

Policy Council Meeting
6-24-25

Submitted by: Brandy Klinesmith & Teena Branson

Members Present: Brandy Klinesmith, Jessica Brenizer, Brittain Reinmuth, Echo Woyak, Kristen Gompert, Skylar Pottorff, Makenna Sempek, Carmen Torres, Maria Garcia, Shayna Hudson, Debra Jo Mason, Jessica Goodrich

Guests Present: None

Staff Present: Kerry Mehling, Krystie Hohnstein, Lauren Starke, Joan DeWitt, Teena Branson, Shannon Yeoman, Susie Dominguez

Board Members Present: Tom Millette

Policy Council Meeting called to order by Echo Woyak, at 6:05 pm. There were no new member introductions needed. Members reviewed the minutes from the April meeting. **Shayna Hudson moved to approve the April minutes. Jessica Goodrich seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.**

Director's Report:

All members received a copy of the Director's report. Krystie Hohnstein discussed the report. There are 3 recent drops in children that are less than 30 days. Funded enrollment and overall program activity is lower in the summer as limited locations remain in operation.

Finance Report:

All members received a copy of the Finance Report. Lauren Starke, Fiscal Officer, presented the reports. Members continue to review the previous grant year reports and the new grant year reports. Activity for the new grant period is still minimal as expenses are concluded for the previous grant year. Administrative percentages remain under 15% in all reports. The April credit card reports look slightly abnormal due to a fraud charge that was found and reimbursed. The program will have the total amount of one-time funding spent by the deadline. There were no further questions. **Jessica Goodrich moved to approve the finance report. Carmen Torres seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.**

Board Report:

Director Krystie Hohnstein reported on the Board of Education minutes. In May, a new board member, Mandy Plog, was interviewed and then appointed in June for District 1. There were several approvals for new hires starting in the Fall. At the June meeting, the "Yay Sports Camp" was highlighted. The first camp hosted 14 campers and there was a donor that pledged \$20,000 towards next years camp. In reference to the overall ESU13 External Survey, 17 of 21 districts returned surveys this year. Results will be shared in August. The new Meridian playground is being installed currently. There were legislative updates discussed and they are also looking for a board member for District 11.

Old Business:

Updates on RAN Report/Safety Updates: Krystie shared that the program has received the final review determination and the case was officially closed noting a satisfactory response by the program per the Office of Head Start.

New Business:

Health Written Plan & Review and/or Revision: Shannon Yeoman Education, Health and Special Services Manager presented information on this component area. There are no current changes in policy. Shannon

discussed the Head Start approach to supporting families with high quality health services. She noted the input of the Health Services Advisory in the process, collaboration and communication with families, determining child health status within 30, 45, and 90-days, oral health, safety practices to prevent and respond to incidents and injuries, emergency response, medication administration, and refusal to authorize health services procedure for parents. There were no questions.

Child Outcomes & School Readiness Goals Discussion: Shannon Yeoman Education, Health and Special Services Manager presented these topics. Teaching Strategies Gold Outcomes are presented 4 times per year to monitor growth in children. Shannon shared examples of the Creative Curriculum lesson plans along with assessment objectives and color bands for each age group. All areas showed growth for the fall to spring outcomes with the highest growth in the area of social-emotional learning and literacy with the lowest growth.

Enrollment & Recruitment Update: Teena Branson, Enrollment Manager, provided a brief overview of the current program enrollment data and the enrollment and application process for the 2025-26 school year. She also shared recruitment events activity for the spring/summer.

Community Assessment Findings: Lauren Starke, Fiscal Officer, shared the requirements of and the findings from the annual update to the community assessment. She highlighted the changes in demographics, noting that Nebraska homelessness increased by 11.30% from 2023 to 2024 in families with children. The program must also address equity, accessibility, and inclusiveness, as well as changes to the availability of publicly-funded pre-kindergarten in the service area. This process helps to determine what services are needed to foster environments where all children have the opportunity to attend, are welcomed and valued. The final document will be ready for publication in the near future.

Employment Openings - Agency-wide employment openings are found on the ESU13 website (www.esu13.org) under *Employment Openings*. Current openings for Teacher and Assistant Teacher positions are listed on the ESU 13 website. Prospective Employees can also apply directly on this site. This was shown to members.

New Hires:

Harley Newsom - Assistant Teacher at Bridgeport, Full Time/Full Year

Mykah Holdsworth - Assistant Teacher at CDC, Full Time/Full Year

Taryn Sekerka - Assistant Teacher at CDC, Full Time/Full Year

Alondra Garcia - Assistant Teacher at CDC, Summer/Temp

Kendra Morehead - Assistant Teacher at ELC, Full Time/Full Year

Makenna Sempek moved to approve the New Staff Hires. Maria Garcia seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call vote.

Transition Plan for Family and Community Partnerships Manager: Kerry Mehling and Teena Branson shared information about the tasks that will be transitioned. Teena Branson will take over the facilitation of Policy Council starting next month. Teena and Jo Dewitt will support family services and training family advocates. Kerry's focus will then move more to expanding the mental health services for children, families, and staff.

Center Reports: There were no center reports.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 29th. Dinner will be served at 5:45pm and the meeting will begin promptly at 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.