



**POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING**  
**United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**February 24, 2016**

**Voting Members Present:** Matt Knoll, Jem Gong-Browne, Marvin DeJear, Nick Dial, Claudia Hawkins, Bryan Huggins, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Judy McCoy Davis, Joyce Pingel, Shane Schulte, Georgia Sheriff, Craig Sieverding, JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon; Tom Slater arrived at 8:09 a.m.; Sam Carrell arrived at 8:10 a.m.; Cindy Elsbernd at 8:20 a.m.

**Voting Members Absent:** Mike Bandstra, Rocio Heramosillo, Josh Mandelbaum, Kimberly Peterson

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

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Terry Harrmann, Brook Rosenberg

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

**Guests Present:** Darby Taylor, Healthy Start Project Director and Cindy Winn, Home Visitation Manager, Des Moines Healthy Start & Empowerment Project, Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa; Leann Andre, Child Care Consultant Coordinator, Child Care Resource & Referral; Stacey Walter, Child Care Coordinator; Amy Curtis, Child Care Consultant

**Welcome and Introductions**

Board Chair Matt Knoll welcomed board members and guests to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 8:06 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

**Approval January Minutes**

The January 28, 2016 minutes were presented to the board. Judy McCoy Davis noted a correction to the minutes. Knoll asked for approval of the corrected minutes.

*A motion to approve the corrected minutes was made by Nick Dial and seconded by Judy McCoy Davis. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

**Monthly Financial Statements**

Barb Bremner presented the financial statements through the end of January. These statements are a cash presentation of financial transactions which took place through January 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 January total \$2,021,387.25 (1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter payments received.)
- Additional receipts of \$5,262.64 interest.
- At the end of January, School Ready funds of \$985,041.56 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 34% of total School Ready funds. Last year at end of January 2014 43% of funds had been expended
- At the end of January \$172,851.03 or 92% 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 January total \$842,378.25 (1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter payment received).
- Additional receipts of \$3,079.23 interest.
- At the end of January Early Childhood funds of \$424,483.20 had been expended.
- Spending is approximately 32% of total Early Childhood funds. Last year at end of January 2014 40% of funds had been expended
- At the end of January \$174,057.69 or 91% of Carry Forward funds had been expended.

*A motion to approve the January 2016 financials was made by Georgia Sheriff and seconded by JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

### **Healthy Start & Empowerment – Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa**

Darby Taylor and Cindy Winn, Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, Healthy Start & Empowerment Program presented information on the outcomes of the program. Healthy Start is the federally funded aspect of the program focused on pregnant women and children under two years of age in a nine zip code area in Polk County. PCECI funding expands services to all of Polk County and expands through age 5. The program is funded through School Ready Family Support and Parent Education and is the largest program the board funds. Taylor and Winn walked the board through a presentation highlighting the program's history and impact on the community. 689 families and 731 children were served during the Fiscal Year 14-15. 7,200 face-to-face visits were completed by case managers. Presentation slides will be shared electronically with all members.

### **Review Community-wide Indicators and Trend Data**

Members were presented with Polk County ECI 2016 Indicators, updated to include 2014 data, along with documentation outlining Indicator Definitions and Data Sources. These are the Indicators board members identified and selected last year when updating the Community Plan. Indicator data and trends will be referred to as members review programs during investments.

Bremner noted the 2014 data for Safe & Supportive Communities, Child abuse/neglect of children ages 0-5 shows a decline due to a statewide change in how DHS handles cases. Details of this change are outlined at the end of the document for members to review. Bremner also referred to Secure & Nurturing Early Learning Environments, Registered home child care providers data. The downward trend of this indicator shows the importance of supporting programs that build provider capacity and availability, such as CCR&R's Reach for the Stars and Bridges to Quality.

Members were presented with an article appearing in Sunday's *Des Moines Register* addressing an enforcement of a 33-year-old city ordinance limiting to 6 the number of children being cared for by in-home child care providers in Des Moines. Bremner and McCoy Davis have been reaching out to council members and legislators to determine where they stand on the issue. Leann Andre, CCR&R, stated CCR&R is being contacted by concerned providers, and they are providing information in case providers are interested in contacting Des Moines City Council Members to encourage the city to align with state regulations. Andre will work with CCR&R to draft a form letter to be distributed to providers and parents. Members were asked to reach out to their council members and legislators. McCoy Davis said this is a situation which points to the need for public education and awareness of the realities and importance of child care. McCoy Davis suggested this may be a situation which warrants utilizing a portion of non-contracted Early Childhood funds for Public Awareness Efforts to Support Quality and Marketing Efforts to Support Quality to fund a marketing campaign addressing the importance of child care.

### **Administrative Report**

None provided. February notes will be included in March Administrative report.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Public Comment**

None reported

### **Adjourn**

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jem Gong-Browne and seconded by Judy McCoy Davis. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.* The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.