

**DHLW Early Childhood Area**  
*Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington*  
September 15<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Columbus Junction Library

Minutes

**Members Present:** Dave Helman, Melody Raub, Stan Stoops, Mike Steele, Sergio Ayala, Mary Campbell, Tricia Lipski, June Morgan, Jim Cary

**Members Absent:** Matt Latcham, Paula Buckman, Chad Reckling

**Advisory members present:** Tasha Beghtol, Julie Meir, Lori Kuntz, Joy Lewka, Amanda McKee, Debbie Stiegers

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by Tricia Lipski

**Motion** to approve the agenda

Moved: Mary Campbell      Seconded: Dave Helman

**Motion carried unanimously**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from August 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting as presented

Moved: Melody Raub      Seconded: Sergio Ayala

**Motion carried unanimously**

5:05    June Morgan joined by telephone as was placed on speaker

**Financial Report**

Members reviewed the current financial report and financial summary. Tasha Beghtol shared that the summary is her way of comparing contract totals with totals by categories as shown in the reports from Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center. Tasha is working with CIJDC to try different styles of reports that work best. The reports are showing minimal activity at this time.

**Motion** to approve the financial report as submitted

Moved: Jim Cary      Seconded: Mike Steele

**Motion carried unanimously**

Tasha Beghtol explained that 2 checks were received from ICAP. One for \$1,524.16 made out to Des Moines/Louisa ECA and the other was for \$48.59 made out to Henry/Washington. The checks are a one-time payment as a result of the old boards closing their accounts. Tasha noted that she will need to confirm with the

state as to whether or not these funds would be considered FY15 revenue or FY16. Tasha has spoken with Paul Horak, Horak Insurance, and confirmed that the checks could be signed over to Horak Ins and used for future ICAP bills. The majority of the FY17 insurance costs will be covered by the credit.

**Motion** to sign the insurance checks received over to Horak Insurance. The checks will be used as credit toward the next liability insurance bill. Tasha will get a receipt of the credit from Horak Ins.

**Moved:** Dave Helman      **Seconded:** Melody Raub

**Motion carried unanimously**

### **Contract Amendment**

Tasha Beghtol provided an update on the Preschool Scholarship program that is operated by Community Action of Southeast Iowa. The number of eligible applicants is much larger than originally anticipated. The program currently has 72 eligible children and 12 participating preschools. In order to serve all kids Community Action is requesting an additional \$25,000 to be used for direct scholarships only. Tasha noted that the board has \$31,468.48 currently set aside in the budget for preschool scholarships.

**Motion** to approve an additional \$25,000 to Community Action of Southeast Iowa to be used for direct scholarship purposes only. The contract will be increased from \$52,551 to \$77,551.

**Moved:** Mary Campbell      **Seconded:** Sergio Ayala

**Motion carried unanimously**

### **Program Presentations**

HOPES, Lutheran Services of Iowa - Amanda McKee shared information and answered questions about the HOPES program in Louisa County. Lutheran Services of Iowa operates the program and is currently serving 18 families. The program provides home visits to families with children prenatal – 3yrs. Families receive weekly visits. The program has about 1-2 openings, but waiting lists are kept. The program has a high need for Chin Burmese interpreters. The main source of referrals comes from hospitals and the coordinated intake system in the area.

Colonel's Kids Childcare Center – Joy Lewka, Director of the childcare center, shared information and answered questions about the program. The center is licensed for 97 kids and currently has a QRS 4. Joy noted that they cannot be a level 5 because of the building set up. The center has an infant room that takes up to 12 and a preschool program that serves mostly 3 year olds. The center is open from 6am – 6pm and currently has openings for before and after school hours.

6:00pm June Morgan left

### **Administrative Update**

Regional Legislative Forum – Dave Helman shared information about the forum that was held in Iowa City on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Several DHLW Board members participated in the informal conversation with legislators about the challenges and potential improvements for ECI. Dave and Tricia Lipski are drafting a letter outlining some of the key points and potential proposals for ECI. The letter will be distributed by Tasha to all other Directors and request

that they share it with other local board members across the state. The purpose of the letter is to keep the momentum of the discussion in August going and to gather feedback and support from other local board members. Dave and Tricia will work with Tasha to collect responses and plan for next steps. Members agreed by consensus that the letter is a good idea.

November meeting – Tasha confirmed that the November meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 5pm and will be held in Danville. Legislators will be invited and the Lee/Van Buren board will join us.

EC Summit – The summit is planned for April 15 and 16, 2016 in Mt Pleasant. The committee is working on details of the schedule and keynote speakers. The Quad Co CPPC board has approved \$500 to help with costs of food.

Membership update – Tasha noted that the board must have a new member at the November meeting who can fill the role of guardian/grandparent/parent of child 0-5. In order to stay gender balanced a woman is needed to fill the position.

### **Public Comment**

Julie Meir provided an update on the legislative changes that Iowa is making in childcare regulations in order to meet the changes from the CDBG reauthorization. A childcare center has recently closed in Burlington, but an offer to buy it has been made.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm. Next meeting will be November 17 in Danville

Minutes submitted by Tasha Beghtol, Director

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_