



POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
January 28, 2016 - Amended

Voting Members Present: Matt Knoll, Jem Gong-Browne, Sam Carrell, Marvin DeJear, Cindy Elsbernd, Bryan Huggins, Josh Mandelbaum, Judy McCoy Davis, Joyce Pingel, Craig Sieverding, JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon

Voting Members Absent: Mike Bandstra, Nick Dial, Claudia Hawkins, Rocio Hermosillo, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Kimberly Peterson, Shane Schulte, Georgia Sheriff, Tom Slater

Ex-Officio Members Present: Dave Arens

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Terry Harrmann, Brook Rosenberg

Staff Present: Barb Bremner, Jody Kanne

Guests Present: Shanell Wagler, Department of Management, Administrator, Early Childhood Iowa; Karen Bougher, Compliance/Project Manager, Youth Emergency Services and Shelter; Lora Patton, Regional Director, Child Care Resource & Referral

Welcome and Introductions

Board Chair Matt Knoll welcomed board members and guests to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 11:40 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval December Minutes

The December 16, 2015 minutes were presented to the board. There were no comments or corrections.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Marvin DeJear. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monthly Financial Statements

Barb Bremner presented the financial statements through the end of December. These statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through December of fiscal year 2016.

School Ready

- FY16 Polk County ECI School Ready funding is \$2,695,183.00.
- Carry Forward funds total \$187,155.86. These have been budgeted into contracts and will be expended before FY16 funds.

- Year to date receipts as of end of December total \$1,347,591.50 (1st and 2nd quarter payments received.)
- Additional receipts of \$4,334.82 interest.
- At the end of December, School Ready funds of \$917,175.96 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 32% of total School Ready funds. Last year at end of December 2014 37% of funds had been expended
- At the end of December \$168,697.04 or 90% of Carry Forward funds had been expended.

Early Childhood

- FY16 Polk County ECI Early Childhood funding is \$1,123,171.00.
- Carry Forward funds total \$190,927.39. These have been budgeted into contract lines within the budget and will be expended before FY16 funds.
- Year to date receipts as of end of December total \$561,585.50 (1st and 2nd quarter payment received).
- Additional receipts of \$2,699.22 interest.
- At the end of December Early Childhood funds of \$354,893.36 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 27% of total Early Childhood funds. Last year at end of December 2014 31% of funds had been expended
- At the end of December \$170,318.24 or 90% of Carry Forward funds had been expended.

A motion to approve the November/December 2015 financials was made by Craig Sieverding and seconded by Judy McCoy Davis. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Midyear Financial Report to State

The board was presented with Polk County ECI's midyear financial report. This required report outlines cumulative revenue and expenditures to date. Bremner stated the document was submitted through the IowaGrants.gov site to the State by the January 15th deadline.

Oakridge Request for Funds

Members were presented with a letter from Oak Academy director Vicki Williams requesting additional funding up to \$7,000 to help with creating a new infant room. The center has a contract for \$30,000 for FY16. These funds are for wage stipends, quality improvement and professional development. The center serves both private pay families and the families living at Oakridge Neighborhood. The Oakridge Neighborhood is project-based Section 8 housing with 339 units housing more than 1,000 residents.

Oak Academy currently holds a QRS 4 rating and is submitting in the next month for QRS 5 rating. They are NAEYC accredited. The center uses Creative Curriculum. They are participating in the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership. With the addition of the new infant room there will be 2 infant rooms, 1 toddler room, 2 two-year-old rooms and 4 three- to five-year-old rooms.

Children enrolled are 90% low income and 10% private pay with 37% from refugee or immigrant families. The population includes Sudanese, Ethiopian, Liberian, Somali and Latinos. The center works hard to provide a culturally appropriate environment and instruction. Teaching staff include Liberian, Somalian and Sudanese teachers and the average length of tenure of the center staff is

8.2 years. Oak Academy provided a detailed list of items needed which would be covered by the funding request.

Bremner stated dollars to fund this request could come from the Early Childhood grant Quality Improvement Materials budget line item of \$30,000 which is currently not contracted.

A motion to approve the Oakridge Neighborhood funding request for expenditures of up to \$7,000.00 for classroom materials was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Joyce Pingel.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

ECI Legislative: Study Bill and related Bills

Shanell Wagler, Department of Management, Early Childhood Iowa Office, updated members on proposed changes to Iowa Code 256I which outlines the Early Childhood Iowa initiative. A workgroup consisting of ECI area directors and ECI State Board Members met throughout summer 2015 to provide input on the proposed language changes to Iowa Code. Wagler walked members through the workgroup recommendations and the rationale supporting the recommendations. These recommendations will be used to create a Study Bill. Representative Dave Heaton is prepared to introduce this Study Bill to committee. Wagler will provide an update when the bill is created and given a number.

Wagler also distributed copies of the Early Childhood Iowa 2015 Annual Report. The report compiles data of investments and outcomes for all ECI areas. Wagler accessed the Annual Report online to introduce the resources available online on the ECI website www.eci.org. These include a file presenting ECI's funding history 1999 through 2016, statewide indicator data, and funding summaries.

Contract Review Committee – Update

Craig Sieverding reported the review committee met January 20th to review the current contract used and to recommend changes for the upcoming fiscal year. After reviewing input from the State from the last contract monitoring process and comparing language in other ECI area contracts, the committee recommends being more specific in the *Scope of Work & Budget* paperwork in the application process. The committee recommends laying out specifically what the partner plans to do and how they plan to measure their program performance. This detailed information can then be used within the contract for the upcoming year.

Bremner presented members with drafts the Program Reapplication and Review Timeline for FY17, FY17 Program Reapplication – Scope of Work and Budget and the FY17 Funding Application. Copies of these documents will be uploaded to Google Docs for members to review. Members were asked to review the documents and provide input to staff by Monday, February 1st. The Funding Application Guidelines and RFP will be uploaded to the Polk County ECI website on Monday, February 1st.

Bremner informed the board VNS Healthy Start and Empowerment will present to the full board at the February 24th meeting. Child care center reviews will remain status quo due to upcoming changes with child care and a new committee will be assigned to review preschool programs.

ECI Regional Legislative Lunch Reception and ECI DOH

As discussed at the December meeting, 9 ECI areas have invited legislators to a lunch 12 noon -1 p.m. on February 2nd in Room 116 at the Capitol. Each area ECI has invited their legislators. Bremner sent an invitation to the 24 Polk county area legislators. This will be an opportunity for members to meet their local legislator and familiarize them with Polk County ECI. Area service providers and a 4-year old classroom from Children and Families of Iowa CDC are also invited to attend.

Early Childhood Iowa's Day on the Hill will be held Tuesday, February 23rd at the Iowa State Capitol. A webinar is being held Tuesday, February 9th with more details being released at that time. Bremner will share the details as they become available.

Judy McCoy Davis reported she attended United Ways of Iowa Day on the Hill Tuesday, January 27th. Davis attended a meeting with House Majority Leader Chris Hagenow and sat in the Joint Health and Human Services Committee Hearing. Davis noted Representative Heaton expressed support of ECI giving local areas more control over the use of their funds.

Joyce Pingel reported she also attended United Ways of Iowa Day on the Hill. Pingel attended the Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds meeting and Education Policy Advisor Linda Fandel's meeting. She reported the Governor plans to address the summer reading request for funding in January of 2017, which many feel will be too late. Pingel does feel United Ways of Iowa having a joint voice and more consistent priorities along with more consistent messaging on all fronts has helped in gaining ground with legislators.

Administrative Report

A written Administrative Report was provided to members.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None reported.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joyce Pingel and seconded by Sam Carrell. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be February 24th from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.