

# Policy Council Minutes

## 12.05.2019

**Voting Members Present:** David Powell, Sherri Lafollette, Lindsey Sellers, Vicki Gieber, John Lobato, Pamela Rontti, Kim Dykes, Angelica Hinklin, Roberta Braden, Tami McGreevy, Melissa Hodges

**Non-Voting Present:** Linda Lorette, Lesa Larson, Alaina Ryan, Megan Wagoner, Jim Fletcher, Shanna Rector, Katie Musgrove

**Visitors:** Dr. Britton Zuccarelli

**Call to Order** – Katie Musgrove called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Changes & Additions to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the Agenda. David Powell motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Pamela Rontti seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items:** Lindsey Sellers motioned to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. David Powell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### **Training:**

Dr. Britton Zuccarelli, child neurologist with Salina Pediatric Care provided a handout titled “The Early Years Count, Brain Timeline” and discussed child brain development from the womb through adulthood. She shared information about the value of early intervention in the area of brain development and discussed the affects Adverse Childhood Experiences can have on the brain.

She stressed that fostering resilience and offering all the opportunities to a child with adverse childhood experiences can make a difference in brain development and improved outcomes. Learn the child’s strengths and weaknesses and provide care in a way that nurtures strengths and improves areas needing additional development.

Things to do at home to improve brain development:

- Play with your children, be imaginative. Put away your phone. Pass a ball back and forth.
- Read to your children from birth.
- Talk to your children – communicate often.
- Exposure ... to other people, ideas, cultures, differences

### **Director Update:**

Heartland held the first school readiness committee meeting in November. Parents, teachers, Heartland staff, and USD305 staff looked at outcome reports for strengths and areas needing improvement. These talks help Heartland prepare and set future goals to improve outcomes for children. Another meeting will be scheduled in April to discuss integrated preschool outcomes.

### **New Business:**

#### **Kansas Early Head Start Child Care Partner Grant Approval Request**

The 2020-2021 Child Care Partnership grant application is for increased funding in the amount of \$715,600. Additions to the budget include \$15 per week increase of child care fees, monthly quality payment to partners (to match Head Start payments) mental health staff services, data entry staff services, annual data and assessment contract.

David Powell motioned to approve the Kansas Early Head Start Child Care Partner grant as presented. Roberta Braden seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Kansas Early Head Start Home Visitation Grant Approval Request – Presented by Linda Lorette**

The 2020-21 Home Visitation grant application is for increased funding for a total amount of \$279,000. Additions to the budget include mental health staff services, data entry staff services, transportation expenses, annual data and assessment contracts.

The increase is from \$249,000 to \$279,000

Vicki Gieber motioned to approve the Kansas Early Head Start Home Visitation Grant as presented. David Powell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Recruitment Plan:**

The Recruitment Plan was presented to the Policy Council for approval. Megan Wagoner discussed key areas and answered questions regarding the recruitment process in Dickinson and Ellsworth counties.

David Powell motioned to approve the Recruitment Plan as presented. Angelica Hinklin seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **2020-2021 Selection Criteria:**

Megan Wagoner presented the 2020-2021 Selection Criteria Form to the Policy Council for approval. The form is used to determine a child's eligibility according to specific criteria provided through documentation and the parent.

Pam Rontti motioned to approve the 2020-2021 Selection Criteria form as presented. Lindsey Sellers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Parent Reports:**

In light of the Thanksgiving holiday in November, parents asked their students what they were thankful for. Parents reported the following:

**Lindsey Sellers** reported her son said he was thankful for dogs and the hat that he made. She said they did some work at home to discuss what thankfulness was really about.

**Katie Musgrove** reported her son said he was thankful for God because he's nice and her daughter said she was thankful for school.

**Kim Dykes** reported her boys are thankful for their friends and their family. They talked about having a safe, warm place to sleep and being thankful for teachers who help them learn.

**David Powell** reported he thinks his children are grateful for their home, being well-fed, and a new car they can all fit in as a family.

**Pam Rontti** reported her children said they are thankful for their new house, family, having enough food, and a new school.

**Angelica Hinklin** reported her children said they are thankful for her.

### **Community Member Report:**

**Shanna Rector** reported she, Lesa Larson, and Patricia Haas attended the Governor's Children's Cabinet Roadshow. These "Roadshows" feature members of our State Directors team and offer an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas to inform the strategic plan. They discussed all the things they did over the last year in Early Childhood Education and reported they have applied for a very large grant for the state of Kansas. They are working to bring everyone together to collaborate on improving access to affordable early childhood education in our community. Several people from the community, USD305 and Heartland were there showing unity in the area of early childhood education.

**Tami McGreevy** reported Union Pacific's Big Boy steam engine stopped in Ellsworth on November 20th and the Ellsworth class went to see it. They have a parent meeting scheduled next week and are going to walk to the high school. Families are invited to build gingerbread houses in the classroom on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>. A local sorority donated a Christmas gift to each student.

David Powell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m. Lindsey Sellers seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Alaina Ryan, Administrative Assistant