



## BOARD MINUTES – 06/13/2019

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) met on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at 12:30 p.m. at Linking Families and Communities, Fort Dodge, IA.

### **Members present:**

- Nathan Conlon
- Clarence Siepker
- Mike Cooper
- Bob Thode
- Tabitha Acree

### **Members absent:**

- Paul Beneke
- Kristin Teske
- Tammy Varland
- Clarence Siepker

### **Community members present:**

- Elizabeth Stanek
- Rebekah Hungate
- Sara Stephany
- Tyler Timko
- Eric Heining
- Stacy Kraft

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Cooper asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were suggested.

**MOTION:** Mr. Siepker moved to approve the agenda as presented.

**SECOND:** Mr. Conlon

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Cooper asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2019 Board Meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thode moved to approve the minutes as presented.

**SECOND:** Mr. Conlon

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

### **Public Comment**

None.



### **Fort Dodge Child Care Project Update**

Mr. Eric Heininger, Mr. Tyler Timko and Ms. Sarah Stephany, all from EDEN+ Consulting, presented to the board regarding their work on the capital campaign feasibility study for the Fort Dodge Child Care Project. Mr. Timko and Ms. Stephany led the board through the report which contained information from the 74 interviews that they had completed.

The child care project which includes a new center (134 child care spaces) and an expansion of Community Early Childhood Center (66 spaces), needs \$6.5 million dollars to be realized.

While the report is not final, it strongly indicated the following:

- Community perceptions of child care are negative.
- Child care availability was rated as poor by interviewees (63%).
- Off-hour availability was rated as poor (62%).
- The perception of Linking Families and Communities is positive.
- Interviewees felt LFC is the right organization to lead.
- People are willing to help in the effort.
- Interviews indicated that fundraising could yield \$1.75 to \$2.0 million.

EDEN+ is in the process of compiling their final report and will present it to the workgroup in on June 25<sup>th</sup>. They will work on potential strategies and identify grants or opportunities for the project.

### **Financial Statements**

Ms. Stanek disseminated hard copies of the January, February and March 2019 financial statements for review.

**MOTION:** Ms. Acree moved to approve the January, February and March 2019 financial statements as prepared by David L. Bowser, PC.

**SECOND:** Mr. Siepker

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

### **Executive Committee reviewed the recommendations from their May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

- **FY19 Budget**

Executive Committee asked for approval of the FY19 Budget that includes funding projects at three child care centers (Calvary Family Center, Discovery Day Care and KidZone) for a total of \$4,060.



**MOTION:** Mr. Thode made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee and fund the three projects.

**SECOND:** Mr. Conlon

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

- **FY20 Budget**

Ms. Stanek reviewed the FY20 budget as recommended by the Executive Committee. The budget includes funds for continued work on child care center improvements and mental health. Proposals would be sought for both projects and brought back to the board.

**MOTION:** Mr. Conlon made the motion to accept the FY20 budget as presented by the Executive Committee

**SECOND:** Mr. Siepker

**Discussion:** Members discussed the potential need for additional marketing strategies, especially if a capital campaign is to begin in the future. Ms. Stanek stated that once the final report is completed by EDEN+ and a decision on the direction of the project is made, she will work on a marketing plan and budget and present it to the board.

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

Ms. Stanek provided the following updates to the board:

- Next board meeting is on September 12<sup>th</sup>
- Legislative Updates:
  - Early Childhood Iowa received an increase of \$500,000 in the School Ready fund this year. This was the first increase in funding since 2007.
  - A bill was signed by Gov. Reynolds to create a children's mental health system. No funding was assigned for the initiative. The current adult mental health regions are required to submit plans on how they will address children's mental health by April 2020.
- Ms. Stanek has been working with the Pocahontas Chamber of Commerce, Pocahontas County Economic Development and the Pocahontas Community Hospital to update the Pocahontas County Resource Directory. Ms. Stanek stated that she should have the final copy ready by the end of June.
- The State of Iowa received a 1 year planning grant from the US Departments of Health and Human Services and Education. The Preschool Development Grant is aimed at



improving coordination and quality of services for children birth to age 5. Locally, we held two focus groups; one for providers of services and one for parents. The information gathered from those groups has been provided to the State and will feed into the needs assessment and strategic plan that they are working on under this grant. Common themes amongst both groups were the need for increased access to services and resources, child care and funding for early childhood, including mental health, services.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, Mr. Cooper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Siepker

**SECOND:** Mr. Conlon

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

**Next Meeting: September 12, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. at Linking Families and Communities, Fort Dodge, Iowa**