

**Linn County Early Childhood Iowa Governance Board MINUTES**

**November 23, 2021 3:15-4:30 PM** via Zoom Webinar with public in person option available in CSB, 1240 26<sup>th</sup> Ave Court SW, Cedar Rapids Room # 2213.

**Call to order:** Andrea Rogers, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:19 pm with (7/13) present. Quorum was not met and no action taken during the meeting.

Name	Present	Excused	Un-Excused	Guests	Staff
Richard Barrett (consumer)	X				
Linda Bigley (citizen)		X			
Karey Chase (human services)	X				
Ana Clymer (citizen)	X				
Tricia Kitzmann (citizen) Board Member at Large		X			
Karen Lewis (citizen)		X			
Dan Louzek (health)		X			
Patrick Munyakazi (faith) Secretary		X			
Andrea Rogers (business) Chair	X				
Ben Rogers (elected)	X				
Nancy Scheumann (citizen)	X				
Drew Westberg (education) Chair-Elect		X			
Jasmine Wu (citizen)	X				
<b>Staff</b>					
Kristen Peyton, ECI Grant Coordinator					X
Amy Grunewaldt, ECI Director					X
<b>Guests</b>					
Meridith Myers, YPN				X	
Melissa Willams, CART				X	
Danielle Pershing, 1 <sup>st</sup> Five				X	
Diana Strahan, HACAP				X	
Amy Becker, Paces to Quality				X	
Hilary Robinson, CART				X	
Christi Regan, HACAP				X	

Committee Minutes since last Board Meeting: Included in the packet.

State ECI Annual Report and Mid-Cycle Review of Linn County ECI: Completion e-mail in the packet.

When Child Care Costs Twice as Much as the Mortgage: Article included in the packet.

**Public Comment:** Public invited to insert comments in Chat Box. CART representative, Melissa Williams, verbally shared that the program received more referrals in October than the number of referrals typically received in a full quarter. No other public comments shared.

**Action: Minutes October Board Meeting:** No action taken due to quorum not met. Action will be taken at Decembers meeting.

**Annual ECI Performance Data Trends-Early Care and Education Quality:**

Review of State Required Performance Measures-Child Care Quality: Peyton reviewed excel charts with 3-years of Funding, Outputs and Outcomes data for the Child Care Quality programs. Explanations of outlier data was explained and items to monitor were identified. All data was included in Board packet.

**Board Operations:**

State Use of ARPA Child Care Stabilization Funds: There are Federal, State, and Local discussions happening regarding supports for child care provider. Here is a brief overview of a few of those initiatives:

- The purpose of the Child Care Challenge Fund Grant is to establish local child care facilities and increase the availability of quality, affordable child care for working Iowans.
- Child Care Stabilization Grants will be coming soon. Iowa was allocated \$220 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide stabilization subgrants to current licensed and registered child care providers.
- As a result of the Governor's Task Force report, starting November 1, 2021 the Department of Human Services will be using ARPA dollars to increase the number of monthly absence days for the Child Care Assistance (CCA) program for 4 to 6.
- A vision for stable early care and education (ECE) workforce in Iowa. The Moving the Needle Compensation Team's recommendations are to 1) increase funding to adequately support and sustain statewide Child Care Wage\$ IOWA and T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Iowa 2) Consider Early Care and Education' a high demand occupation, and implement a salary scale for ECI tied to professional levels identified in NAEYC's Unifying Framework for the ECI workforce.

Details of these initiatives were included in the packet.

Application for ARPA \$: Amy Grunewaldt shared that she is in the beginning stages of writing an application for ARPA \$ on behalf of the child community. After a workgroup met, it was decided that ARPA \$ would be requested to provide sign-on and retention bonuses. Any child care provider will still have the ability to directly apply for ARPA \$. The intent is to discuss further at the December Board Meeting and seek Board action.

FY 23-24 Bid Process Timeline: The current Linn County ECI program contracts expire June 30, 2022. The Board will invite competitive Bid Proposals to be submitted for funding. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet with more current ECI-funded programs in December.

Board By-Laws 2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Review: Board members completed a brief second and final review of the Board By-Laws. Extensive updates were completed in FY 20, with only minor edits needed this FY. The Nominations Committee was moved from a Standing Committee to an Ad-Hoc Committee. No action was taken due to quorum not met. The intent is for action to be taken in December.

### **Community & Program Engagement:**

Bountiful Consumables Thank You to Child Care Providers Update: At the October Board Meeting, it was approved to amend the FY 22 Paces contract to add \$10,000 of School Ready funds for the purchase and distribution of identified products requested by child care providers with guidance from Paces and the Child Care Nurse Consultant. Sixty-six (66) child care businesses (34 licensed centers & 32 registered child development homes) will be served with the funds. Purchases were made through the HACAP Amazon account and supplies will be sent directly to the child care. Some of the products have already been shipped and delivered. The remaining purchases will be made soon – Amazon has product limit restrictions in place which has caused the delay. Additionally, Paces partnered with CCR&R to provide hand soap to the twenty-eight (28) Linn County child care programs that indicated they needed it.

Disaster Grant Funds for Child Care Update: Kivett-Berry met with United Way and Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation to discuss disaster grant funding options for child care providers. Chris also held two (2) meetings with local child care providers where they shared their struggles to remain open and what assistance/products would be helpful. Kivett-Berry prepared a proposal for consideration by both United Way and the Foundation. United Way approved an allocation of \$80,000 to Paces to Quality to provide stipends to child care centers and in-home providers to help them remain open. The intent is for the stipends to be a short term solution until ARPA \$ are available for a long term solution. Amy Becker with Paces to Quality shared that application process opened on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and so far there is 20 applications. The stipends for child care providers will range from \$2,000-\$5,500.

**Board Fiscal:**

Review Budget Utilization Summary: Grunewaldt reviewed the handout in the Board packet and noted programs should be approximately 33% expended. Programs that are over or under expended for this point in time are noted in the packet and Grunewaldt provided explanation. There are no concerns at this time.

Program Budget Revisions: CART (over 5% cap & out-of-state travel): The CART program is seeking Board action on their budget revision request due to the \$ amount to be shifted between categories being over the 5% cap and requesting out-of-state travel. There is unexpended \$ to be shifted in the CART budget because the original budget was submitted when the .4 FTE position was vacant, the position is now filled and the salary/benefits for the position are less than originally proposed. ECI-funded CART staff, Hilary Robinson & Melissa Williams, would like to attend the 4-day National Training on Effective Practices Conference in Tampa, Florida. The training is intended to provide an in-depth learning experience built around the Pyramid model (i.e. Early Childhood PBIS). More details included in the packet. The intent is for action to be taken in December due to quorum not met.

**December Meeting:** The Board will need to meet in December re: required trend data, ARPA, and Bids. The date will need to alter due to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday being near Christmas. Peyton sent a Doodle poll to Board Members to indicate their availability on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 pm and not enough Board Members were available to meet quorum. Peyton will send another Doodle poll.

**Open Agenda:** None.

**Reviewer:** *Patrick Munyakazi, Secretary (NA- Excused Absence for Nov meeting)* [AG reviewed 12.7.21](#)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recorder:** Kristen Peyton

Signature: *Kristen Peyton*

Date: 12.7.21