

POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
January 22, 2014

Voting Members Present: Judy McCoy Davis, Sam Carrell, Marvin DeJear, Cindy Elsbernd, Claudia Hawkins, Matt Knoll, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Joyce Pingel, Shane Schulte, Georgia Sheriff, Tom Slater, JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon.

Voting Members Absent: Mike Bandstra, Terry Harrmann, Terri Henkels

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dave Discher, Don Doudna, Dave Arens, Brook Rosenberg

Guests Present: Sarah Roy, COO/CFO, United Way of Central Iowa

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Judy McCoy Davis welcomed everyone to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 8:05 a.m. Quorum was met at this time. Cindy Elsbernd and Natali Justiniano Pahl arrived at 8:06 a.m. Joyce Pingel arrived at 8:11 a.m.

Approval of December 2013 Minutes

A motion to approve the December 18, 2013 minutes as presented was made by Tom Slater and seconded by Shane Schulte. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monthly Financial Statements

Barb presented the financial statements. These statements are an accrual presentation of financial transactions which took place during the first six months of fiscal year 2014.

School Ready

- Year to Date Receipts totaled \$1,400,477.89 as of December 31, 2013. (Includes interest accrued). FY14 PCECI School Ready funding is 2,610,557.00.
- At the end of December FY14 School Ready funds of \$1,001,159.88 were expended.
- This amount represents 37% of FY14 School Ready funding.
- Last year at the end of December 35% of School Ready budget had been expended.

Early Childhood

- Year to Date receipts totaled \$521,908.48 as of December 31, 2013. (Includes interest accrued) FY14 PCECI Early Childhood funding is \$1,040,015.00.
- At the end of December FY14 Early Childhood funds of \$355,403.96 were expended.
- This amount represents 34% of FY14 Early Childhood funding.
- Last year at the end of December 33% of Early Childhood budget had been expended

Approval of December 2013 Financial Statements

A motion to approve the December 2013 financials as presented was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Cindy Elsbernd. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Presentation of FY2013 Audit

Sarah Roy, UWCI, reported United Way of Central Iowa's audit report identified no weaknesses, instances of noncompliance or deficiencies and was a "clean" report. A copy has been given to the board and additional copies are available upon request. Due to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse System not being available until January 7, 2014, the filing deadline was extended to February and will be filed and in compliance by that date. Federal A-133 report will be shared when available.

ARRA Funds

After receipt December 6, 2013, of DHS final report of PCECI FY10 and FY11 expenditure of ARRA funds, Barb and fiscal agent conducted an internal review of program documents. According to DHS report findings there were 10 children who received care scholarships who were ineligible given the mandated program requirements. With any federal funds all guidelines must be followed precisely. After careful internal review, the recommendation is being made that the requested amount of \$21,840.04 should be repaid. The state ECI office has informed Board that funds can come from School Ready Other or Administration or Quality Improvement. Given existing FY14 budget no existing contracts will be impacted. The ARRA funding has concluded.

Discussion of the review findings focused on any implications for current contracts with child care centers and other partners. Members asked how this review should inform current efforts, whether more procedures or special reviews need to be put in place. Barb stated upon receipt she reviews all invoices and supporting documentation must accompany them so she is confident funds are being distributed properly.

Approval of ARRA Report and Payback of Funds

A motion to accept the DHS ARRA report and approval to payback the funds was made by Joyce Pingel and seconded by Claudia Hawkins. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Letter of Support for Mr. Dave Arens

Former PCECI Board Chair Dave Arens has served a one-year partial term on the state Early Childhood Iowa board. He is reapplying to serve on this board and has requested a letter from our board to support his reapplication. A letter has been drafted by the board recommending Dave Arens be reappointed to the Early Childhood Iowa Board

Approval of Letter of Support

A motion to approve the letter was made by Georgia Sheriff and seconded by Sam Carrell. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

QRS 5 Letters

Letters of congratulation were drafted for CFI Child Development Center and Conmigo Early Education Center to congratulate them on their QRS 5 rating. Out of the 18 centers in the Coalition, only 3 have reached the 5 start rating (CFI CDC, Conmigo and Teddy Bear Town). Bidwell-Riverside CDC has reapplied to move their rating from 4 to 5 and will have their site evaluation February 14, 2014. A QRS rating is in place for 2 years.

Child Care Coalition Subcommittee Update

Early Childhood Child Care – JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon

Early Childhood Child Care Subcommittee met with Lacy Butler, Director, CFI Child Development Center in December and had a tour of the CDC. When Lacy came to CDC in October 2010 they only had a provisional license, by April 2011 they had their full license. Members discussed funding formulas used in past in which the education of director and QRS rating of center have a great impact. Members discussed how rater-reliability is critical to QRS rating a center receives. Currently there is no mechanism in place to withdraw points for a QRS, therefore a center can

have its license suspended or be on a provisional license and still have a high QRS rating. Members engaged in a detailed discussion of the current status of the QRS system.

School Ready Preschool Programming – Matt Knoll

Preschool subcommittee met with Susie Guest, Early Childhood Program Administrator, Des Moines Public Schools and had a tour of the Mitchell Early Learning Center. Members discussed the district's early childhood program with Susie. At this initial meeting members engaged in a broader discussion of strategic investment for maximum impact. After the tour members discussed on how to fund going forward. Trying to problem-solve and to re-focus our investments is difficult with decreasing funding.

ECI Day on Hill on February 12th

Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood (Dept. Health and Human Services) will be the keynote speaker February 12th, let your legislators know. Judy is working with ECI policy work group to arrange a lunch that day.

Administrative Update

Barb will distribute a more detailed update via email. She shared that 16 states applied for the Race To The Top – Early Learning Challenge Grants. Iowa's Department of Education submitted an application. Iowa was not granted funding and was ranked 14th out of 16.

The state ECI 2013 Annual Report was released January 10th and is available online.

Levels of Excellence, the rating system used to designate ECI boards, has a new matrix approved by the state board at January's meeting. PCECI participated in the pilot of LOE, submitting materials 12/31/11 and receiving the rating of "compliant" effective July 1, 2012. We will be required to submit materials again by December 31, 2014 for redesignation.

The state ECI office is offering Cultural Competency training for ECI area board members and staff. Des Moines training is scheduled for March 11th.

Old Business

A committee of members needs to be formed to recruit and nominate a few new members. By-laws put membership at minimum of 15; this is current membership. Goal is to add 4 new board members at June meeting for terms starting July 1, 2014. The only member scheduled to rotate off board at end of this fiscal year is Terry Harrmann, who will conclude his second 3-year term. Board membership needs to be gender balanced and to represent demographic and geographic diversity of Polk County. Judy asked for volunteers and will follow-up by appointing members to a committee.

New Business

Judy has not heard of any legislative moves to change ECI funding formulas or any bills of concern at the present. In the February and March meetings a legislative update from members will be on each agenda. Members will be asked to report on communication they have had with legislators.

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

Judy thanked all board members for attending. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m. The next meeting will be held February 26, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in UWC Leadership Room.