**Scott County Kids
Early Childhood Iowa
Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** April 7th, 2015

**In Attendance:** Larry Barker,Marc Engels, Chris Skaala, Carolyn Scheibe, Linda Greenlee Linda Representing Pastor Rodgers Kirk, Mary Drees and Rich Clewell

**Excused:** Rep. Cindy Winckler, Sheri Flack, Scott Cauwels, Tom Taylor and Mary Dubert

**Absent:** Jay Sommers

**Guests:** Donna Moritz; Bi-State, Brent Ayers; Davenport YMCA, Deb Gustafson; Davenport YMCA, Tera Weets, Genesis VNA

**Staff:** Diane Martens, Jesse Mumm

**Call to Order:** Barker called the meeting to order at 11:37a.m. Introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes for February 3rd, 2015:** Clewell moved to approve the February 3rd, 2015 minutes, seconded by Scheibe. All aye votes, motion carried.

**Old Business**

 **Fiscal Issues**

 **FY15 Expenditures**Moritz referred to the Early Childhood expenditures noting December being 58% through the fiscal year and Early Childhood funds are 47% spent. Moritz continued with the State School Ready funds, noting they are 58% through the year and 49% spent. Total funds are 58% through the year and are 50% spent with a remaining balance of $940,681.83.

 **Levels of Excellence**

The Advance LOE Committee has a meeting scheduled with Bi-State staff on March 13th.

**New Business**

 **Early Childhood Coordinating Council-Deb Gustafson**

Gustafson noted that the Child Health Specialty Clinic is expanding rapidly; all offices will be pediatric except for an Adult Cancer Treatment office. There is a bill in the Iowa House for Quality Child Care. If it passes centers not involved with the QRS and still accepting DHS children will only receive 85% reimbursement. If you are a QRS center the higher the rating the more reimbursement you will receive which can add up to 110%. Gustafson invited the board members to attend an ECCC meeting.

 **Committee Reports**

 **Contracts Management** **Committee Report**

The following recommendations were emailed to the board for prior review;

Current amount of uncommitted Early Childhood funding: $44,646.99

**Growth Fund Program**

Martens explained that the current contract is for $87,919 with ten centers participating. Only seven centers are actually participating. A revised budget for $76,940 has been submitted by first children’s finance. The proposed revised budget would increase the number of hours provided to each center (from 18 hours per center per month to 21 hours per center per month). The cost of the hours would increase as well as the original budget had Business Develop Specialists working the centers, in a limited capacity. The salary cost for Business Develop Specialists is less than the cost of the director. The director is the person who primarily works with the centers. The Contracts Management committee is recommending amending the budget to $66,000. The amount would allow compensating for the increase salary cost but keep the hours at 18 hours per center per month in keeping services proportional to the original contract. This would be a decrease of $21,919.00. Engels spoke in regards to discussion had at the Contracts Management meeting. They feel this is a fair decrease in budget. The committee felt it important to keep the original 18 hours per center per month from the original contract.

Taylor moved to approve the decrease in budget of $21,919 to the Growth Fund Program keeping the hours per center per month at 18, seconded by Skaala. All aye votes motion carried.

This amendment would bring the uncommitted Early Childhood funding to $66,565.99

**Quality Child Care**

This is the first year for this contract with Child Care Resource and Referral. The contract includes $5,000.00 for “urgent” care needs (example; baby gate, cribs). They have seen a greater needs for this type of funding are suggesting an increase to the Urgent Care budget to $14,000.

The contract also includes $30,000 for mini-grants. The mini-grants allow child care home providers to apply to Child Care Resource and Referral to receive funds for items to improve the quality of the care they provide. In order to receive the application providers must have a visit from a Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant, Child Care Nurse Consultant or DHS Consultant. The response to the mini-grant has been greater than anticipated. CCR&R has received $48,000 in request of items that have been reviewed and are appropriate for improving quality as intended with the contract.

Contracts Management is pleased that this contract is having success in working with home child care providers and is recommending increasing the Quality Child Care by $27,000 for the urgent care needs and the mini-grants.

Skaala moved to approve an increase of $27,000 to the Quality Child Care contract through Child Care Resource and Referral for urgent care needs and mini-grants, seconded by Flack. All aye votes, motion carried.

This amendment would bring the uncommitted Early Childhood funding to $39,565.99.

**Scott County Family Y Downtown**

The request is for $44,000 for 44 new child care slots. The Review committee would like to be supportive and be able to increase quality care in the community while also being cautious with such a large request. The recommendation is $30,000 of Early Childhood funds. Engels noted that there was a lot of discussion on this request. They were the only center to apply to the grant and the committee is excited about the increase in quality child care slots. They want this to be impactful in the community.

Cauwels moved to approve $30,000 for child care slots at the Scott County Family Y Downtown Early Learning Center, Greenlee seconded. All aye votes, motion carried.

This contract would bring the uncommitted Early Childhood funding to $9,565.99.

**Scott County Family Y Newcomb**

$26,463.20 was requested for outdoor improvements. There are a few SWVPS children at this location, however because this is the first year of SWVPS service they have not drawn down funding. Jessica Redden the Child Care Nurse Consultant previously explained that there are safety concerns with the outdoor area. The committee asked Martens to get more information regarding what items would address the safety concerns. Martens contract Deb Gustafson to find out that the cost would be approximately $9,275.00. The committee is recommending funding to address the safety issues in the amount of $9,275.00.

Clewell moved to approve $9,275.00 for the Newcomb Church Scott Count Y Child Care site for safety improvements to the outdoor area, seconded by Taylor. All aye votes, motion carried.

This contract would bring the uncommitted Early Childhood funding to $290.99

**Shining Light Child Care**

The center has requested $400 for a child-sized table to meet the recommendations of DHS. The committee is recommending funding Shining Light Child Care to meet this recommendation. The committee is recommending funding $290 from Early Childhood funds and $110 from uncommitted School Ready funds.

Greenlee moved to approve funds for a new child sized table at Shining Light Child Care Center with $290 from uncommitted Early Childhood funds and $110 from uncommitted School Ready funds, Taylor seconded. All aye votes, motion carried.

 **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood (MIECHV)**At Contracts Management Martens shared that Tuesday she received a phone call from Tera Weets saying the MIECHV funding was denied at the federal level. Martens shared a list of questions she was planning to email to Nancy Krause, Director of Early Childhood Services for Lutheran Services in Iowa. At this time LSI has the contract with IDPH for Scott, Clinton and Muscatine Counties as well as some other areas in Iowa. This is the email conversation with Ms. Krause:

*Hi Diane- Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the current concerns with MIECHV funding.  We have not yet received official notice from IDPH regarding the future of this contract or a specific date to cease services.  There is currently an appeal of this decision and many national advocates currently working to have this decision reconsidered.  Scott county would feel a huge impact if this funding does not continue.  I do appreciate the boards concern with this impact and desire to see if there are ways to assist in transitions families out of programs in the instance that the funding does not continue.  I will respond to the questions in the email below.  Again thank you for the reach out, it has been a very fast moving last week for all of us.*

*Hello Nancy, The Scott County Kids Early Childhood Board will soon be making budgeting plans in preparation of the FY16 fiscal year. We have heard that the MIECHV funding was denied at the federal level. This is certainly very impactful to Scott County. We would welcome meeting with you to talk about what can be done to lessen the impact to families.  In anticipation of that conversation could you please respond to the following questions;*

*How long will services be available to Scott County families?  We have not been notified yet regarding a date.  We should receive notice next week regarding our most recent RFP submission.  At that time I should have some additional information.*

*When the funding ends how many families will lose services in the Nurse Family Partnership program? A potential of 50, I believe it is 49 right now.*

*When the funding ends how many families will lose services in the HOPES program? Currently HOPES is about 200 families and PAT is about 30 families.
Coordinated Intake:
There is concern about the marketing information; brochures, billboards, promotional materials distributed throughout the counties with the 800# and what response families will receive when they call the number once the MIECHV funding is no longer available.  We are currently staffing this and working as usual still recruiting families.  We have been directed at this point to continue service provision as we have in the past.  This is especially important as the state works through an appeal process.  Once we get more direction from IDPH we will know the future of this.  This number is actually used in counties other than eastern Iowa.
Is it possible for Scott County Kids, Clinton/Jackson ECI and Muscatine ECI to assume the Parent Pals logo and 800#? –it would be anticipated the coordinated intake service would need to be RFP’d –however, if the funding is ending quickly perhaps some short-term gap filling could be put in place to cover community need.  Same as above.
What is the budget for coordinated intake? I will have to look through the budget to get to this number as it is a part of the larger budget that we have prepared for MIECHV across 5 counties.*

*Please email me some dates that you have available for meeting.  Let me send you some dates next week after we get notice from IDPH as that will help clarify some other information and some of my other travel plans.*

*Thanks we appreciate your continued communication as we work through this situation.
Diane*

On February 27th, 2015 Wagler forwarded a message to all ECI Coordinators, the email is from Janet Horras regarding the MIECHV funds. The email states they believe the review process was flawed and IDPH is in the process of appealing the decision.

Tool FF describes that local ECI areas are responsible for Centralized Intake in local areas. There is a possibility that funding will run out at the end of March. The ‘800 number’ phone lines will need to be addressed. Weets noted that all funding is supposed to end on March 31st; she has heard that funding is trying to be stretched to reach until the end of this fiscal year. Weets also noted that the state has heard that the appeal was accepted but has not yet heard anything about a timeline or process. Dubert noted that she feels the board should be careful from now on in spending any unused/uncommitted School Ready funds; the board may be able to fill gaps for agencies losing funding. Dubert asked Weets if they had any openings for families, Weets stated that they only have about 15 openings.
 **Outcomes
 Committee Report**Dubert noted that the new format gave better information. A few contracts reverted back to the old form or filled the new one out incorrectly. The committee will continue to work with these contracts. Cauwels added that the new report format showed that the programs are hitting their intended target
 **Nominations
 Committee Report**Martens noted the need for board members was put out on Facebook. Monthly Google Analytics is sent out for the new website. The results showed a search for ‘Being a Volunteer Board Member’. Please continue to recruit new members; we are still short one board member.
 **Public Awareness
 Committee Report**Reminder that the new website is up and running. Healthy Kids Day is on April 25th, 2015 at the West Family YMCA. It will be from 9a-Noon, there will be 32 vendor tables. The event is FREE. The petting zoo will be there, Mikey the Medic and the Firehouse as well as Police Officers. This year the meal will be Turkey dogs for a healthier choice.
**State Early Childhood Iowa
 State ECI Board Meeting: 4/3/2015 Report from Clewell**Clewell noted that at the April meeting there will be discussion on MIECHV. When MIECHV started it was originally in 4 counties and expanded to 18. Scott County is the most affected. **State ECI Coordinator Meeting**There will be a meeting on April 8th, 2015. Martens will report at the April meeting.
**Legislative Updates** **Meeting with Rep. Winckler and ECI State Technical Assistance**On February 16th, 2015 Martens, Mary Dubert, Tera Weets, Michelle Cullen; Genesis VNA, Rep. Cindy Winckler, Janet Horas and Shanell Wagler met to discuss the FY15 changes to tool G, the requirements to Tool FF and implementation of MIECHV Services. Many items were discussed. Horas and Wagler both felt that there was miscommunication on the completion of the pre and post assessment for Universal Assessment visits. They stated that those assessments no longer have to be completed. Martens would like to invite Wagler to the April 2nd, 2015 Contracts Management Meeting. Dubert noted that Wagler said that she would speak to the State Board Chair in regards to the changes to Tool G and Tool FF to see if they would take another look at them. She said that she would explain that there were a lot of unintended consequences when the changes were made. Clewell noted that it is very good that the board has open communication with Wagler.
**Other
 Site Visits**Site visits were completed as expected on the schedule dispersed at the last board meeting with the exception of Bring beginnings Universal Assessment. The site visit was rescheduled for February 27th. Martens will complete a summary of the visits for board review.
 **Other**None
**Public Input**
Gustafson noted that the new Early Learning Center will be open June 1st. There will be a large open house on June 31st. Please come. She will forward the information to Martens.
**Next Meeting**Next Meeting: April 7th, 2015

Clewell moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:47p.m., seconded by Engels. All ayes, motion carried.