

Linn County Early Childhood Iowa Governance Board MINUTES

April 27, 2021

3:15-4:30 PM via Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83727233917?pwd=WU5NcXBvUGVYNHFZVEFNSENDRUxQZz09>

Meeting ID: 837 2723 3917 Password: 231867

Per Iowa Code section 21.8 an electronic meeting can be held when there are valid concerns that an in-person meeting is "impossible or impractical" (e.g. COVID-19).

Board member present via Zoom or Phone: Richard Barrett, Linda Bigley, Karey Chase, Wyatt Dagit, Tricia Kitzmann @ 3:19 pm, Karen Lewis, Dan Louzek, Patrick Munyakazi, Andrea Rogers @ 3:19 pm, Ben Rogers, Nancy Scheumann, Drew Westberg, Jasmine Wu.

Excused Absence: Amy DeMeulenaere

Staff via Zoom: Chris Kivett-Berry, Kristen Peyton

Guests via Zoom: Amy Becker, Morgan Bryant, Angela Easley, Janet Moffitt, Meridith Myers, Sara Nightingale, Christi Regan, Diana Strahan, Melissa Williams, & Gloria Witzberger.

Call to order: Chris Kivett-Berry, Linn County ECI Director, called the meeting to order at 3:18 pm with quorum present (11/14) and (13/14) at 3:19 pm with Board Chair joining.

- a. March ECI Program Networking Notes: Meeting notes included in the packet.
- b. Catherine McCauley Center (CMC) Thank You: Note of thanks in packet for receiving ECI funds.
- c. ECI Collaboration Examples: Two examples of ECI system building efforts in packet.
- d. Child Care Provider Appreciation Day is May 7: Join community on May 7th in celebrating Iowa Child Care Providers. Details noted in the packet.
- e. Next Meeting: May 25th @ 3:15 pm.

Public Comment: Public invited to insert comments in Chat Box. No comments.

Action: Minutes of 3/23/21 Board Meeting:

- MSC: (A. Rogers, Munyakazi) Motion and Second to approve minutes from March Board Meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

Board Operations:

- a. FY 20 Program Audit Summary: Form was included in the Board packet. All programs thus far met the audit requirements. TIES will be presented at the August Board Meeting.
- b. FY 21 Budget Utilization Change Notifications: Kivett-Berry shared these programs asked to revise how they spend allocated funds: Child Care Nurse Consultant, Linn Co Child Development Center, and Nurturing Parent Program Long & Short Term Home Visitation. Board notification meets 3.1.14 contract text. Details noted in the agenda packet. TIES will be underspent \$6,000 more than they originally projected due to parent agency delay in posting vacant position. Kivett-Berry continues to monitor all programs closely.
- c. Seek New Board Member Nominations: Kivett-Berry received one Board member referral, along with one individual who may also be interested. Board Officers asked each Board member present to enter a name, agency, or cohort into Chat Box that may be interested in joining the Board.
- d. ECI Program Satisfaction Survey Trend Results: Summary included in packet. Peyton reviewed the results. The overall score declined slightly compared to 2020. The lowest scoring item was "Board members is representative of Linn County demographics". The highest score was "Regular/open communication with ECI staff is encouraged and that they are treated fairly".
- e. ECI Board Member Satisfaction Survey Trend Results: Kivett-Berry reviewed summary included in the packet. There was low participation in this survey (36%). The overall score declined slightly compared prior FY. The lowest score was "Board's composition accurately reflects the diversity of the community". The highest score was "I am provided opportunities to be fully engaged" and "Board uses fair & planful process for selection of program to be funded."

- f. Re-Issue Board SWOT Survey: The SWOT responses were insightful and will be utilized for FY 22: Board Plans, where ECI should place time/focus, and committee work. Due to low response rate (28%) the survey will be re-issued directly after the Board meeting to gather more input from Board members.
- g. FY 22 Board Meeting Format (Poll) & Open Meetings Law: The Governor waived the in-person component of the Open Meetings Law until May 2nd. If the waiver is rescinded, a physical location will need to be offered to complement the Zoom meeting to remain in compliance. Board members completed a Zoom poll to identify meeting preferences. 77% of respondents indicated that their meeting preference would be a combo of some in-person and some virtual.

Program Engagement:

- a. State ECI Contract Assurance–Family Support Required Data: Peyton reviewed excel charts with 3-years of Funding, Outputs and Outcomes data for the In-Home Visitation and Group Parent Education programs. Explanations of outlier data were explained and items to monitor were identified. All data was included in Board packet.
- b. Family Support State Benchmarks: Janet Horras, State Home Visitation Coordinator, developed benchmarks for Iowa Family Support programs. These are presented as best practice but are not currently required. There will be a State pilot project to give cash incentives to programs who meet the best practice benchmarks. These benchmarks are geared towards In-Home programs, not group programs. Linda Bigley and Nancy Scheumann shared their questions and thoughts about the benchmarks. The Board will continue discussions to determine if local benchmarks will be adopted and used in future competitive bids.

Community Engagement:

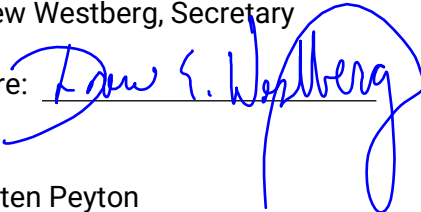
- a. Child Care Provider Solutions Team Update: Jasmine Wu shared that the team’s next steps are to create a survey to query child care providers re: QRS, Teach, and Wage\$.
- b. ECI Involvement in Week of Young Child and Prevent Child Abuse Month: ECI staff created a Facebook post to recognize Week of the Young Child, April 10-16. The annual event is to celebrate early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and ECI staff was part of a local committee that planted prevention pinwheels and planned a virtual 5k that raised funds for HACAP.

Open Agenda: The State ECI office shared updated In-Person Guidance for Family Support programs which was shared with Family Support programs and the Board, both of which noted concerns with new guidance. Kivett-Berry will contact the State ECI office to seek clarification.

Motion to Adjourn:

- **MSC:** (Wu, Barrett) Motion and Second to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Reviewer: Drew Westberg, Secretary

Signature: 

Date: 5/20/21

Recorder: Kristen Peyton

Signature: 

Date: 5/21/21