented but VBPAT was working on a proposal for a hearing screening tool and HTC is working on a request for STEM supplies.

Proposed funding additions to the FY22 budget are as follows:

The Learning Tree: up to \$5,000 for staff to attend the IAEYC Spring Institute as applied for.
Seida - \$5,000 to partially fund the Family Service staff at the Douds and Harmony Head Start sites as funded in FY21.

RVAP – application declined due to lack of confidence in community capacity to host current and additional sexual abuse prevention training.

EC-PBIS - \$5,000 for project startup contract with Becky Beckner.

Tanya Hurley – up to \$7,000 for equipment needed to increase quality and capacity as applied for.

Miss Janet's preschool – replacement of book shelf and coat locker at approximately \$1,500.

There was a **motion** by Carolyn with a second by Kathy to approve the proposed funding as presented. All voted aye (including Amanda S having now joined the meeting).

Board membership

Ginger shared that Mark spoke with Kris Rankin about joining the board as the Van Buren County Education representative. Gender balance is an issue but the state has acknowledged that with the position being vacant for 2 ½ years it would be ok to seat Kris. Dr. Gerber shared that she believes that Kris would be the best education representative from Van Buren County for the board regardless of gender. The state also recommended having a conversation about reducing the number of seats for Van Buren County as that county has a much smaller population than Lee County. Board members are not in favor of this action and believe they are in an acceptable position with the bylaws stating a range of membership from 7 to 14 with allowance of equal representation from each county. There was a **motion** from Dr. Gerber with a second from Rich to seat Kris Rankin as the Van Buren County Education representative to the board. All voted aye. Children First is now a board of 12 members.

Board member report out

Dr. Gerber shared that she is having major surgery on her foot/ankle February 24th and may or may not be able to attend the February 28th board meeting.

Mike commented on the great diversity of membership on the board and invited board members to stay on the zoom to discuss tomorrow’s designation visit.

There was a **motion** by Mark and a second by Kathy to adjourn the meeting at 2:24 pm. All voted aye.

The next **Children First board meeting** will be held via zoom on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

Gk

Date approved _____ Board officer signature _____

Informal discussion regarding tomorrow’s designation took place. Ginger shared that this is her 5th review process with this board and she has elected to not “prep” the board and community members for the visit with the state as she has done in past cycles. She is confident in the work happening in the area and would like a true picture of our ECIA in order to guide the board and community forward most effectively.

gk