



4 COUNTIES FOR KIDS

Early Childhood Iowa Area

John Hughes, Chairperson

**4 Counties For Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Carnegie-Evans Library, Albia
September 14, 2023**

Regular meeting was called to order by Chairman John Hughes at 1:01 PM

Quorum

Quorum (5/9) was established as follows:

Members present (8): Linda Demry, Dave Henderson, Cathy Reece, Debbie Miller, John Hughes, Jared Lawrence, Megan Wilson, and Merry Dudley.

Members absent (1): Todde Folkerts.

Community Partners present: Brenda Fry (Executive Director SCICAP), Karen Lauer (CCR&R), Leann Andre (CCR&R), Erin Hall (SCICAP PAT), Jennifer Mitchell (SCICAP Head Start), Janell Staats (SCICAP Fiscal), Dana Cockrell (Monroe Co NEST), Alison Buckallew (AHFA) and Amanda Jaramillo Ayón (Mental Health Consultant). Also Present: Jodi Maddy, 4CFK Consultant. Gaylyn Mercer, ECIA Board Director.

Introductions & Public Input

Self-introductions were made around the room. Chairman Hughes called for public input on any non-agenda items. There was none.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Dave Henderson, seconded by Linda Demry, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried with all members present voting Aye.

FY 2023 Annual Report

Consultant Maddy presented the Executive Summary of the 4CFK Annual Report and the Community Action Plan required by ECI. Much good work was accomplished by Early Childhood and School Ready programs, as reflected in their yearly reports. Discussion of FY 2023 Financials noted that EC was under 20% carryover (acceptable) but the ideal is under 10%. Noted that interest was up significantly versus last year, due to market changes.

Motion by Linda Demry, seconded by Dave Henderson, to approve the FY2023 Annual Report. Motion carried with all members present voting Aye.

Family Support Annual Report

ECI-provided Family Support data and report for FY 2023 was reviewed. Erin Hall spoke to the discrepancies highlighted on the report, which appeared to be data cleanup issues.

HOPES Contract Termination

The termination letter from Kim Hugen was referenced and acknowledged. Termination terms from the contract, **Section 2.5.2 Termination Upon Notice**, were cited for guidance of the Board in this situation.

Motion by Dave Henderson, seconded by Jared Lawrence, to terminate the HOPES contract retroactive to 8/31/23, to coincide with Kim Hugen's letter. Motion carried with all members present voting Aye. This activated **Section 2.5.6 Close-out Duties** required of the contractor, per the contract.

Budget Review

The budget spreadsheet tracking current expenditures and balance of funding for 4CFK contractors was reviewed. Discussion centered on the amount of funds that would become available for other programs based on the termination of HOPES. It was decided to add a review of new funding applications to the October 17 meeting, already scheduled.

Motion by Dave Henderson, seconded by Merry Dudley, to contact existing programs to apply for additional funding before issuing a general RFP. Motion carried with all members present voting Aye.

PAT Funding Request

Erin Hall presented her request for additional funding for PAT. They anticipate taking over service for current HOPES families and those who would've been referred to HOPES in the future.

Motion by Linda Demry, seconded by Dave Henderson, to approve the proposed funding request. Motion carried with all members present voting Aye.

Independent Contractor

Jodi Maddy presented her proposal to work with 4CFK as an independent contractor, along with a budget.

Motion by Dave Henderson seconded by Merry Dudley to approve the role of Independent Contractor as proposed. Motion carried with all members present voting Aye.

Director Update

Director Mercer provided the following update:

- The community plan will be the focus of her work now that the annual report is completed. The plan is due at the end of October, and a special review meeting is scheduled in mid-October.
- Jodi and Gaylyn attended the "special" meeting with Director Garcia on Monday, August 7 in Des Moines. There was much concern expressed on the part of ECI Area Directors about the consolidation goals of HHS, and how it may not serve rural areas well, as the needs can be very specific to each county. The HHS updates are expected to be ongoing and will be shared with the Board as they are provided.

Miscellaneous

Amanda Jaramillo Ayon updated the Board on her efforts to recruit parents and caregivers for group classes on Infant and Mental Health support. There was much interest expressed in her services, and referrals offered to help her with outreach to the four counties we represent.

Next Meeting / Adjournment

A special meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 17 at 1:00 PM at the Carnegie-Evans Library in Albia.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Tues., NOV 21 at 1:00 PM at the Carnegie-Evans Library in Albia.**

Motion by Merry Dudley, seconded by Debbie Miller, to adjourn. Motion carried with all members present voting Aye. Meeting adjourned at 2:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gaylyn Mercer
ECI Area Director and 4CFK Board Secretary