

Children First Board (with the ECTF) meeting minutes

8-22-22 in person at the Pilot Grove Bank Community Room in Donnellson, IA

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm with the following present:

Board members: Carolyn Baker, Chuck Holmes, Mike Linnenbrink, Mark Meek, Kathy Osipowicz, Kris Rankin, and Amanda Swan

Quorum was met with 7 of 11 board members

Board members not present: Dr. Amanda Gerber, Melissa Mahon, Kayla Schwartz, and Meagan Vogel

Director: Ginger Knisley

Guests (ECTF members): Missy Park – LCHD HOPES, Amy Hayes – LCHD CCNC, Malia Love – CCR&R, Tessa Schroeder – LCHD 1st Five, Breanna Kramer – LCHD Empowering Families, Jolene Dilks – The Learning Tree, Rachael Patterson-Rahn – LCHD Dental

Introductions took place around the table.

There was a **motion** by Mark with a second by Carolyn to approve today's agenda with the addition of "The Learning Tree physical activity project proposal" following agenda item #6. All voted aye.

There was a **motion** by Mark and a second by Amanda to approve the June 2022 meeting minutes. All voted aye.

Director Report

Ginger went over the director report which included business from last meeting, legislative update, and updates on the state ECI board and ECTF. Attached to the Director Report were two documents produced for the statewide ECI system to help share the story of ECI. These were "Growing Iowa's Future" and "Investing to Improve the Quality and Capacity of Child Care".

Lee County Child Care Market Study

Ginger shared information regarding the public meetings coming up to share the market study results with the community. There will be a public meeting open to the community on September 7th at the Pilot Grove Bank Community Room in Donnellson at noon and repeated at 6:00 pm. This will be followed by a series of 5 strategic planning sessions. Kris asked what the status of the Van Buren County study was and Ginger shared that she was told they had a disappointing number of surveys returned and would be trying again. She offered that a more personal, hand carry type approach may be needed in Van Buren County.

FY22 Annual Report

Ginger shared the Executive Summary and Community Plan updates from the annual report along with the year-end balance sheet and a listing of the required performance measures for all funded programs. There was a **motion** by Kathy with a second by Mark to approve the FY22 Children First annual report on lowagrants.gov. All voted aye.

Financial Report

Three fiscal reports were reviewed – June activities, July activities for FY22, and July activities for FY23. Ginger explained that the allocated amounts on the far right of the July for FY23 report are blank as there are FY22 activities being processed in August and she does not want to plug figures into the report for the new fiscal year until those reports are officially closed and received.

There was a **motion** by Kris and a second by Chuck to accept the financial reports for June 2022, July 2022 for FY22, and July 2022 for FY23. All voted aye.

Also under financial:

Ginger explained that as of July 1, 2022, Lee County had approved an increase in mileage reimbursement to .50/hour. She asked that the board authorize her to extend that reimbursement amount to all funded programs effective September 1, 2022. There was a **motion** by Chuck with a second by Mark to move forward with the new rate. All voted aye.

Ginger presented that The Learning Tree had experienced an increase of \$339.15 in expense for installation of water fountains from the time they applied to the board in April and were able to move forward with the project July 1. She shared that they did not ask for that amount to be covered but that Ginger informed them she was asking the board to cover the increased expense and reimburse them for actual cost. There was a **motion** by Amanda with a second by Chuck to pay the actual cost of the project. All voted aye.

The Learning Tree physical activity project

Jolene shared that they have modified and scaled back their ideas around increasing physical activity within their site, which they need to do in order to meet the higher requirements of IQ4K. They propose bringing in a certified yoga instructor to teach staff and children some simple moves that can be used to increase physical activity as well as assist in emotional regulation. She asked for ideas to show outcomes and Ginger said that she would research it for her. Amy Hayes verified that physical activity is a big part of the IQ4K assessment. The board will consider this request for additional funds at their September meeting when all FY22 books are closed and they have final figures for FY23.

Public Comment

There was no call for public comment as the business portion of the meeting was followed by open discussion time. (Notes follow on page three of these minutes)

Adjourn– There was a **motion** by Mark and a second by Amanda to adjourn the business portion of the meeting at 2:14 pm. All voted aye

The next **Children First board meeting** will be held Monday, September 19th, 2022 at 1:00 pm at the Keosauqua Community Services Building with a zoom option. ****one week early****
The next **ECTF meeting** will be September 21st, 2022 at Charleston Board of Trade with zoom option.

Gk

Date approved _____ Board officer signature _____

Notes from open discussion regarding needs, gaps, and trends as well as community plan implications:

A few concerns that were raised included generational poverty, the ever present cliff effect, and the overwhelming lack of knowledge or experience with cooking, managing money, or providing basic needs.

It is believed that the area is still feeling the effects of long term impact from the building of the Iowa Fertilizer Plant in that area rent amounts have not come back down to affordable levels, there was a large spike in STI rates in the area, and there were babies born to temporary construction workers who have returned to their home states and left the babies behind.

Rachael shared an overview and update to the Collaborative Services system in our area. It is presumed that LCHD will be awarded the contract for CSA 13 as they are working collaboratively within the region and are unaware of competitive applications. It is hopeful the awards will be announced August 30th. She also shared that decay rates have doubled since the pandemic but Head Start appears to be on board with a return to tooth brushing in the classrooms and that will hopefully help. There was also a discussion around silver diamine and Chuck reports that the articles he has seen in dental journals are remarkably striking in the potential to arrest decay. I-Smile Silver for adults will continue to be provided by LCHD in Lee, Des Moines and Van Buren counties.

Tessa stated that seeing EC-PBIS on the board’s project list is so hopeful. She shared that in the region, professionals are seeing really extreme mental health concerns in young children both in the number of cases and the severity of the cases. Also under EC-PBIS, discussion took place around the fact that the state has had a system for a number of years that has never quite made it to our area and that is why this board and 3 others joined together to create the project so providers in our area could have a much needed resource. The local EC-PBIS steering committee is working hard to align with the state system and earn the ability to have the local work “count” for the IQ4K system.

Breanna stated that she has heard of Project Launch being involved in providing mental health consultants to Head Start sites in the Des Moines area and was hoping it would be extended to other parts of the state at some point in time.

Kathy reminded everyone that the food pantry was able to be accessed by everyone and that there was a good amount of products regularly available including both fresh and canned goods. Some discussion took place regarding a common inability to cook. There appears to be many young families that do not know what to do with the ingredients they would receive from the food pantry.

Melissa agreed that it is very difficult battling learned behavior and they are in need of a basic life skills curriculum to use with families. This led to discussion of what ISU Extension may offer. Melissa will reach out to them and Ginger also will reach out to them about having a presentation at the next combined Board/ECTF meeting in February for everyone to learn more about the array of services and resources available.

Kris shared that she feels Van Buren County has been successful in getting parents to show up for resources by offering free school supply distribution at the school open house night. She also reminded everyone of the powerful positive impact community can have and that individuals can be impacted in a good way just by being kind or leading by example.

Amy reported that the board should be aware that her time may be overwhelmed once again by COVID vaccine duties when the LCHD receives the new vaccine specific to the Omicron variant.

The informal portion of the meeting drew to a close at 3:01 pm and Mike thanked everyone for the rich discussion.

gk