

POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
March 26, 2014

Voting Members Present: Judy McCoy Davis, Sam Carrell, Cindy Elsbernd, Terry Harrmann, Claudia Hawkins, Matt Knoll, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Shane Schulte, Tom Slater, JoEllen Spriggs-Dixon

Voting Members Absent: Mike Bandstra, Marvin DeJear, Terri Henkels, Joyce Pingel, Georgia Sheriff

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

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

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 8:09 a.m. Quorum was met at this time. Davis discussed the need for suggestions for new members for the nominating committee. Davis handed out a tool outlining current board composition. The board application and information is on PCECI website.

Approval of February 2014 Minutes

A motion to approve the February 26, 2014 minutes as presented was made by Sam Carrell and seconded by Terry Harrmann. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Monthly Financial Statements

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

School Ready

- FY14 PCECI School Ready funding is 2,610,557.00.
- At the end of February FY14 School Ready funds of \$1,270,955.76 were expended.
- This amount represents 47% of FY14 School Ready funding.

Early Childhood

- FY14 PCECI Early Childhood funding is \$1,040,015.00.
- At the end of January FY14 Early Childhood funds of \$467,649.99 were expended.
- This amount represents 45% of FY14 Early Childhood funding.

Approval of February 2014 Financial Statements

A motion to approve the February 2014 financials as presented was made by Shane Schulte and seconded by Tom Slater. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Program Review

Board members received program information to review for the investment process for fiscal year 2015. Each member will review 8 programs. Bremner explained this review process is for all programs which presented to the board last year. If concerns or questions arise programs will be asked to present to the board. Programs filled out narrative and data information in the online database Results Scorecard. Bremner will provide an electronic file for members to complete the review and will provide annual data for priority performance measures. Members were asked to return reviews by April 15th to allow for compilation of scores before the April board meeting.

Target measures have not been set by the board as of this time. ECI performance measures are revised for 2015. Terry Harrmann questioned whether the board or the programs should be setting target measures. Claudia Hawkins shared her perspective that programs should set the targets for their programs.

Levels of Excellence

A LOE work plan and timeline were presented to the board. Materials for this review by the state ECI board will be due December 30, 2014. A large component will be revising the Community Plan. The Child and Family Policy Center has been hired jointly with UWCI WLC to create a "business case" for investment in early childhood. This data will be incorporated into the Community Plan. Davis recommends members read the past Community Plan before work begins on the update.

Vision and Mission Statements

The Board's current Vision and Mission statements were presented along with examples of other area ECI statements and an evaluation sheet. After adjournment members will work in two groups to revise or refine these two statements.

State Board Updates

The Early Childhood Iowa State Board Meeting was the first week in March. Janet Horras, Iowa Department of Public Health, presented information regarding family support programs, compliance and data issues. Funded family support programs are VNS Healthy Start & Empowerment and DMPS EC Success. This is the first year these programs are required to use a statewide data system to report on the families they are serving. University of Iowa has the contract to maintain the online data reporting system. Horras reported that with the midyear report there are significant issues with missing and incorrect data. The programs funded by the board are complying with the state requirements. Both programs are also reporting data using Scorecard. They will continue to enter data in both until the state system is reported to be accurate.

Administrative Update

Bremner reported on recent forum on chronic absence and importance of early absences as critical for later literacy proficiency and high school graduation. She is going to work with all districts on plans to incentivize attendance for preschool programs. Also reported recent Senator Harken field hearing held in Des Moines where three of six presenters were funded partners. The hearing, titled "Doing What's Right: Preparing Iowa's Children for Success in School and Beyond," was a platform to discuss early learning programs and initiatives that benefit young children in Iowa, as well as priority issues for Congress to consider as it debates new early learning legislation.

Legislative Updates

A postcard produced by United Way in support of SF2251 was shared. This advocacy effort supports the Senate bill extending child care assistance to one year and allowing eligibility to include a combination of work and school. Natali Justiniano Pahl noted the House amended the Senate's bill and proposes a pilot program of only 4 counties. The bill is no back with the Senate. Individuals were encouraged to learn more and communicate with their state legislators.

Old Business

None reported

New Business

Schulte remarked how impressed he was with the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families. He recently attended a meeting there and was struck by the classes and services providing to the community. He encouraged members who have not been to the center to visit.

Public Comment

None reported

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m. to allow time for discussion of Board Vision and Mission statements. The next meeting will be held April 23 at 11:30 a.m. in UWCJ Leadership Room.