



Johnson County Empowerment/ECIA Board Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2017

County Health & Human Services Building, Iowa City

Members Present: Melanie Rainbow, Patricia Perring, **Tammy Bond**, Siobhan Gordon, Elly Harris-Hesli, Will Ortega, Jude Jensen, Melva Hughes, Joan Tephly, Mike Wright

Staff Present: Laurie Nash

Members Absent: Kurt Friese, Sue Johanson, Leah Price

Introductions/Recognize Quorum/Approve Agenda Quorum met at 6:35 pm (8/13). Agenda approved.

Packet Approval and Minutes from December

Amend the Agenda to reflect the word “approve” regarding FY17 budget. Motion to amend agenda by Patricia, second by Melva. Approved unanimously.

Motion to approve the packet. Motion by Elly, second by Joan. Approved unanimously.

Laurie will provide December minutes for next meeting.

Updated FY17 Budget

Laurie provided a PowerPoint presentation and described the need to cut 5% of our current year’s (beginning 07/01/16) budget. Executive Committee recommends that the board utilize the funds that were allocated for the North Liberty Summer PREP program as well as unallocated funds from School Ready. Rationale is that the PREP program has not yet begun so this would not impact families or current staff. This decision means that no current programs are being cut.

Discussion:

One current program notified Laurie that they will not spend down all of their FY17 funds this year. Programs are not penalized for under-spending. If a program underspends, those funds come back into the general funds pot for reallocation the following year.

Laurie described how the FY18 budget will need to be cut by at least 5%, too. There may be an estimated \$48,000 deficit in parent education funds for next year.

JCE funds 100% of the CART position, so Laurie will have a difficult conversation with GWAEA about the uncertainty of next year’s budget. She will give our agency partners this information so they can

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prepare and make decisions regarding staffing for next year.

Tammy asked if JCE can advocate for ECI (b-5 education) funds to be held “harmless” as K-12 Education funds are. Laurie responded that Board members can go to the Legislature to advocate. It was noted that it makes sense to advocate for not losing our 5% funds this year and also next year.

Motion to accept the Executive Committee’s recommendation to cut the money from unallocated funds and the PREP program. Motion by Tammy, second by Joan. Approved unanimously.

Progress Reports/Contract Updates

Laurie shared that the mid-year budget report has been submitted online.

Laurie shared the Director’s Report. A short discussion followed about infant safety (car seats, pack-n-plays, cribs) and how the funds are low.

Officer and New Member election

The board is in need of a Treasurer. Melva volunteered. Others are encouraged to apply. Voting next month.

The board and Laurie noted their appreciation to Mike for his service and contributions to the board and his work as Treasurer. He (and his sons) will be missed.

EC Funding Formula

Laurie provided a PowerPoint and description of the Early Childhood Funding Formula.

History: this process is very complicated and has taken a great deal of time. The last time they reviewed this was fall 2013. There were 22 options considered this time and they chose 2 to recommend for approval. Local areas have been invited to provide feedback via survey. Surveys are due by March 1 and only one survey response is allowed per ECI Area. Any change in formula would not take place until FY19 and would include a 3 year phase-in.

Utilizing the data provided by the state and by Laurie in handouts and the PowerPoint, board members discussed the two options and the current formula. Overall the board agreed that Option 9 has a broader base.

The board will vote and offer its recommendation to the state. It was decided to convene a committee to review the information in greater detail and make a recommendation to the board regarding survey responses during the February meeting. Laurie will send out two of the charts that were included in the PowerPoint. Melva and Tammy agreed to be part of the committee. If others are interested, please contact Laurie.

Legislative Education and Community Awareness

Laurie reported that there will be no statewide ECIA Day on the Hill. However, our region will go to Des Moines on Feb. 15th as a group to provide information to legislators.

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Week of the Young Child is April 22-29. The Celebration will be at the Children's Museum on the 29th. Volunteers will be recruited to help hand out books and awareness information.

Board Development/Program Monitoring

We will be scheduling site visits to our programs soon. Board members are asked to think about which programs they would like to visit. Visits will be organized via Sign Up Genius.

Other Business

Alicia will retire on March 29th. Laurie is working with Lynette Jacoby (director of JCSS) regarding next steps. Laurie is concerned about a new staff person's ability to learn and do in 10 hours per week, especially considering this position was 20 hours per week until September 2016. It may be that other departments will be able to absorb part of the work that Alicia has done. The board agreed that Laurie's role must be protected. Her cost seems high, but we do not want her doing billings. Rather, continuing her work in the community.

Community Input/Announcements/Public Comment/

None

Adjourn at 8:06 pm

Approved 02/16/17

Next meetings: February 16

March 23 (note change)

April 20

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