AUGUST 24, 2021

MINUTES

ECAP Members in Attendance
Kathleen Merritt (Executive Director, Bright Futures)
Lance Waring (Board of County Commissioner)
Todd Bittner (Norwood School District Superintendent)
John Pandolfo (Telluride School District Superintendent)
Other:
Cathy Barber (Strong Start Program Coordinator)
April Montgomery (Program Director, Telluride Foundation)
Miriam Campana (VISTA, Bright Futures)

1:00 Welcome Todd and Intros

Bright Futures – Strong Start Overview

- Clarified that Bright Futures is a standalone nonprofit serving San Miguel County and the Strong Start program is the early childhood mill levy in San Miguel County. Bright Futures oversees the program management of Strong Start.

1:05 Review and Approve 5.25 Minutes and 7.27 Minutes

PANDOLFO MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM 5.25
WARING SECONDS
ALL APPROVE

WARING MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM 7.27
SECONDED BY PANDOLFO
ALL APPROVE

1:10 Updates & Discussion
- **Cathy James Financial Aid**
  - Summarized the award process and distribution method

- **LIFT-EC (Lifting Incomes for Teachers in Early Childhood)**
  - LIFT-EC is opening on 9/1 and it will be open 3 weeks
  - Option of holding onto some of this money for directors/centers to have flexible incentive funding for their staff
    - **Recruit, Retain Considerations**
      - Early Childhood Workforce Shortage
    - Discussed giving director’s freedom to spend money for staff appreciation, retention
    - Bittner suggested recruiting staff outside of San Miguel County
      - Merritt explained history of efforts to market outside county
    - Pandolfo question – do we have data on what the wage rates details for each center and each position? And what the LIFT-EC supplements usually amount to?
      - ACTION: Merritt and Barber will follow-up with this information
    - Initial reactions to giving centers a pot of money for staff appreciation were positive

- **State of Childcare in San Miguel County**
  - Several centers who are unable to open 5 days a week, due to lack of qualified staff

- **Primetime Roof and Boiler**
  - Bittner updated roof and boiler are going to be evaluated this week
    - Hoping there is no need to do full replacement, just repairs on roof and boiler

- **Sunnyside Development**
  - Anticipated process for solidifying the acquisition of unit in new affordable housing development
  - Discussed complicated history of existing IGA and MOU situations where school district has units for employees
  - Montgomery outlined future affordable housing projects from the Telluride Foundation
  - ACTION: Montgomery will connect Bittner with Paul and David via email
  - Merritt suggested ECAP purchase a unit to house early childhood providers

- **Elaine’s Place 501 c3 Status and Expansion**
  - Merritt and Barber connected director with a nonprofit consultant to help her finish nonprofit application
  - Director agreed to scaling down expansion plans slightly, now only expanding to allow more infants and not adding a new office
  - Barber will communicate with director about update building plans

- **Telluride Medical Center Expansion**
  - Merritt highlighted the importance of keeping child care on everyone’s radar as this expansion formalizes
    - ACTION: On October 5th, the housing board will be meeting with Society Turn, Waring can include an early childhood discussion

- **Unemployment Insurance Audit**
• Merritt explained this is because of LIFT-EC, which are paid by first and last name, not to an LLC
• ACTION: Merritt will ask the auditors how to prevent this in the future

  - **Community Member at-large Renewal**

  • Cheryl’s seat on ECAP is up for renewal
    o ACTION: ECAP will reach out to Carmen

2:11 Adjourn

2021 MEETING:
September 28
October 26
November 9
December 14