

# Dubuque County Early Childhood (DCEC) Board Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2020, Zoom Meeting

2310 Chaney Road, Dubuque, IA

**Board Attendance:** Beth Wilhelm, Cindy Steffen, Linda Martin, Ashley Weber, Gina Blean, Jay Wickham, Kim Glaser, Dan Huss, Angela Petsche

**Program Attendance:** Amy Kallaher, Tara Roddick, Stacey Killian, Kristy Fenwick

**12:03 pm – Roll call & quorum established.**

**WELCOME: Elizabeth Wilhelm – Beth gave brief introduction of herself/experience/interest in early childhood**

**Key Action Items:**

1. October BOD Minutes p.2
2. October Exec – Fin Cmte Minutes p.3
3. Child Care Grant Request p.5
4. Bank Statement p.6

**No discussion or questions.**

**Motion to approve by Kim, seconded by Jay.**

**Presentation:**

DCEC Draft Strategic Plan p.8 – Ali Fuller – Ali presented draft strategic plan and guided discussion.

Notes from discussion:

- Family Support can should be considered in all 3 phases – increasing access, distributing material/education. Family support addresses all of the areas listed in the priorities but addresses them within a family/child’s home rather than their place for childcare
- Long discussion around wrap around care & transportation being barriers to preschool. Both of these also place limits on a parent’s ability to have ‘parent choice’ of where to send their child.
- Consider driving discussion around community providing all day preschool – example of Western Dubuque structure was given
- Consider ways to partner with other entities – Jule, RTA, St. Marks
- DCEC should not be the organization to fund transportation and wrap around, but can be a key player in the conversation around solutions
- Consider assistance for transportation in the past (combined with PS scholarships) and lack of use – quantify specific barriers
- Advocating for better pay/benefits & subsidies for EC staff & centers – again, DCEC shouldn’t be the one to fund this, but can drive conversations and solutions within community as this directly impacts the care that children in Dubuque Co receive.
- VNA can be lead organization in efforts to increase dental providers that take additional insurance so that more littles can receive the dental care they need

Next steering committee meeting is on 12/3 at 3:00 via zoom, email Abbey if you would like to be involved.

This document will go before board in December for final approval so it can be submitted to the state before 12/18 due date.

**Discussion/Updates:**

1. Program Update – none today

**Adjourn at 12:58 – motion by Linda seconded by Gina**