



## BOARD MINUTES – 09/12/2024

LINKING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES (Early Childhood Iowa Area) met on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. at Linking Families and Communities' conference room

### **Members present:**

Clarence Siepker  
Bob Thode  
Justin Daggett

Pastor Nick Thackery  
Tammy Varland

### **Members absent:**

Scott Becker

Kristin Teske

### **Community members present:**

Elizabeth Stanek

Barb Riley

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Clarence Siepker at 12:33 p.m. Quorum was met.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Siepker asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. No changes were suggested.

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

**SECOND:** Mr. Thackery

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously.

### **Family Foundations Update**

Barb Riley, Calhoun County Public Health Director, reported on the Family Foundations program. Currently LFC is providing funding for services in Calhoun and Pocahontas as Webster County services are being funded through Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), a federal funding source. Family Foundations is still a collaboration of Calhoun County Public Health, Pocahontas County Public Health and Webster County Health Department. The three entities have achieved the Iowa Family Support Credential (IFSC) as required by the State of Iowa and Early Childhood Iowa, but are currently in the process of obtaining a national credential through the Parents As Teachers (PAT) program. This is a big step beyond the IFSC which may open up additional funding opportunities in the future. As a three-county program they have currently achieved 17 of the 21 required elements and are working to achieve the remainder. Ms. Riley reviewed PAT assessment charts indicating that the 3-county project has struggled with getting initial and annual health assessments on new clients and has revised the process to improve the data.

Ms. Riley reported that ECI funding is supporting 28 new families, most of which are high-risk and dealing with substance abuse issues. Most of those families participate in weekly home visits, though only 2 visits per month are required to meet the PAT model standards. Lower risk families have to be visited monthly, though



engagement often wanes with families with that level of service. Board members expressed concern about the safety of staff going into homes. Ms. Riley stated that most of the time staff do not feel threatened. Training has provided to staff to on situation and home-visitor safety and substance abuse/use. Staff will not enter the home or will politely exit if they feel threatened and/or they will seek assistance from law enforcement. Child care and employment remain barriers to families. They need to utilize the Child Care Assistance (CCA) program, but are not eligible unless they are employed and they can't be employed until they have child care.

### **Financial Statements**

Ms. Stanek presented the financial statements for April and May 2024. The June financial statements were received today, so they will be on the next meeting's agenda.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thackery moved to approve the April and May 2024 financial statements as prepared by Bowser & Richman LLP CPA.

**SECOND:** Mr. Daggett

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously.

### **Board Member Resignation**

Ms. Stanek had received an email from Kristin Teske resigning from the board.

**MOTION:** Ms. Varland moved to approve the resignation of Kristin Teske from the board.

**SECOND:** Mr. Daggett

**Discussion:** The board wishes to thank Ms. Teske for her service to the board. Board members will submit potential board member names to Ms. Stanek. Ms. Stanek will post the opening on the Facebook page.

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously.

### **FY24 Early Childhood Iowa Annual Report**

Ms. Stanek had provided a report summary and the IowaGrants.gov version of the ECI Annual report to the board. The board reviewed program data, financial statements and board matrix.

**MOTION:** Ms. Varland moved to approve annual report as presented.

**SECOND:** Mr. Daggett

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously.

### **FY25 Budget Update**

Ms. Stanek reviewed the current budget as approved at the June board meeting, noting the finalized carryforward amounts from FY24. No adjustments were requested.

### **Child Care Project**

Ms. Stanek provided an update on the child care project, exterior renderings of the building, minutes from the last meeting with the architect and the revised operating budget. The CDBG application was submitted on



September 10<sup>th</sup> by the City of Fort Dodge. The timeline will be extremely tight to meet grant requirements. Board members expressed concern on the location of the transformer in front of the building. Ms. Stanek will discuss the issue with the architect and report back to the board via email.

In order to finalize the mechanical systems for the geothermal system a test bore and soil conductivity test are required. Ms. Stanek requested approval of \$12,000 for this purpose. A-One Geothermal will be the contractor. The test bore will be able to be reused for the geothermal system.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thode moved to approve \$12,000 for the test bore and soil conductivity test for the project.

**SECOND:** Mr. Daggett

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

### Updates

Mr. Thackery reported that Oktoberfest for this fall has been canceled due to the inability to get entertainment. He noted that planning has started on the event, which will be held on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Cory Waller & the Wicked Things and Kinda Petty have been reserved for the event.

Additional details on the THRIVE Iowa initiative have been scarce, however additional information is expected soon. Ms. Stanek reported that she has requested to be an additional pilot site for the initiative.

Additional updates can be found in the *Director Updates 9-12-24* document.

### Adjourn

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Varland

**SECOND:** Mr. Thackery

**Discussion:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

- Respectfully Submitted By: Elizabeth Stanek

**Next Meeting: December 12, 2024 at 12:30 pm**