

**4 R Kids Program and Service Committee Minutes**  
**Friday February 2, 2018**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**Attendance**

Meeting began at 9:00 A.M. and Khristan Kaufman, Judy Schwartz, Dena Owens, Janice Jensen, Jean Bosch and Debra Schrader were in attendance.

**Maternal Child Health Program** (*Information*)

Deb provided an update in regards to conversations and meetings with Dallas County Public Health (DCPH) that administers the maternal child health (MCH) short term home visitation program funded by the Board. DCPH requested a meeting on 1-3-18 with the ECI Director as they had had concerns regarding the dual visits conducted with family support programs, mainly the New Parent Program that Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) administers. The FY18 MCH contract required that 10 dual visits be made, in which 6 have been completed with 3 families accepting service, 2 families were already enrolled in Parents as Teachers and 1 family is in creative outreach due to language barriers. There has been some success with the dual visits as 3 families enrolled in the New parent Program.

DCPH also shared concerns that ECI funded family support programs who receive state funds could not deny a family services when they have risk factors such as non-English speaking or other risk factors. DCPH felt this was discrimination. LSI with the New Parent Program had a family that they originally was unable to serve due to language barriers, sense that time outside funding was secured and the family is in creative outreach to be served. I contacted the state office and provided technical assistance regarding their concerns, however DCPH were not satisfied with the answers provided. After this meeting DCPH contacted the state ECI office on 1-10-18 while the ECI Director was on vacation, to share concerns about this issue. DCPH did not notify ECI Director they were contacting the state office. A telephone conference meeting was held 1-25-18 with Shanell Wagler, state ECI office, Janet Horras, IDPH state family support coordinator, the ECI Director and five staff from DCPH. They once again shared concern about the possibility of discrimination of family that was referred to LSI. Since that telephone conference, Shanell and Janet has followed up with Lutheran Service in Iowa. LSI provided an acceptable response to the state as to the allegation and by 1-28-18 the state had considered the matter closed. Another new issue was raised during the conference call that the reporting requirements required by the state as well as the 4 R Kids ECI Board is redundant and taxing on the agency. Shanell reminded DCPH that local reporting is the local decision of the 4 R Kids Board and the state data base system is a state requirements and if they found the reporting to be taxing on the agency they may need to reconsider if ECI funds fit the agency. Shanell will be attending a meeting at DCPH to review the issues that they have with the state required DAISEY reporting system in the next few weeks.

**FY19 Request for Proposal** (*information*)

The RFP will be released March 16, 2018 and be due April 23.

Dallas County Public Health provided input as to the RFP and suggested that a cash match be a requirement in order to receive ECI funding. It was consensus of the committee to not require cash match but continue to utilized RFP language that agencies are highly encouraged to obtain cash match but not make it a requirement.

Dallas County Public Health also provided feedback regarding providing for additional program criteria other than set out by Early Childhood Iowa when serving families in family support. The state requirement is programs must serve families that meet 75% of the following criteria; have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level or, have a parent that has achieved a high school diploma or less education or have a child that has a current Iowa Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). The committee discussed the continued waiting list for long term home visitation services and the lack of resources to meet the needs of families. It was consensus of the committee to not put additional program criteria in place and that programs are welcome to add criteria if they so chose internally.

The committee discussed other RFP criteria such as the use of program models and curriculum. It was consensus of the committee to not make any changes, however more pointed questions will be asked in the RFP regarding the use of models and curriculum.

### **FY18 2nd Quarter Report** (*information*)

The committee reviewed the first quarter reports from contractors. Below are a few of the highlights.

- All contractors quarterly reports were submitted timely, by January 15, 2018.
- 58.9% of school ready funds has been expended and 42.2% of the early childhood funds have been expended. Overall spending is at 42.9%, on target is 50%.
- There are no major concerns with the contracts at this time and most contractors are meeting or are close to meeting their benchmarks.
- Notes of interest include the following:
  - The Parents as Teachers program administered by Partners in Family Development continues to have a waiting list.
  - The family support programs are serving a high percentage of families at 125% of the federal poverty level.
  - The Quality Improvement Project administered by Dallas County ISU Extension continues to see challenges with child care trainings which is primarily due to changes at the federal level.
  - There was approximately a 25% decrease from last year to this year in regards to preschool tuition applications. The preschool tuition funding is approximately 50% expended and may run short, however preschool transportation funding could be used to cover the shortfall.
- A summary of the report will be provided to the February 15, 2018 board meeting.
- A copy of the 2nd Quarter progress reports are located at [www.4rkids-eci.org](http://www.4rkids-eci.org).

### **Preschool Tuition and Transportation Policy** (*information*)

The Preschool Enrichment project recommended no changes to either policy for FY19.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 10:15.

Next meeting is Friday May 4, 2018 from 9:00-12:00 at Madison County Extension.