

North Iowa Children's Alliance
Early Childhood Iowa Board of Cerro Gordo, Hancock, and Worth Counties
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Minutes of May 14, 2020

Members Present: Gary Rayhons, Kevin Jones, Marian Greiman, Ken Abrams, Sandy Mireles, Chris Watts, Jennifer White

Members Absent: Heidi Venem, Terri Kuntz, Donna Holt,

Visitors: Chelsie Hinton, Erika Plendl, Lezah Hansen, Laura Wilke, Melissa Nelson, Mary Jansen, Monica Verhelst, Kathy Lloyd, Kristen Penn, Kelli Gerdes

Director: Alyse DeVries.

A. Call to Order: Called to order at 1:07pm by Gary Rayhons. It was determined that quorum was present.

B. Order of Business:

1. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Ken Abrams made a motion to approve the consent agenda, motions seconded by Kevin Jones, motion carried.
2. **Approval of February 27th, 2020 Minutes:** Chris Watts made a motion to approve the February minutes seconded by Ken Abrams, motion carried.

C. Local Empowerment Board Programs

1. **2020 Preschool Scholarship Program:** Current position was reviewed. Alyse DeVries stated there has been no change in the number of applications. All preschools closed mid-March. March parent signatures on invoices were waived due to many children not returning to the centers. There will be no scholarship billing for April and May, leaving \$18,481 remaining in the scholarship line item- this amount includes the additional \$9,000 of extra funds.
2. **2021 Preschool Scholarship Program:** Alyse DeVries stated the 2021 Preschool Scholarship Application is complete and posted on the website and social media. We have received one application so far.

D. Revenue and Expenditures-Review

1. **2019/2020 Financial Report:** Current position was reviewed. Alyse DeVries discussed completing virtual site visits with all program coordinators to determine their ability to use current funding amidst the COVID pandemic and current service delivery methods. Our current carry forward is estimated to be \$92,152, which is 15%.
2. **2020/2021 Financial Overview:** Due to COVID-19 the Iowa Legislative session closed early without approving a FY2021 budget, instead only approving a budget for July-August 2020. Based on this 2-month budget, the State was able to provide us with an estimated allocation which is roughly the same amount as last year. Since the legislative closure, the State is now advising to expect a 10% cut in funding. After combining the estimated carryforward and the 10% cut, we are projected to be ~\$22,000 short for next fiscal year if we award all applications at their requested amounts.
Alyse prepared four funding options to consider while reviewing program funding applications:
 - 1) Award all application requests in full and decrease preschool scholarships
 - 2) Cut all new applications 10%
 - 3) Award all applications at last year's award amount
 - 4) Make selective cuts

E. New Business:

2020/2021 Renewal Forms

- **5210 Helping Kids Grow- CG Public Health:** Jennifer White made a motion to approve the renewal application for this program in the full renewal amount of \$21,480.00, seconded by Chris Watts, motion carried.

- **Calling the Shots- CG Public Health:** Jennifer White made a motion to approve the renewal application for this program in the full renewal amount of \$19,587.71, seconded by Chris Watts, motion carried.
- **Oral Health- NICA0:** Jennifer White made a motion to approve the renewal application for this program in the full renewal amount of \$18,000.00, seconded by Chris Watts, motion carried.
- **Head Start Transportation- NICA0:** Jennifer White made a motion to approve the renewal application for this program including a voluntary \$5,000 cut in award for the amount of \$45,108.55, contingent on an updated application and budget, seconded by Chris Watts, motion carried.
- **Strengthening Families- MercyOne Family Connections:** Jennifer White made a motion to approve the renewal application for this program including a voluntary \$5,000 cut in award for the amount of \$15,000, contingent on an updated application and budget, seconded by Chris Watts, motion carried.

2020/2021 New Applications

- **Child Care Nurse Consultant- NICA0:** Jennifer White made a motion to approve the application for this program with an 8% cut in award for the amount of \$36,294.91, contingent on an updated application and budget, seconded by Chris Watts, motion carried.
- **Child Care Resource and Referral Consultant- EPI:** Jennifer White made a motion to approve the application for this program with an 8% cut in award for the amount of \$53,334.15, contingent on an updated application and budget, seconded by Chris Watts, motion carried.
- **Home Visitation- MercyOne Family Connections:** Jennifer White made a motion to approve the application for this program with an 8% cut in award for the amount of \$185,410.83 , contingent on an updated application and budget, seconded by Chris Watts, motion carried.
- **Home Visitation- Lutheran Services in Iowa:** Jennifer White made a motion to approve the application for this program with an 8% cut in award for the amount of \$2,300, contingent on an updated application and budget, seconded by Chris Watts, motion carried.
- **Early Head Start Continuation- NICA0:** Jennifer White made a motion to approve the application for this program with an 8% cut in award for the amount of \$9,615.28 , contingent on an updated application and budget, seconded by Chris Watts, motion carried.
- **Supporting Children with Autism- One Vision:** One Vision will reassess their application and omit funding originally applied for Floyd county families.

F. Public Input: Optional due to time.

1. **Chelsie- Family Connections:** Still virtually meeting with clients, some like tele-home visits and some families miss the face-to-face. The program has created “goodie bags” and dropped off on family’s doorsteps, including activities. So far only 3 families haven’t participated in video calls.
2. **Kelli- CG Public Health-** The 5210 program has been able to convert trainings into virtual trainings which has resulted in statewide requests to participate and host the training due to a lack of virtual training for provider to get credits.
3. **CCR&R Mary Jansen-** Providing supplies via “Drop and Dashes” (hand sanitizers, gloves, masks, bleach, spray bottles) via funding from State. Not as many child care providers have closed in our 3-county area when compared to the rest of the state. Continue to support providers in the process of reopening. Federal funding is now available for child care programs to apply for.

Next meeting- June 11th at 1pm via Zoom.

H. Adjourn: Chris Watts made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sandy Mireles, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:29PM.

Respectfully submitted by, Alyse DeVries, Director.