

Johnson County Empowerment/Early Childhood Board Minutes- Not Yet Approved
Thursday, February 18, 2021
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Members present via video: Chris Carman, Patricia Heiden, Melva Hughes, Rick Leyendecker, Richard Lipman, Rich Mathias (left at 7:15 PM), Marguerite Oetting, Emily O'Sherridan-Tabor, Lori Roetlin, Angel Taylor, Joan Tephly, Susan Dale Wall.

Members absent: No absences.

Staff: Laurie Nash, Samantha Turnbull

Guests: Debbie Ackerman, Johnson County Public Health

Introductions were made and a Quorum was recognized at 6:34 PM (with 12 of 12 members present.)

1. Approve Agenda, Budget Report, and Previous Meeting Minutes. Moved by Rick Leyendecker, Second by Susan Dale Wall. Passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment: Debbie Ackerman shared that Johnson County Public Health staff are working closely with local childcare programs to schedule staff Covid19 vaccinations. The Infant Oral Health Program (currently open to any child age 0-5 years) is operating with high appointment levels.

3. Director's Report (Samantha Turnbull)

•Early Childhood Iowa

ECI State Board met on January 8 and Stakeholders Alliance met February 16. The Association of Early Childhood Boards is hosting monthly "Open Ended Guidance" zoom meetings and legislative updates from the lobbying firm they work with. The WAGES (stipends for childcare providers based on their education levels) program has received funding to be implemented statewide by Iowa AEYC for FY22.

•Programs

- **School Ready Scholarships** We have had 4 more preschool scholarship applications approved in the past month. We now have our full \$50,000 budgeted amount allocated.

-We received FY21 2nd quarter reports from our contractors (see packet)

•Committees

-**Designation Committee:** Our designation committee has been meeting and we have been hosting listening posts and working on survey questions. I ordered books for us to use to incentivize families who complete our survey.

-**Early Ed Work Group:** Meets on the last Monday of the month 4:30-6pm.

-**Parent Ed Work Group:** Will begin meeting in March the first Monday of the month 1-2pm.

•Community Planning

-**Walk Through Resource Fair: Community Partnerships for Protecting Children/Prevent Child Abuse Iowa** is planning a series of walk through resource fairs to take place April 10, 11,17, 18 from 12-2 (North Liberty, West side Iowa City, East side Iowa City, Tiffin).

-**Iowa Children's Museum Black History Month Event:** We were contacted by the Iowa Children's Museum to see if we could collaborate with them in providing books for a Black History Month event, they

are hosting on 2/17. Sam ordered books for children 0-5 who attend, and Laurie used funding from Community Partnerships for Protecting Children- Johnson County to order books for school-aged children.

-Week of the Young Child- Had their first planning meeting 2/11.

-Juneteenth- Will be involved in planning Juneteenth event.

4. Proposed Bylaw changes (see board packet and review) Chris Carman proposed the following two changes in the Johnson County Empowerment-Early Childhood Iowa Bylaws, for general consideration at tonight's meeting and potential action at the March 25th Board meeting.

(1) Article III: Membership. CHANGE Section 9 – Committees & Work Groups to read: “In addition to participation at Board meetings, each member is ~~expected~~ **encouraged** to participate on a Committee or Work Group.”

(2) Article VII: Standing Committees. DELETE Section 4 – Public Awareness and Community Education. Rationale: There is not a currently active Public Awareness and Community Education Committee, so it seems better to remove reference to it from the bylaws. Other bylaw provisions already give the Board authority to flexibly establish committees and workgroups which are needed to fulfill its mission and oversight functions.

As part of the Board conversation about the bylaws, Melva Hughes raised a concern that simply identifying our board as the Johnson County Empowerment Board does not make its early childhood focus clear to the public. Laurie Nash will provide some follow-up information on this topic by e-mail, and we will talk about it further at an upcoming meeting.

5. Designation Committee Updates: Chris Carman reported that this committee met on 2/16/21 to review and finalize two key surveys related to the Community Plan; a parent survey and a survey of staff who work with parents. Our goal is to find out what supports and services are most important to parents and what barriers may prevent families from accessing them. To obtain additional input before distribution, the committee's near-final drafts will be reviewed by partner agencies for clarity of language. In addition to English, the parent survey will be translated into French, Spanish and Arabic. Distribution will principally be via internet (Survey Monkey), but paper copies will also be made available in situations where safe face-to-face contact with parents is occurring.

6. FY22 Contract Renewal Format- Sam shared a format for FY22 Contract Renewal which seeks to make key information in renewal applications easy to find. No board action is required on this.

7. FY21 Mini RFP proposals. The Board recently solicited, received, and reviewed applications in connection with its Mini-RFP process (Request For Proposals) designed to identify worthwhile short term projects to address negative effects that the COVID 19 pandemic has had on local children ages 0-5 and their families. A majority of Board members (meeting quorum requirements) reviewed and scored the applications that were received, using a rating instrument established in advance. The applications and board member ratings will be maintained in official records for any potential review of the process used. There were four applications to which all Board member reviewers gave consistently high ratings and indicated approval for funding. The Board chose to take a single action in approving the four applications in this category, which include proposals from: **a) United Action for Youth** (\$15,000 for Youth Nurse Home Health); **b) Johnson County Public Health** (\$22,669.64 for Child Care Nurse Consultant); **c) Handicare Day Care** (\$11,297 for Indoor Large Motor Equipment; **d) Kid's Sight** (\$5,500 for Early Childhood Vision Screening Equipment). A few clarifying questions were asked about

specific proposals. Motion made by Angel Taylor to approve funding at stated levels for these four proposals. Seconds were made by Marguerite Oetting and Joan Tephly. Passed unanimously, with one abstention by Patricia Heiden.

Additionally, there were two lower scoring applications, which Board member Reviewers did not consistently support funding: a) Spartan Early Childhood Center (\$9,600 for Floater Position) and b) The Good Earth (\$6,055 for an Outdoor Tipi). Each of these applications was discussed and considered for funding individually.

Motion made by Chris Carman to fund the Spartan Early Childhood Center proposal at \$4,800 (50% of the requested level). Second by Angel Taylor. **Votes in favor of proposal:** Angel Taylor, Chris Carman, Emily O'Sherridan-Tabor, Joan Tephly, Susan Dale Wall. **Votes against proposal:** Lori Roetlin, Marguerite Oetting, Melva Hughes, Richard Lipman, Rick Leyendecker. **Abstention:** Patricia Heiden **The tally of the vote was 5 in favor, 5 against, with one abstention. As such, the motion did not receive a majority of votes and thus, failed.**

Board members discussed the Good Earth Outdoor Tipi Proposal. When the Board Chair asked if there was a motion to fund the proposal, no members made a motion. As such, no action was taken on this proposal for lack of a motion and a second.

8. Allocating Additional FY21 Funds [Board Action] a. Discuss temporary budget authority change for FY21

The following expenditures were presented for consideration:

- a) Purchase 500 child backpacks with school readiness, books, blocks and learning materials for the Walk-through Resource Fair: \$16,624.80 Moved: Richard Lipman. Second: Susan Dale Wall. Passed unanimously.
- b) Perinatal Mood Disorder Training for FSP Staff: \$3,840. Moved: Chris Carman Second: Rick Leyendecker. Passed unanimously.
- c) All Our Kin training for family childcare educators \$5,375. Moved: Joan Tephly. Second: Emily O'Sherridan-Tabor. Passed unanimously. Abstention: Marguerite Oetting
- d) ASQ's for School Ready Scholarship Partners \$1,475 Moved: Melva Hughes; Second: Rick Leyendecker. Passed unanimously.
- e) Funding for additional School Ready Scholarships \$6,000. Moved: Marguerite Oetting Second: Emily O'Sherridan-Tabor. Passed unanimously.

Currently, there is existing authority for Empowerment staff to make minor changes in spending within an established line item by an amount up to \$3,000 or 10% (whichever is less) without Board approval. In order to expedite funding for early childhood pandemic relief measures, it is proposed to temporarily change this budget authority in the following manner: Until the pandemic is over (as recognized by Board action), allow staff to change spending within a line item by up to \$5,000 or 20% (whichever is less). Moved: Susan Dale Wall. Second: Rick Leyendecker. Passed unanimously.

9. Adjourn at 8:11 PM.

Submitted by Chris Carman, Board Secretary

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:30-8:00 PM