



# EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA MUSCATINE COUNTY

~Promoting quality beginnings

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 16th, 2021 11:00-12:00

<b>Committee Members &amp; Staff:</b> P = Present    A = Absent    E=Excused		<b>Meeting:</b> Executive Committee
<b>Chair:</b> Pr. Aleese Kenitzer P		<b>Location:</b> Zoom Virtual Meeting
<b>Vice Chair:</b> Tasha Wall P	Director Whitney Howell P	
<b>Treasurer:</b> Jerri Robison P		
<b>Secretary:</b> Scott Dahlke P		
	Minutes completed by Whitney Howell	

**Called to Order:** The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Kenitzer at 11:04 am

- 1. Review of Consent Agenda:** Robison shared the financials for the month showing WAGE\$ above 20% needing approval. TMPH is off by .01 so Howell will follow up. We also need a parent signature on one childcare claim that Howell will gather. The LSI claim was submitted late and Howell requested payment on it as well. Robison agreed it looked to be in order. Previous months questions were also answered. Motion by Wall to approve. Seconded by Dahlke.
- 2. Committee Reports:** Howell shared Designation Committee met this month and put together the Community Needs Survey. Howell is waiting on members to proof read and then it will be ready to be published. Planning Committee met and discussed mid year reports and highlighted some that are underspending as well as numbers of referrals from Coordinated Intake. Howell also scheduled virtual site-visits with all programs. Programming Committee also met and discussed the funder network, current RFP and possibility of moving to a 3 year competitive process.
- 3. FY22 RFP Application and Timeline:** Howell plans to use the same online format as last year for RFP submission. The programming committee discussed the funder network more in detail and decided not to recommend joining the network because of cost. They believe our monies should be spend on programming and not administration. Howell shared the conversations and partnership between the community funders is in good standing even without being on the online platform. Howell then shared specifics of switching to a 3 year competitive process instead of an annual RFP. One reason we considered the joint network was for application ease. By moving to a 3 year this would also make applying easier for our programs. We would still have the ability to put programs on correction plans or cease funding if a program was under performing or our funding changed. Kenitzer shared we would annually receive a new budget and goals. Howell agreed it would be annual updates instead of a full application. The programming committee recommends moving to a three year process. Howell then shared the RFP timeline. Robison voiced her recommendation of two years saying she believed three years would be to much. Kenitzer shared Howell had reached out to other areas and has received some guidance. Howell shared there are other ECI areas on a five year or three year RFP process. In conversations she believed a three year would fit our area. The programs who are available in are community are the ones who are applying so in allowing a longer term we are showing dedication to those programs should funds allow. Robison shared we could start with two then move to three and then potentially move to five. We don't want to lock ourselves down, would rather we do baby steps. Robison also shared conversations in planning committee about adding in other partners in the community. Dahlke shared he was on the fence and knows a lot of his grants are multi year. From the grantee standpoint a multi year is better. Wall agreed she was also on the fence. Kenitzer asked about bringing in other partners. Would they be partners or programs to fund? Getting partners involved doesn't always mean funding their programs. Howell shared Tool O performance measures to highlight our funds need to be spent on our priorities. Robison voiced that potential new programs could arise during the next year.



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Dahlke asked if smaller funding could be done with mini grants. Howell shared that yes if we have funds available we can open up mini grants to fund additional smaller programs. That way we still have the opportunity to partner. Dahlke said he was more in favor of a multi year with the knowledge of mini grants being available. Wall agreed that with mini grant availability she was in favor. Dahlke moved to recommend a three year granting cycle to the full board for vote seconded by Wall. Opposed by Robison.

4. **ASQ Screenings:** Howell shared the updated Tool O showing under the Early Learning Scholarships that we would now be requesting ASQ-3 and SE screening data. Howell reached out to staff at public health and had a conversation about how we can get these numbers. Should we purchase kits for each preschool and childcare center or have a person go into these centers and preschools and complete screenings. Following our conversation it makes more sense for it to be one person. Howell then had a meeting with Christy Roby Williams and Jacob Dornbush at TMPH about possibilities. They are very excited about the opportunity. If they go into these centers/programs they would want to offer these screenings for all the kids not just the kiddos on our scholarship. They can bill Medicaid for screenings but would need funding to cover private pay kiddos. Howell believes TMPH will be putting together an RFP hopefully with some blended funding in order to get this done. Wall asked how much per child this amounts to. Howell shared that TMPH knows how much it costs now but for this program it will be different and they are working on figuring that out. Dahlke shared he's not excited for a state mandate that we have to fund. Dahlke agreed we need data but wants to see action and not just asking questions. Howell shared the actions will be referrals for the kids who need referrals and early intervention. Dahlke wants to spend the money on the referrals and quality. Wall also asked if we would be getting additional funding for this specific area. Howell shared no additional funding. Howell also shared we could be an area who puts all the weight on the programs and just asks for this information and then potentially doesn't have any numbers to turn in on our annual reports. Howell advises we need to find a way to get these numbers and support early intervention. Robison shared this could be a huge bill based on the number of kids. Howell shared that in her conversation with TMPH she knows we can't fund this program in its entirety. We could partially fund if there was blended funding to make it happen. Dahlke shared we will have to wait and see what the proposal looks like. It's about the action and the referral.

5. **Directors Update:**

- a. **Intern** – posting has been extended another week
- b. **Mini Grant Applications** – One received so far and will send out a reminder of due date
- c. **Community Childcare update** -Howell was invited to speak on current programs and updates
- d. **Parent Advisory Meeting** – Howell was invited to attend and present to parents of the MELC on current programs
- e. **Unite Us** – Howell was interviewed on why we joined the program. An article was then sent out to all current Unite us partners and others interested in joining.
- f. **AIM** – Curriculum survey results were shared with the group, Howell is helping to host a virtual childcare legislative event on the 26<sup>th</sup>, Childcare Ready training begins in March
- g. **Association Professional Development** – Monthly topic was the RFP process

6. **Open Forum:** None

7. **Next Meeting:** March 16th, 2021, at 11:00am Location: Zoom

8. **Adjournment** at 11:56 am