HS/EHS POLICY COUNCIL MEETING
January 25, 2022

P.C. Members present via Zoom: Mandy Anderson, Jenna Austin, Emily Bailey, Samantha College, Enrique Cruz-Garcia, Will Hoeppner, Roy, Mbi, Aline Nkinzingabo, Amber Peplinski, Tiffany Peterson, Lindsey Shriver, Lisa Sorensen, and Natasha Warnke.

Staff present: Tonya Weber, HS/EHS Director, Chad Jensen, CEO, Pam Stanzyk, HS/EHS Office Coordinator, and Eugene Meiners, New Opportunities Board President.

Amber Peplinski called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Financial Reports
The following financial reports were reviewed with the Policy Council:
1) HS/EHS November and December 2021
2) EHS Center Based November and December 2021
3) CRRSA/ARP November and December 2021
4) All Credit/charge card activity for November and December 2021

There was a general discussion of various line items. Tonya discussed the Head Start and Early Head Start grant for December 1, 2020, through November 30, 2021, noting that Head Start and Early Head Start were not fully expended and a carryover would be requested after final reports are completed. It was noted Head Start and Early Head Start CARES is fully expended.
A motion was made by Tiffany Peterson and seconded by Enrique Cruz-Garcia to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried.

Policy Council Minutes
December 7, 2021, minutes were reviewed.   Tasha Warnke motioned to approve the minutes as read. Lisa Sorensen seconded. Motion carried.

Program Report
Tonya summarized the following items on the November and December 2021 Program Report:
- Enrollment and Attendance
- Education & Disabilities
- Communication
- Staff Openings
- Volunteer/Parent Involvement
- In-Kind
- Child Abuse and Mandatory Reporting
- CACFP Reimbursement
- Health

Staff continues to work on increasing enrollment. Early Head Start Home Based home visits low primarily due to illness.

Health & Safety
Staff completes weekly and monthly checks. There were no new reports.

NOI Board Minutes
December 9, 2021, minutes were shared.   There were no questions or concerns.

Committee Reports
The Fall HS/EHS School Readiness Goals Data Report was shared with Policy Council.

IM/PI Alerts
ACF-PI-HS-22-01: Final Rule on Flexibility for Head Start Designation Renewals in Certain Emergencies was shared.

Program Goals
Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives for 2018 -2022 was shared. Process for the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan will begin this summer.

EHS Center Based – Year 3: Non-Federal Share Waiver
The non-federal share requirement for the HP Grant is $385,197.00.   Currently, $7,681.23 is expended. Tonya is requesting approval to submit a waiver.
Tiffany Peterson motioned to approve the request for a waiver. Enrique Cruz-Garcia second. Motion carried.

2020-2021 HS/EHS Annual Report
The Annual Report was reviewed. The report will be provided to all Head Start and Early Head Start families.

Community Needs Assessment
Tonya reviewed the Community Needs Assessment with policy council members. Areas noted:
- The percentage of children eligible for free and reduced school meals is significant in nearly all communities served by the program
- Lack of Mental Health supports and services
- Considerable number of children in foster care and either on an IFSP or IEP
- Lack of quality childcare centers, spots are decreasing in rural areas
- Numbers of live births allows us to estimate number of possible income eligible children

2022-2023 Recruitment Kick-off
Recruitment meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2022.

Vaccine & Mask Mandate – Update
The vaccine and mask mandate are on hold for New Opportunities. Head Start staff and children 2 years and older are required to wear masks in classrooms and centers.

Federal Mileage Rate
Effective January 1, 2022, the Federal Mileage Rate is 58.5 cents per mile.

Eligibility Training
Tonya provided ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance) training.

Tasha Warnke motioned to adjourn at 7:07 PM. Lisa Sorensen seconded. Motion carried.

Next Policy Council Meeting – March 22, 2022 – 6:00 PM