

4 R Kids Program and Service Committee Minutes

Friday August 30, 2024

By Zoom

9:00 A.M.

Attendance

Nancy Hopkins and Jessica Petter and Debra Schrader were in attendance by Zoom. Jess Petter will be the reporter for the meeting.

FY24 Annual Report Review Highlights (*information*)

The committee reviewed the FY24 annual report materials that included financial statements, annual reports from providers, an annual report snapshot, trend data document & analysis with the effectiveness of programs, local and state performance measures, executive summary, and several family support comparison documents. Below are a few overall comments after reviewing the data.

- All contractors submitted their respective annual reports timely.
- There were no concerns with any program reports.
- Contractors were asked to rate their program regarding meeting overall benchmarks for each service type funded on the following scale; (1) did not met expectations, (2) partially met expectations, (3) met expectations or (4) exceeded expectations.
 - 20% (4/20) reported they exceeded expectations
 - 45% (9/20) reported they met expectations
 - 30% (6/20) reported they partially met expectations
 - 5% (1/20) did not met expectations
- Lutheran Services in Iowa had staffing challenges half way through the year which impacted benchmarks and was put on a corrective action plan in FY24 and has continued through FY25.
- Family Support programs were reviewed. High level data facts are:
 - There was a total of 1,773 home visits which is a slight decrease from the previous year (2,015).
 - There was a total of 144 families served which is lower than the previous year (147).
 - First time caregivers were 44.4%, previous year 45.9%
 - Prenatal families were 43.8%, previous year 49%.
 - 100% of new families enrolled met the 80% enrollment guidelines implemented by the 4 R Kids Board. This is to be commended as this was a new requirement in FY23.
 - 95% of total families enrolled met the 75% state enrollment guidelines.
 - Primary language other than English was Spanish at 18% (previous year was 15%) and Arabic at 17.0% (the previous year was 15%).
- The financial statements have been reconciled with the fiscal agent. There was \$129,246.57 or 13% of school ready funds carried over and \$20,347.77 or 17% of early childhood funds carried over into FY25, no more than 20% is allowed to be carried over in either fund. Compared to this time last year school ready was 14% and early childhood was 17%.
- Of the FY24 carryover funds, all but \$52,475.51 has been allocated to programs for FY25. This leaves very little funding to meet future needs.
- The ECI director has entered the required data online at Iowa grants.gov which is due no later than September 15.

The 4 R Kids Board will receive the executive summary, board membership matrix, snapshot report, and financial statements at the September 12, 2024 board meeting. Information will also be posted on the website.

FY24 Annual Report Approval (*action requested*)

It is consensus of the committee to recommend approval of the FY24 annual report, executive summary, and school ready and early childhood financial statements. The due date for board approval is no later than September 15, 2024.

Thrive Iowa (*action requested*)

The 4 R Kids ECI area has been selected to pilot a “Thrive Iowa” service project. While there is still allot of unknown pieces to the Thrive Iowa initiative, the purpose of “Thrive Iowa” is to implement and/or expand a facilitated referral system to match families with the most appropriate service available, reduce and/or eliminate duplication of services, promote and build awareness of services available, including but not limited to 4 R Kids ECI funded services, family support services, community, state, and federal resources, etc., and maximize and coordinate referrals to services.

Pilots will be required to participate in Science of Hope training conducted by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, participate in community health worker training and participate in performance measure training and other tools training (yet to be defined) conducted by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

The state ECI office has verbally indicated there may be up to \$300,000 of one-time federal funds allocated to the 4 R Kids ECI board to support the pilot. The new state funds would need to be expended no later than September 30, 2025.

The state has identified Community Resource in Services to People (CRISP) in Madison County to pilot the project. Additionally other agencies have been identified, Dallas County Public Health and Warren County Public Health as they have a health navigation program in place, however more information will be needed before moving forward. It is possible that other agencies could be identified in FY24. The pilot project will need to be implemented no later than November 1, 2024.

ECI implemented a new service type in FY25 called “coordinated intake community partnerships for facilitated referrals” and performance measures have been identified for the pilot. The ECI director has also identified local performance measures. The performance measures are found in these minutes. The ECI director will work closely with CRISP to ensure a positive experience with positive outcomes.

Due to the unusual circumstances as well as several of unknown perimeters, it is recommended that the board accept the estimated \$300,000 and allow the ECI director the authority to carry out the requirements determined by the state ECI office. In the event no state funding is received, it is recommended to provide \$5,000 of the 4 R Kids ECI carryover funding to CRISP to allow for Thrive Iowa project start up with a start date on or after October 1, 2024.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:45. Next meeting is October 25, 2024 at 9:00 via Zoom.

Performance measures for coordinated intake community partnerships for facilitated referrals aka Thrive Iowa **Required state performance measures are as follows:**

Inputs

- Amount of ECI funding
- Additional funding and sources

Outputs

- # of households served (unduplicated)
- # of households' who have intakes processed (duplicated)
- # of households served with children, age five or younger
- # of expectant moms
- # of dads served singly with children, age five or younger
- # of households referred by a past recipient
- # of households referred by a community partner
- # of households *referred* for food supports
- # of households *referred* for housing supports
- # of households *referred* for medical/dental supports
- # of households *referred* for domestic violence/sexual assault supports
- # of households *referred* for mental health/substance abuse supports
- # of households *referred* for early learning environment supports
- # of households with identified risk factors utilizing a risk/determinant tool (see definition)
- # of Non-profit status/Community Based Organizations
- # of Faith-based entities

Quality/Efficiency

- % of household referred to a program/service
- Cost per family

Outcomes

- % of households referred to and enrolled in a long-term family support program
- % of families referred that did not enroll in a family support program
- % of households that report an increased awareness of concrete supports
- % of households that report an increased awareness of additional informal supports (faith-based)
- % of households who utilized additional concrete supports

Local performance measures are as follows:

Families at each income level at intake (self-report)

- # of families at 125% of the federal poverty or lower
- # of families between 126%-185% federal poverty level
- # of families between 186%-200% federal poverty level
- # of families at 201% federal poverty level or higher