



## BOARD MINUTES – 12/13/2018

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) met on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 12:30 p.m. at the Fort Dodge Public Library, Fort Dodge, IA.

### **Members present:**

- Paul Beneke
- Clarence Siepker
- Mike Cooper
- Mark Egli
- Bob Thode
- Kristin Teske
- Tabitha Acree

### **Members absent:**

- Tammy Varland
- Nathan Conlon

### **Community members present:**

- Elizabeth Stanek
- Stacy Kraft
- Jamie Huster
- Barb Riley

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Paul Beneke at 12:30 p.m. Quorum was met. The Early Childhood Iowa Area Board made introductions. Members of the community also made introductions.

Mr. Beneke asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were suggested. Motion was made by Mr. Siepker, seconded by Mr. Cooper, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Minutes from the last board meeting were reviewed. Motion was made by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Egli, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2018 Board Meeting as printed. Motion was passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Beneke asked for public comment, no comments were made.

The Executive Director of Calhoun County Public Health (CCPH), Ms. Barb Riley presented on the Family Foundations program. CCPH, Webster County Health Department and Pocahontas Home Care Aide Agency work in partnership to cover the Linking Families and Communities service area. Ms. Riley noted the following:

- 90% of program participants/families are at-risk due to low-income, special needs and/or low-parental education.
- Referrals for the program primarily come from the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program, medical home/physicians, word of mouth, Department of Human Services (DHS) and teachers.



- Family Foundations served 133 families last year and is currently operating at capacity.
- The program has 4 staff in Calhoun County, 2 in Pocahontas County and 4 in Webster County.
- The program utilizes the Parents as Teachers curriculum.

Ms. Stanek disseminated hard copies of the July, August, September and October 2018 financial statements for review. Mr. Egli made the motion, seconded by Ms. Acree, to approve the financial statements for July, August, September and October 2018 as prepared by David L. Bowser, PC. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Stanek presented the audit as completed by T.P. Anderson & Co. Mr. Cooper made the motion, seconded by Ms. Teske, to accept the audit as presented. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Stanek presented the bylaws with no changes. Motion to approve as presented was made by Mr. Thode, seconded by Mr. Cooper. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Stanek presented the board evaluation results. The board held discussion.

Ms. Stanek provided a budget update and presented funding options to support child care that would utilize Early Childhood funds. The board reviewed a proposal for a feasibility study, as well as, ideas including professional development, center grants for facility improvements, curriculum, and workforce supports. Mr. Egli made the motion, seconded by Ms. Acree, to provide \$35,000 for the feasibility study for the Fort Dodge Child Care Project and \$35,000 to establish professional development opportunities to include instruction on behavior strategies, provide child care center grants for improvements and to establish a fund for individualized child care services. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Beneke announced that Mr. Egli, Mr. Siepker, Ms. Varland and his own term is set to expire. Mr. Thode made the motion, second by Mr. Cooper, to re-elect all four members for another term. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Beneke asked for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Thode made the motion, seconded by Mr. Egli, to re-elect Mr. Beneke as Chair and Mr. Mike Cooper as Vice Chair. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Beneke asked for appointments to the Executive Committee and Finance Team. Mr. Siepker made the motion to elect Ms. Teske, Mr. Beneke, Mr. Conlon and Mr. Cooper to the Executive Committee and Ms. Acree, Mr. Beneke, Mr. Egli and Mr. Thode to the Finance Team. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Ms. Stanek provided the following updates to the board:



- Follow up information was provided to Prestage Farms regarding for—profit child care management options.
- A Waterloo group has performed a statewide survey of child care providers on the need for benefits, with the goal to form an association in which members can access affordable health insurance. More information will be provided as available.
- Community Christian School (Fort Dodge) has started a child care center. The center's director has moved her home child care into the school to start the program. The center's capacity is approximately 40 children.
- A meeting of the faith community in Fort Dodge was held on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss child care. The meeting has spurred conversations. One church has expressed interest and a meeting between that church, the city of Fort Dodge and Ms. Stanek are to be held on December 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Four presentations were provided during the last quarter.
- Linking Families and Communities' office has moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Wells Fargo Building temporarily. A new tenant to the building wanted our office space, so we have moved while our new space, Suite 300, is being renovated. Renovations should be completed by December 30, 2018.
- The Family Resource Center (Carroll, IA) needed a space occasionally for meetings. We are renting them the use of our conference room for a small fee.
- An application was submitted to the Iowa State Police Association for Rabiner Treatment Center Dissolution Grant Funds. Our proposal sought \$250,000 in funds for the expansion of Community Early Childhood Center. Grant announcements will be made in January 2019.
- Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LCMS) of Knierim & Manson donated 24 book bags that were distributed to children in Calhoun, Pocahontas and Webster County through the Family Foundations program.
- The board has the following vacancies: Faith plus two other members, preferably business (prefer Calhoun) and education (prefer Pocahontas). More females are needed on our board.

Ms. Stanek provided Code of Ethics, Confidentiality Agreement and Conflict of Interest Policy statements for board members to sign. Ms. Stanek also provided copies of the



Executive Evaluation for board members to complete. Members requested that the evaluation be available for online completion. Ms. Stanek stated that the link to the evaluation will be provided by email.

Motion was made by Mr. Thode, seconded by Mr. Cooper, to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.

**Next Meeting: March 14, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. at the Fort Dodge Public Library, Fort Dodge, Iowa**

**Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek**