

4 R Kids Program and Service Committee Minutes

Friday February 9, 2024

9:00 A.M.

Attendance

Meeting began at 9:00 A.M. Colleen Strohmaier, Brittany Shinn, Jake Al-Mazroa, Nancy Hopkins, Jess Petter and Debra Schrader was in attendance.

Nancy will be the reporter for the February 15, 2024 board meeting.

FY25 Preschool Tuition Policy (action)

There one change to the FY25 preschool tuition policy, raising the preschool tuition cap from \$220 to \$225 per month. No other changes are needed.

FY25 Transportation Policy (action)

There is one change to the FY25 preschool transportation policy, raising the maximum of \$10 a day or 5 miles. No other changes are needed.

FY24 2nd Quarter Report (information)

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

- All contractors' quarterly reports were submitted timely, by January 15, 2024.
- 42% of school ready funds have been expended and 65% of the early childhood funds have been expended; on target is 50%. It is noted that 20% carryover is allowed for local ECI boards.
- There are no major concerns with the contracts and most contractors are meeting or are close to meeting their benchmarks.
- Notes of interest include the following:
 - 100% of families served in the New Parent Program administered by Lutheran Services in Iowa, Parents as Teachers program administered by Southwestern Community College and the Parents as Teachers program administered by Short Years Partnership met state enrollment criteria; additionally, all new families enrolled this year met the R Kids Board enrollment requirement of 80% or more.
 - Short Years Partnership Parents as Teachers Program has a waiting list as of December 2024.
 - There were 6 new child care businesses startups the first 6 months of year.
 - Preschool tuition scholarships are down by 20 children compared to a year ago; preschool tuition scholarships are based on demand and its challenging to predict requests.
- A summary of the report will be provided to the February 16, 2024 board meeting.
- Copies of the 2nd Quarter progress reports are located at www.4rkids-eci.org.

FY23 State Family Support Report

The committee reviewed a family support report produced by ECI comparing all 3 funded family support programs and performance targets. It is to be noted that all 3 programs are meeting state required performance and the report is to provide information to strive for higher performance and is not to be construed as punitive. Indicators reviewed were; parenting alone, primary caregivers with a high school diploma or less and 201% of the federal poverty level.

Family Support 5 Year Trend Report

ECI provided a 5-year trend report on family support programs in the state of Iowa which provided data on demographic, outputs as well as outcomes. The 4 R Kids family support programs were in line with several state demographics, outputs, and outcomes. There were several demographics that were well above the state averages (prenatal enrollments, first time mothers, families at or below 125% of the federal poverty level).

Criteria for Family Support Programs (information)

The committee had discussion regarding the 80% enrollment criteria for family support programs. After much discussion, the committee was pleased with the work of all 3 family support programs in achieving 80% families that meet state criteria and will not institute any further enrollment criteria for FY25.

FY25 Request for Renewal (information)

FY25 was to be a year competitive grant process, however due to the uncertainty of the HHS realignment, FY25 will be a grant renewal process and will not be an open competition.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:00

Next meeting is face to face on Friday May 5, 2023 from 9:30-12:00 and will be at Madison County Extension.