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OCONEE COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEETING

June 18, 2020 ZOOM (ON-LINE) 12:00 P.M.

Present: Darcy Arnall, Tony Vincent, Kathe Davis, Katie Conlin, Barbara Dyar, Vanessa Earle, Lorilei Swanson, Janis Young, Misty Lee,

Excused: Suzanne Evans, Stephanie Gentry, Shanon Lusk, Nivia Miranda, Judy Metcalf, Annette Burney, Kendra Vincent, Vanessa Earle, Reg Tatum, Molly Tannery, Summer Mast, Alice Lee

Staff: Daby Snipes

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER: Daby Snipes was the host for the Zoom Board Meeting. At 12:00 noon everyone was welcomed and checked. There were 12 registered for the meeting.

ROLL CALL & Confirm Quorum: At 12:10 there were 9 board members connected to the meeting along with Daby Snipes the Executive Director. A Quorum was not met.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and May Board Meeting: The minutes from the May 21st meeting were emailed to the board and no one present had any questions, concerns, or corrections to the minutes. We proceeded with the meeting following the presented Agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

Grant Application FY21: Daby reviewed the information concerning the FY21 Grant Application. The necessary signatory forms and appendices are due July 15 and Minutes, board attendance due July 30.

Data Review: Daby shared OCFS Data review from the 3rd Quarter. Many board members expressed how much they appreciated being able to see the work that is going on, and how our program is reaching our goals. We talked about how we can do an even better job at reaching the family groups we aren't currently serving, especially our Hispanic community. We are thankful to have Nivia Miranda on our board who will be a great asset in reaching out to our Hispanic families and communities. We are grateful that we were doing so well meeting our goals when COVID19 became a barrier for our community outreach, especially our Child Care Trainings. We also celebrated over 2500 children were impacted by the Child Care Trainings that we offer. Angie Ray has done an exceptional job in finding and posting on our Facebook page, many free on-line trainings available for our workers. Because of COVID19 restrictions, we will not be offering in-person sessions until after January and will adjust accordingly if necessary.

Child Care Scholarships: Through our data we were able to celebrate serving 10 children this year. COVID19 pandemic has been quite a challenge to meet for our families. All of our families were able to keep their scholarships through June 30, to support them during this fragile time. One of our centers Pennsylvania Center had to close, but with the cooperation of our centers, they were able then to attend Foothills Early Learning Center until they re-opened. All scholarships will end June 30, and a family can then re-apply. Please contact Daby Snipes, if you have a family that you would like apply.

Child Care Trainings: See statements above in Data Review.

Core Functions: Bookbags were purchased to support the PreK4 program in Oconee County. Each child will receive a bookbag, book and a toothbrush along with a resource guide from OCFS.

“We Care Kits”: We are providing “We Care Kits” for Child Care Providers in Oconee County. The Kit includes: Spray cleaner, paper towel, toilet paper, face masks, gloves, ear saver (for mask) Lip balm, candy, Hand Cream, Hand Sanitizer, 1 Kids card game, Children’s Books – There will be a folder included with our information and resource guide and a thank you letter.

Family Resiliency Kits – OCFS will partner with Empower Oconee to provide 400 color books/activity books for these kits that will be distributed this summer. The date and location has not been established as of today.

Healthy Families America: We are still serving families in Oconee County.

Financial Report: Daby shared the Blackbaud Report – and also provided a summary of Category vs Budget Expenses. It was necessary to do two budget reallocations due to mis-code – all is corrected, signed and approved.

Committee Reports – Committee Assignments

The word document for all committee assignments was emailed to board. Daby Snipes has asked that each committee meet by ZOOM or conference call during July and be ready to report at the August meeting.

Old Business – none

New Business – Tony Vincent has asked for his Children’s Minster to take his place on the board. We appreciate so much his work with our board and will look at our By-laws and talk with our Executive Committee on how to proceed. We will include this matter on the Agenda for our August meeting.

Adjournment: 12:50

Next meeting by ZOOM Thursday August 20, 2020