



EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA MUSCATINE COUNTY

~Promoting quality beginnings

Board Minutes

Tuesday, March 15th, 2021, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Board Members & Staff: P = Present A = Absent E = Excused		Meeting: Board Meeting Location: Zoom, Virtual Meeting
Chair: Scott Dahlke P	Jody Young P	
Vice Chair: PR Aleese Kenitzer P	Betty Collins	
Treasurer: Tasha Wall P	Melissa Tucker	
Secretary: Tony Loconsole P	Kathy	
Mark Odell	Director: Whitney Howell P	
	Minutes completed by Yesenia Cruz	

1. **Meeting called to order:** The meeting was called to order by Dahlke at 12:03 with introductions.

2. **Review of Consent Agenda-**
 - a. Approval of February 15th 2022 minutes- Motion to approve minutes by Tasha- Seconded by Jody- Motion carries
 - b. Financials- Tasha said that there were 2 claims that were late turning in from Public Health. So we need to approve those since they were not included in the summary. Mini grant school ready funds were over in allocation sitting at 64%. Whitney stated that this was because of the Lakeshore gift cards for the appreciation baskets for child care providers that was approved last month
 - c. Motion to approve the financials since it came as a recommendation from the executive committee only a second is needed- Tasha seconded- Motion carries

3. **Directors Update:** Whitney started by saying THANKS to the board and partners for all of their help through the state designation meeting process. We will be on the June 3rd agenda for our report. Technically won't be designated and approved until that meeting.

EC-PBIS- Whitney has been mentioning this program a few times. They are still working on bringing structure to our area through a consultant program. Current status is determining what agency would own this project and employ those employees. Going forward we would need to discuss our funding opportunities. Scott was able to attend a meeting on how the program would work. He said the program is behavioral intervention support. They would hire consultants that would help and educate child care providers both in house and centers with these interventions.

State ECI office is moving into the department of human services. It is unknown what that means to ECI. What this means to us is still unknown at this time. Meetings and discussions are being scheduled as we want to make sure we share our worries and fear of losing local control of our funds.

AIM update: They have been working on the appreciation baskets and hopefully they'll be delivered next week. Whitney said that Kim Warren and herself will be having a meeting with West Liberty Foods to talk about childcare issues and opportunities. Currently we have a survey out to gauge childcare employee needs in order to offer full slots and determine needed wage to attract employees.



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4. **Site Visit Summary:** Whitney stated that she has completed site visits. Everyone was doing good and are on track for the budget. Two sites may need to send budget amendments. There was a brief summary that was sent to everyone by Whitney. No one had any concerns with ECI except there was one question about ACHs versus checks with the new fiscal agent. Whitney was going to look into this and get back to them when she figured it out. A lot of conversations were held for the ASQ developmental screenings since this was a new program. Whitney anticipates a budget amendment from them.
5. **Cribs for LSI:** Scott started by saying that we have had a relationship with LSI where they will ask for funds for car seats in the past. This year they have asked for cribs. The executive team has voted to recommend to the full board that we provide the funds for 5 of these. Whitney stated that this would be around \$425. Since this is coming as a recommendation for approval from the Executive team we only need a second. Mark seconded. No opposition. Motion carries.
6. **Board Membership:** Whitney stated that Mark Odell joined us for the Board meeting today but that there is still a seat open. This would just need to be a community member preferably outside of muscatine. Maybe the West Liberty area.
7. **Presentation- LENA:** Betty started off by saying thanks for the financial support and is excited to talk about the program. LENA is a program that was started with the support of a lot of community foundation and community programs. LENA focuses on the language environments of children ages birth to 3. Families attend 10 once a week sessions to learn how and why language and conversation are so important to brain development. Families also use LENA technology to measure the amount of language in the baby's environment.
8. **Open Forum:**
9. **Next Scheduled Meeting:** April 19th 2022, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm at TBD
10. **Adjournment:** Dahlke called the meeting adjourned at 1:02 PM