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

**Meeting Date:** May 5th, 2015

**In Attendance:** Larry Barker,Marc Engels, Chris Skaala, Carolyn Scheibe, Linda Greenlee, Pastor Rodgers Kirk, Tom Taylor, Linda Wessel, Scott Cauwels and Rich Clewell

**Excused:** Rep. Cindy Winckler, Sheri Flack, Mary Drees, Jay Sommers Mary Dubert

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Donna Moritz; Bi-State, Tera Weets, Genesis VNA

**Staff:** Diane Martens, Jesse Mumm

**Call to Order:** Barker called the meeting to order at 11:36a.m. Introductions were made. Barker welcomed the new board member Linda Wessel.

**Approval of Minutes for April 7th, 2015** Skaala moved to approve the April 7th, 2015 minutes, seconded by Scheibe. All aye votes, motion carried.

**Old Business**

 **Fiscal Issues**

 **FY15 Expenditures**Moritz referred to the Early Childhood expenditures noting March being 75% through the fiscal year and Early Childhood funds are 67% spent. Moritz continued with the State School Ready funds, noting they are 75% through the year and 56% spent. Total funds are 67% through the year and are 56% spent with a remaining balance of $807,559.15. Clewell mentioned that DHS does not recommend funding Child Care Scholarships and inquired why we continue to fund them. Martens reported that often the families that utilized Child Care Scholarships are the families that fall through the cracks, the families often have just missed the DHS requirements. Martens also mentioned that Friendly House has a great system for identifying qualifications for the scholarships. Barker, Moritz and Martens all expressed their support in the program and explained that this gives parents a choice in child care rather than just settling.

 **FY16 Budget Estimates**Copies of the FY16 budget estimates were provided in the packets. Martens reported that funding will be Status Quo for FY 16. All funding goes through a formula, seen on the bottom of the handout ’DRAFT-FY 2016 Early Childhood Iowa School Ready Allocations-DRAFT 4/14/15’. There shows to be a loss in funding to Scott County because of a decrease in population. Weets reported that in 2014 there were 1,994 births at Genesis and in 2015 roughly 2,000 births. Martens reported that all contracts should be fully funded with the exception of Preschool Scholarships. The shortage for this contract will be easily overcome. Registration starts in the fall and the number of scholarships will most likely decrease at registration.

 **Levels of Excellence**

 **Community Plan**

Parent surveys were due April 30th-we have received approximately 370 surveys. Agency Surveys had a lesser response. The Community Forum will be May 14th, 2015. A flyer/invitation was included in the packets. Martens encouraged board members to attend and reminded them, if they plan on attending to lie low and really hear what the providers and families have to say. Martens can provide flyers to anyone who would like to disperse them.

 **Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood (MIECHV)**

No new information, still anticipating that MIECHV will be funded through September 30th with funding already received. They are hopeful the federal funding will start back up.

**New Business**

 **Early Childhood Coordinating Council**

The next meeting will be tomorrow, May 6th, 2015. Board members are always welcome to attend.

 **Muscatine ECI**

The Contracts Management Committee is making the recommendation to the SCKECI Board to not merge with Muscatine. The Contracts Management Committee developed a ‘Pros and Cons’ Documents to aid the discussion of merging with Muscatine. The document is included in the handouts. Barker noted that there is a concern with the reduction of 0-5 year olds in Muscatine County, because of this reduction the State has decided that Muscatine County must merge with another board. Muscatine previously reached out to Johnson County and Cedar/Jones Counties. Scott and Muscatine met in January about a possible merger with Scott County. Scott County asked for Muscatine’s financials/additional information, this took a long time to be provided to us. Merging with Muscatine was discussed at the Contracts Management meeting.

 Contracts Management felt;

* If merger occurs staff will be stretched very thin and funds would be minimal which would lead to difficulty for additional staffing.
* This would add an additional stress to the board meetings. Quorum is already difficult to meet, Joint meetings would result in logistic issues (location, time, date, two meetings?, meet needs of both communities equally)
* There are many financial concerns
* The Community Plan is already underway, if a merger occurs the community plan, provider surveys, parent surveys and focus groups would all have to be redone.
* This would result in an increase in services from Bi-State.

Engels noted that if there is information to make us better prepared, we need to find it.

Martens noted that Tool G states in the Quality formula that there is a baseline of $30,000 for Admin/Staffing. Instead of this being 2x$30,000 for Muscatine and Scott it would only be a flat $30,000. Moritz noted that Muscatine has total funds of $468,000 with $22,000 of that being Admin/Staffing.
Taylor noted that all programs for Scott County are running smoothly, ‘would hate to take on new programs and have the current programs suffer due to lack of attention’
Engels advised the board to be cautious and not become too sour on the idea, the state can still force a merger.
Clewell expressed that he would like to recuse himself from all votes and discussions. He noted that he would like to hear what Scott County ECI has to say about the merger. Clewell also suggested making a definitive yes or no answer to move the process along at the State level.
Greenlee asked if there is anyone else for Muscatine to merge with. Johnson County has said NO, Cedar County just merged with Jones County.
Skaala inquired-“If no one wants to [merge with Muscatine County], what makes Scott County have to [merge with Muscatine County]?
Cauwels feels that Scott County needs to serve as many kids effectively as possible. He is not sure if a merger is best for kids in both counties based on the funding formulas. If the State feels the formula is effective please clarify.

Barker suggested voting on the merger as a board. Yes or No?
Cauwels motioned that a merger between Muscatine and Scott County will not be fiscally responsible and at the same time serve the need of both county’s zero to five population in a manner that provides the same quality services as today, thus Scott County Board does not recommend moving forward with a merger at this time, Greenlee seconded.  All aye votes, motion carried. Clewell recused himself.
 **Tool K(b)**Martens noted that the State Board has approved a new version of Tool K(b). The updated copy is in the packets.
 **Committee Reports
 Contracts Management** **Committee Report
 Tool G**The revised Tool G is included in the packets.
 **Categorical Funding**Information gathered from ECI areas regarding eliminating or reducing School Ready funding categories was included in the packets. Some legislative updates have said this bill is dead.
 **FY 16 Reapplications**The committee reviewed the FY 16 re-applications last Wednesday. A review summary was included in the packets. Barker noted that the review took 5 ½ hours to review each program. Most all programs will be fully funded. The Reapplications were well done, Barker noted some concerns about cutting and pasting from the HeadStarts. It was suggested to look at the reapplication process with them. When their budget was added up it did not add up to the amount requested. Full funding for Parenting Inside Out was not recommended by the committee. Scores for each program have been provided. The scoring sheet was included in the packets. There were 155 points possible. Mary Drees, Larry Barker, Dr. Don Healy, Samantha Sierer(MBAEA), Donna Moritz and Diane Martens reviewed the re-applications. Clewell requested more information on Bright Beginnings. Why is the budget so much less for FY16? The Bright Beginnings budget is less because of the implementation of the new program Family Connects. Family Connects received $127,505.00 for FY 16 which was dictated in the RFP agreed upon earlier this fiscal year.  **Outcomes
 Committee Report**Third quarter reports are due on May 1st, 2015. Martens will be setting a meeting date with the committee to review the reports.
 **Nominations
 Committee Report
 Re-election of Board Members**March Engels term was up in March.

Taylor moved to Re-elect Marc Engels for membership on the board, Cauwels seconded. All aye votes, motion carried.
 **Public Awareness
 Committee Report**Clewell reported that Healthy Kids Day was on April 25th at the West Scott County Y. Martens and Clewell attended the event. Flyers for the May 14th Community Forum as well as brochures and Frisbees were given to families. The committee has a meeting planned on May 13th, 2015 with Genesis Staff to see if there would be items that could be given to new families so that they would be aware of SCKECI.
**State Early Childhood Iowa
 State ECI Board Meeting: 6/15/15 Report from Clewell**

Clewell will report at the August meeting  **State ECI Coordinator Meeting: 4/8/15 Report from Martens**Julie Ingersoll from DHS provided an overview of the CCDBG. Although there is a lot of work to be done, DHS sees this an opportunity to make some positive changes to the policies and service surrounding child care in Iowa.
Mary Delegradelle from DE spoke regarding HF347. Delegardelle explained that DE and DHS became aware that regulatory practices were not occurring with a number of childcare programs located on school property and operating under the direction of the district. DE regulates if the program receives state or federal funding or the program serves a child who has an IEP. DHS regulates if the program provides child care. This leaves some programs (privately running preschool, before and after school programs focused on academics or another focus) potentially without regulation. The bill would better define DE’s Responsibilities. Legislative update states HF347 was signed by the Governor May 1st. It explains that this “Makes DHS solely responsible for licensing childcare programs run through schools. Requires the child care programs to register with DHS unless otherwise exempt. Makes background checks every five years.”
**Legislative Updates**The Every Child Counts 5/4/15 update provided some highlights of the Health and Human Services Appropriations bill some of the highlights include; increasing the eligibility for child care assistance to 160% of the Federal Poverty Level. It also proposes an increase of $3,285,000.00 to expand the First Five Program statewide.
**Other** **Board Member Survey**A board member survey was included in the packets. Board members are asked to complete the survey and return to Martens or Mumm by May 15th, 2015
 **Conflict of Interest**A conflict of interest statement was included in the packets. Board members are asked to complete the form and return to Martens or Mumm by May 15th, 2015

 **8/28/15 Southeast ECI Region Legislative Meeting**Martens was included in an email from the Southeast Early Childhood Iowa. The email shares that they would like to move forward with the success of Day on the Hill and work with legislators. They’ve selected August 28th for a meeting in Iowa City. Martens is planning to attend the next coordinator meetings (June 12th and 26th) to learn more.
**Public Input**
None
**Next Meeting**Next Meeting: June 2nd, 2015 PLEASE NOTED THAT THIS NEXT MEETING IS THE **BOARD RETREAT.** Please note that the morning prior to the next board meeting, the board retreat is scheduled at 9:00a.m. Bi-State will be facilitating and putting together data for the Community Plan from the LOE process.

Clewell moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:54p.m., seconded by Greenlee. All ayes, motion carried.