

Date: November 6, 2023
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Effingham County Childcare Research Committee Meeting
Luttrell Room – Effingham Public Library
200 N. Third St., Effingham, IL

Committee Members in attendance:

Courtney Yockey, Molly Laue, Norbert Soltwedel and Trina Niemerg

Ex-Officio Members in attendance:

Connie Jerden and Courtney Hatcher

Members of the Public in attendance:

None

Courtney Yockey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes from the October 10 meeting were presented for approval. Motion made by Trina Niemerg to approve the minutes, seconded by Norbert Soltwedel. All ayes – motion approved.

Courtney Yockey asked for any public comments and there were no members of the public in attendance.

Courtney Yockey was not in attendance at the last County Board meeting but he had an update from Johnna Schultz who was there:

- The ARPA funding report was provided.
- At the October Tax and Finance Committee meeting and the October County Board meeting, one scholarship application was denied and one was recommended to provide additional information.
- Tax and Finance Committee will no longer be reviewing every scholarship recommendation unless they see a need to; otherwise, they will recommend approval or denial based on our committee's recommendation.
- There was a brief discussion at Tax and Finance Committee regarding changing the ARPA childcare earmark to CEFS and it was well-received.

Courtney Yockey provided an update on the current childcare programs:

- Scholarship Program
 - o New applications – There was one new application submitted. After review by the committee, there was no CCAP denial letter submitted along with it, which is a requirement. However, the child is over the eligibility age anyway so it is recommended to deny the application based on that.
 - o Previous applications – There was an additional paystub submitted that had been required by the committee for a previous application. Based on the additional paystub submitted, the applicant would be just over the income limit. However, there was a question regarding whether one of the paystubs included some additional working hours that was not considered normal. The committee requires additional information on what are considered their normal hours for one of their two jobs in order to calculate their consistent monthly income and compare that number to the income limits for the scholarship.
 - o Invoices – There are two invoices to be approved for scholarship recipients. Both recipients and their respective providers have signed off on the monthly verification

forms. Trina Niemerg made a motion to approve payment for both. Molly Laue seconded the motion. All ayes – motion approved.

- Increased Capacity – Courtney Hatcher said there are no classes planned as of now but is willing to reconsider in the future if there is more interest.

Connie Jerden discussed the ISBE grants. They were awarded the grant however there are some stipulations that may be difficult to overcome (cap per child, number of infants/toddlers, be up and running by January 1, 2024, etc.) Connie said they had a call later today with ISBE to discuss this more and she will update our committee.

The next meeting will be held on Monday December 4 at 12:00 p.m.

Courtney Yockey asked for any additional committee member comments and there were none.

Adjourn – move to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Norbert Soltwedel, seconded by Molly Laue. All ayes – motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Molly Laue