

## **4 R Kids Program and Service Committee**

**Friday May 3, 2024**

**9:00 A.M.**

**Meeting held at the Madison County Extension Office in Winterset Iowa**

### **Attendance**

Nancy Hopkins, Wendy Sawyer, Colleen Strohmaier, and Debra Schrader were in attendance.

### **Housekeeping** *(information)*

Overview of the grant renewal process was reviewed. Conflict of interest was discussed, there was no conflict of interest noted by committee members that would impact recommendations. Board member Sawyer will be the reporter for the board meeting May 16, 2024. Director Schrader will draft the minutes for the meeting.

### **Lutheran Services in Iowa** *(action)*

On April 11, 2024, Lutheran Services in Iowa contacted the Board that a family support worker may have deceived administrative staff about the number of home visits that were performed December 2023 through March 2024. LSI sent an incident report detailing the number of visits that were falsified which were an average of 48% during that period. The ECI director received technical assistance regarding the falsified visits and action the 4 R Kids Board may take, if any. According to the state ECI office, the only recoupment of funds would be mileage and indirect costs for the time period of the falsified visits. It is recommended that \$862.56 be recouped for the incident and it is be deducted from the most recent FY24 payment voucher. LSI is instructed to work with the state ECI office in deleting family visits in the state database system, DAISEY. It is recommended that a corrective action plan be required for LSI to include: providing the board with current monitoring strategies that took place prior to the incident, new and/or preventive strategies the agency will put in place for the future and provide a monthly update regarding monitoring staff for the remainder of the fiscal year and for FY25.

### **Family Support Programs Regarding Quality Control** *(information)*

Lutheran Services in Iowa, Short Years Partnership and Southwestern Community College are to provide the Board with agency policies regarding staff monitoring and quality control by June 30, 2024. If there is no policy, one is to be drafted by the respective agency.

### **FY24 3rd Quarter reports** *(information)*

The committee reviewed the 3rd quarter reports prior to the meeting. A high-level report will be provided to the board. There was no data provided by Lutheran Services in Iowa for the New Parent Program due to investigating possible falsified visits. There were no major concerns with the reports.

### **FY25 Request for Renewal Review and Comments** *(information)*

- The draft FY25 early childhood grant is expected to be \$255,728 or (3.2%) more than FY24. The FY25 draft school ready grant amount is expected to be \$978,819 or (2.1%) more than FY24, for a total of early childhood funding and school ready funding increase expected from FY24 to FY25 of \$27,731. Potential carryover is \$140,000. The funding is considered draft until the Governor signs the Health and Human Services budget bill.
- The FY25 Request for Renewal process was not an open competition and was extended an additional year from the original three-year grant cycle. The Board reserves the right to have an open request for proposal process at any time.
- The committee reviewed the 4 R Kids strategic plan and focused on priorities as well as the guiding principles.
- The request for renewal process consisted of a cover page, community impact page, no more than two pages of six narrative questions, and a budget. Additional items required were, proof of insurance, assurances, board of directors' roster and several quality verifications.

- A technical review was conducted on each application and 7 applications did not meet the technical review, but was included in the funding plan/recommendations. Contractors are to be reminded to always check their work before submitting future applications.
- Agencies were to request no more than the allocations received in FY24, however a question was asked “if there were additional funding available what need would they fill and how much additional funding would they need.” Of the 10 applications, there were 9 applicants that requested additional funding. Of the 10 additional funding requests, 8 were granted. Two applicants requested an increase in administration funding which the 4 R Kids policy does not allow unless the agency has a federally approved indirect rate and one applicant requested funding for incentives for child care providers but was already in another agency’s application and was considered a duplication.
- The board administrative support budget stayed the same from last year and includes fiscal agent fees and other expenses related to board operations. Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center has agreed to continue as the fiscal agent and record of employer. The ECI director budget changed slightly due to the increase in compensation.

#### **FY25 Funding Plan** *(recommendation)*

The following are recommendations for FY25 programming pending FY24 carryover, state allocations, state program criteria, 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area board approval, Early Childhood Iowa office approval and Department of Health and Human Services approval. The recommendations are as follows:

#### **FY25 Funding Recommendations for Programming**

Lutheran Services of Iowa	New Parent Program HFA – long term home visitation	\$176,031.00
Short Years Partnership	Parents as Teachers – long term home visitation	\$275,500.00
Southwestern Community College	Parents as Teachers – long term home visitation	\$114,711.27
Warren County Health Services	Child Care Nurse Consultant	\$43,617.00
Every Step (Formally VNS)	Child Care Nurse Consultant	\$33,736.00
MATURA	Child Care Nurse Consultant	\$11,661.56
Dallas County ISU Extension	Child Care Quality Improvement Project	\$95,561.00
Dallas County ISU Extension	Child Care Incentives (mini grants)	\$15,900.00
Dallas County ISU Extension	Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	\$63,000.00
Dallas County ISU Extension	Wage Enhancements for the Child Care Workforce	\$50,000.00
Orchard Place/CCR	Child Care Provider Incentives (IQ4K ChildNet, BIP, CPR/First Aid)	\$22,575.00
Orchard Place/CCR	Child Care Provider Consultation and Technical Assistance	\$23,029.00
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Enrichment Project	\$87,158.00
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Scholarship Tuition	\$152,742.00
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Transportation	\$2,120.00
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Dental Screening	\$9,540.00
Dallas County ISU Extension	Preschool Professional Development	\$6,210.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,184,091.83</b>

#### **Additional Comments**

- The FY25 budget has \$42,755.17 unallocated funding and it will be reserved to assist with interpretation needs, preschool tuition, and other needs as they arise.
- A process will continue to be in place for contractors to request additional funds in the event there are emerging needs during the FY25 fiscal year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.