

**POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING**  
**United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**December 18, 2013**

**Voting Members Present:** Mike Bandstra, Marvin DeJear, Terry Harrmann, Claudia Hawkins, Terri Henkels, Matt Knoll, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Joyce Pingel, Shane Schulte, JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon.

**Voting Members Absent:** Judy McCoy Davis, Sam Carrell, Cindy Elsbernd, Georgia Sheriff, Tom Slater

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Dave Discher, Dave Arens

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Don Doudna, Brook Rosenberg

**Guests Present:** Rick Kozin, Director, Polk County Health Department Director; Nicole Beaman, Community Impact Officer-Health, United Way of Central Iowa

**Staff Present:** Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Vice Chair Claudia Hawkins welcomed everyone to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 11:33 a.m. Quorum was met at this time. Shane Schulte arrived at 11:45 a.m.

Introductions were made around the table and Jody Kanne, Administrative Specialist, was introduced to the group. Claudia introduced Nicole Beaman, United Way of Central Iowa and Rick Kozin, Polk County Health Department.

**Approval of November 20, 2013 Minutes:**

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Terry Harrmann and seconded by Joyce Pingel.  
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**Monthly Financial Statements:**

**Early Childhood**

- Year to Date receipts totaled \$520,007.50 as of October 31, 2013. FY14 PCECI Early Childhood funding is \$1,040,015.00.
- At the end of November FY14 Early Childhood funds of \$279,188.47 were expended.
- This amount represents 27% of FY14 Early Childhood funding.
- Last year at the end of November 25% of EC budget had been expended.

**School Ready**

- Year to Date Receipts totaled \$652,639.25 as of October 31, 2013. FY14 PCECI School Ready funding is \$2,610,557.00.
- At the end of November FY14 School Ready funds of \$808,426.45 were expended.
- This amount represents 30% of FY14 School Ready funding.
- Last year at the end of November 28% of SR budget had been expended.

### **Approval of October 2013 Financial Statements:**

*A motion to approve the November 2013 financials was made by Terry Harrmann and seconded by Joyce Pingel. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

### **Administrative Update:**

#### **Child at Heart Nominations**

Child at Heart is annual award from ECI given to recognize individuals who work hard to improve the lives of young children. The deadline for nominations is January 10, 2014. Two awards will be given, one local-level and one state-level. Awards will be given at ECI Day on the Hill, February 12, 2014. Past recipients include:

2011 – Erika McWell (Director of Child Development Programs at Crittenton Centers in Sioux City) and State Representative Tyler Olson

2012 - Ellen Pickhinke (Elementary and Principal in Sioux City) and Charlie Bruner

No award in 2013.

Kris Bell - first administrator of Community Empowerment and then moved to the education policy liaison in Governor Vilsack's office (award was in this office until moved to ECI 2011)

Rep Janet Petersen (now Senator)

Barb Merrill - TEACH

Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson (ECI and Hawkeye Area Action program)

#### **Board Subcommittee Update**

Thanks to board members who met December 17th at Children & Families of Iowa Child Development Center. Members had a tour of classrooms, discussion with director Lacy Butler and then good conversation about the centers we support. Subcommittee members will give an update in January.

The preschool subcommittee will meet at Mitchel Early Learning Center Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Subcommittee members are receiving documents in a yellow folder today to review prior to this meeting.

#### **ECI Day on the Hill**

Wednesday February 12. The keynote speaker at 9:30 will be Linda Smith, Deputy Assist Secretary for Early Childhood, Administration for Children & Families, US Dept. of Health & Human Services.

#### **Legislative Communication**

Home addresses for senators and representatives provided today so members can write a holiday or New Year's card to thank their legislators for efforts on behalf of young children. Circulating form asking for info regarding existing relationships with legislators; this is to help board understand broader board connections with legislators. At last month's meeting Tom's message to members was to commit to developing a relationship with their legislators and Polk County legislators. He suggested pairing up to meet on their turf to deliver message, "We think investment in early childhood is important."

#### **ARRA funds – update**

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. IA legislation appropriated a portion to Empowerment areas. September 2009 PCECI board voted to accept funds. By October 2009, 33 of 58 ECI areas accepted the funds. ARRA funds were to provide scholarships for quality child care to infants and toddlers from families who did not qualify for CCA.

PCECI ended up receiving \$466,898.87. Only expended \$67,734.39 of these funds. Returned remainder to DHS: \$399,164.48.

DHS conducted an initial audit of enrollment records in 2012 and found 2 children enrolled whose documentation did not support their eligibility. Based on these 2 ineligible children, DHS returned May and June 2013 to review all documentation for 22 children. They then requested a meeting December 6<sup>th</sup> at which they reported that they'd reviewed 22 children's enrollment paperwork and child care facility claim records. Judy and Sarah and Barb met with Shanell (DOM) Tami Foley and Chad Dahm, DHS Bureau Chief. Based on their findings they state PCECI must return federal funds of \$21,840.04 by January 31, 2013. This amount is approximately 30% of expended funds.

Since report and request for repayment was not received until Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Judy and Barb asked for opportunity to conduct internal review of documents so we can either concur with conclusions or understand and locate any misleading or missing documentation. Sarah and Barb have met, discussed timeline and strategies. Will provide update at January's meeting.

### **Blank Children's Hospital**

Blank has canceled their contract as of December. They do want to continue to collaborate but felt the need to stop services because staff was leaving and didn't make sense to hire someone for 6 months of service. Can work with Blank to creatively solve health needs and issue new contract as go through the investment process this spring.

### **Guest Speaker: Rick Kozin**

Past PCECI board member and current Director of Polk County Health Department gave a presentation on children's health and the need for healthy communities. He discussed how lifestyle and behavior create a majority of a child's overall health and even though some numbers, such as Lead Poisoning Prevention, are declining there are still missed opportunities out there that need to be addressed:

- Even though the number of uninsured children is only 3-4%, doesn't guarantee access to care
- 2/3 of children under 4 have not seen a dentist, medical doctors look past teeth during a routine check-up
- 2/3 of children could walk to school, only 1/10 actually do
- The need to work with local officials on sidewalk, bike paths throughout the community
- 1/3 of children not immunized by age 2

Organizations need to determine what their funding focus is, community or individuals, to help determine where to leverage their resources and where they can make the greatest impact. Need to determine if priority is broad impact or focused impact on smaller population. He reminded us to be open minded; remember everything starts out as someone's idea.

Mike Bandstra asked Rick if he had any recommendations for the Board, Rick stated he feels there is a better return on community policies and less on individual programs.

Rick gave out handouts on home hazards and coalitions and committees in Polk County that discuss childhood health related issues.

### **Old Business**

Reminder of the need for new member nominations

### **New Business**

None reported.

**Public Comment**

None reported.

**Adjourn**

Claudia thanked guest speaker Rick Kozin and all board members for attending. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Terry Harrmann and seconded by Marvin DeJear at 12:55 p.m. meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m. Next meeting will be held January 22, 2014, 8:00-9:30 a.m. in the Leadership Room.