

DHLW+M Early Childhood Area

Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington

February 18th 2025

5:00pm

Location: online

Zoom meeting ID: 849 6850 5938

Passcode: 090177

Minutes

Members Present: Shawn Maine, Matt Latcham, Tricia Lipski, Cyndi Mears, Melody Raub, Mike Steele, Unity Stevens, Paris white

Members Absent: Jim Cary, Stan Stoops

Advisory members and guests present: Tasha Beghtol, Rachel Albrecht, Melissa Tucker, Jojo Green, Toni Krana, Jen Craft, Giner Knisley, Martha Hernandez

Meeting was called to order by Matt Latcham at 5:00pm with a quorum present

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda, January 21st 2025 minutes, and administrative update as presented.

Moved: Cyndi Mears **Seconded:** Mike Steele

Motion carried unanimously

Tricia Lipski arrived at 5:05pm

Financial Report

Melody Raub reviewed the financial summaries and the monthly postings report from Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center. The reports include separate summaries, one for DHLW and one for Muscatine. The final Muscatine bills have been paid and the balance of funds has been transferred to the DHLW account. The reports reflect spending through December 2024.

Motion to accept the financial summaries as presented

Moved: Tricia Lipski **Seconded:** Cyndi Mears

Motion carried unanimously

Summit Budget

Tasha Beghtol reviewed the current summit budget and noted a need for additional dollars to cover items including provider incentives and rental fees. Request to increase the summit budget from \$3000 to \$6000.

Motion to approve the summit budget increase to \$6000

Moved by Melody Raub **Seconded** by Mike Steele

Motion carried unanimously

IAPP grant

Tasha Beghtol shared information about the grant process and projects to be applied for. The grant includes a new requirement to have a letter of support from the local ECI Area board and only one council in the ECI geographic region may apply. The projects included in the grant are; Coordinated Intake in Muscatine with expansion to Louisa through Trinity Muscatine Public Health, Coordinated Intake in Des Moines Co through LSI, and parent group education classes in Muscatine through the YMCA.

Motion to approve a letter of support from the DHLW+M board for the proposed ICAPP application

Moved: Meldoy Raub **Seconded:** Mike Steele

Motion carried unanimously

Regional ECI Board Membership

Members discussed legislative changes and current updates on possible transition plans for ECI to reduce area boards from 34 to 7 districts. DHLW+M is split into Districts 6 and 7. District 6 area directors are requesting that local boards identify a nominee and alternate to help establish a slate of members for the new District boards. The exact timeline and scope of work is unclear at this time, but having a start up list of members will help the boards to be ready when final plans are provided.

Motion to approve Cyndi Mears as the nominee for District 7 and Paris White as the alternate

Moved by Melody Raub **Seconded** by Tricia Lipski

Motion carried unanimously

Motion to approve Matt Latcham as the nominee for District 6 and Tricia Lipski as the alternate

Moved by Tricia Lipski **Seconded** by Melody Raub

Motion carried unanimously

Program Presentations

Coordinated Intake

Jojo Green from Trinity Muscatine Public Health share information and answered questions about the Coordinated Intake program that serves Muscatine County. Jojo takes referrals from a variety of community partners and helps families connect with resources ranging from general household needs to enrolling in a home visitation program.

Preschool Transportation

Kim Warrant from United Way of Muscatine shared a background of how the transportation program was created and the tailored services it now provides to children attending preschool in Muscatine. The program currently has a waitlist of 5 children. There are likely not enough funds to cover the waitlist so the application has been closed for the remainder of the year.

Mid-Year Report Summary

Tasha Beghtol shared and reviewed a summary report for 11 funded programs. The Imagination Library program will be included in the next round of reports since the contract started in January.

Administrative update

A written report was provided.

Meeting adjourned by Chair at 6:30pm

Minutes submitted by Tasha Beghtol, Director

Approved on March 18th 2025