

Date: December 4, 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:
Molly Laue, Norbert Soltwedel and Trina Niemerg

Ex-Officio Members in attendance:
Connie Jerden and Courtney Hatcher

Members of the Public in attendance:
None

Trina Niemerg called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes from the November 6 meeting were presented for approval. Motion made by Norbert Soltwedel to approve the minutes, seconded by Trina Niemerg. All ayes – motion approved.

Trina Niemerg asked for any public comments and there were no members of the public in attendance.

There was no update from the County Board.

The committee discussed the following regarding the Childcare Scholarship Program:

- New applications – There were no new applications submitted. Courtney Hatcher said she was aware of one that should be received soon.
- Previous applications – Prior to the meeting, Courtney Yockey e-mailed the committee additional paystub information from a previous applicant. The committee reviewed all of the information submitted. Based on the paystubs submitted, the applicant is slightly over the income limit for their family size. However, upon further review, on one of the paystubs submitted there were 10.5 “call in” hours (overtime) and that was the only time they had overtime year-to-date. The committee deems that to be outside of their normal monthly income and when excluded, the applicant is within the income limits. Norbert Soltwedel made a motion to recommend approval of the scholarship dating back to their original application submission date and Molly Laue seconded the motion. All ayes – motion approved.
- Invoices – Prior to the meeting, Courtney Yockey had e-mailed the committee stating that the invoices were not available yet. He will continue to work with the individuals to obtain the necessary information and pending that everything is in order, he will submit to the County Board.

Connie Jerden discussed the ISBE grants for CEFS. They are changing their application from 24 to 28 spaces and this will only be for Effingham County, not Montgomery County as they had originally planned. Their timeline is to hire a director by end of January, open the room by April and be at 80% capacity by August.

There was no update on the State Childcare System.

The next meeting will tentatively be held on Monday January 8, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Trina Niemerg asked for any additional committee member comments. There was a brief discussion regarding other avenues to get the word out regarding our childcare scholarship (Chamber, employers, schools, etc.).

Adjourn – move to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Molly Laue, seconded by Norbert Soltwedel. All ayes – motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Molly Laue