

Policy Council Meeting

6-27-23

Submitted by: Kathrine Macintosh & Kerry Mehling

Members Present: Maria Olivia, Mary Brumage, Shayna Hudson, Christina Alvizar, Laura Morehead, Kathrine MacIntosh, Tess Martin,

Staff Present: Lauren Starke, Krystie Hohnstein, Kerry Mehling, Shannon Yeoman, Mary Hascall

Board Members Present: Ray Richards

Policy Council Meeting called to order by Laura Morehead at 6:18p.m. New member introductions were made. Members reviewed the minutes from the April meeting. **Kathrine MacIntosh moved to approve the April minutes. Laura seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.**

Director Report:

All members received copy of the Director's report. Krystie Hohnstein discussed the report. Data entry continues as documentation is received and health requirements are now much more current. The 9-month centers are now closed and 12-month centers are continuing to offer summer services.

Finance Report:

All members received a copy of the Finance Report. Lauren Starke, Fiscal Officer, presented the reports. Both the new grant year and the old grant were reviewed for the months of April and May. Members were able to verify that all previous grant year funding will be fully liquidated along with new expenses for the current grant year. COVID 3 funding will also be fully liquidated. All previous grant year and COVID 3 funding must be spent by 6-30-23. Credit card expenditures and USDA reports were also reviewed. **Shayna Hudson moved to approve the finance report. Mary Brumage seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.**

Board Report: Presented by Krystie Hohnstein. Board policies were reviewed and approved. Dr. Laura Barrett discussed new grant applications for cybersecurity enhancements and school safety assessments/training.

Old Business:

Family Engagement Apps: During the April meeting, members made suggestions to research family engagement applications that might help families to stay informed on their child's daily events. The program has been researching a variety of apps that might meet this need. Bright Wheel & Tadpoles are a couple that are in exploration. The goal is to find an application that allows staff to maintain focus on their primary roles with children, and allow communication with families throughout the day. Ongoing discussion will occur as more information is gathered.

Child Care Stabilization Grants: Lauren Starke provided an update on program receipt of funds for two of the Child Care Stabilization Grants that were applied for through NE DHHS. A total of \$70,784 was awarded and the funding will be designated to increasing staff wages. More conversation is planned to decide exactly what that will look like. The program has one year to fully liquidate these funds (June 30, 2024).

New Business:

Health Written Plan Discussion: Mary Hascall, Health & Nutrition Manager, presented the review of health policies. Health Services Advisory, Collaboration and Communication with Families, Child Health Status, Oral Health in Preschool, Oral Health for Infants and Toddlers, Incidents and Injuries, Reporting Incidents/Injuries, Emergencies, Medication Administration, and Refusal to Authorize Health Services were all discussed.

Child Outcomes & School Readiness Goals Discussion: Shannon Yeoman, Education & Special Services Manager, presented the spring results for child outcomes. Data charts were shared in all domains including: Social Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, and Mathematics. This data showed growth over the course of 3 scheduled checks throughout the entire year for stand-alone centers and partnership sites combined. Target areas will be identified for further staff professional development in the fall.

Enrollment/Recruitment Update: Presented by Kerry Mehling. The program is currently accepting children for this upcoming school year. Most stand-alone sites are full or near full at this time. The new Bridgeport infant/toddler classroom is full with a waitlist. Work continues with school districts to fill their HS slots.

Employment Openings - Agency-wide employment openings are located on the ESU13 website (www.esu13.org) under *Employment Openings*. Prospective Employees can also apply directly on this site. The website was visible to members for review of current open positions.

New Hires: No new hires since last meeting.

Center Reports: ELC Preschool and Home Base presented.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26p.m.