

POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa - Room 200
Des Moines, Iowa
February 29, 2012

Voting Members Present: Dave Arens, Dave Discher, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Kari Lebeda Townsend, Joyce Pingel, Dave Stout

Voting Members Absent: Connie Boesen, Mike Farrell, Mary Gesiriech, Misty Hansen, Terry Harrmann, Claudia Hawkins, Ka'Meka Lowery, Becky Miles-Polka, Kittie Weston-Knauer, Chaney Yeast

Ex-Officio Members Present: Judy McCoy Davis

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Donald Doudna

Guests Present: Elisabeth Buck, John Cacciatore, Sheila Hansen, Danielle Oswald-Thole, Sarah Ramsey

Staff Present: Kate Bennett, Linda Dahlman, Sarah Witt

Dave Arens welcomed everyone to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 8:07 a.m. Quorum was not met.

Approval of November 2011 Minutes:

Meeting minute approval was deferred to the March 2012 meeting.

Financial Statements – July - January:

Financial statement approval was deferred to the March 2012 meeting.

Administrative Update:

- Kate shared information regarding the Early Childhood Advisory Council Grant, the Needs Assessment, Integrated Early Childhood Data System, Professional Development, and the Cultural Diversity, the Early Learning Challenge Grant and Parent Involvement at the state level.
- The Early Learning Challenge Grant writing team will be meeting with the ECI stakeholder Alliance Steering Committee on March 6th to discuss ways to improve the submission of future grant application. (You will remember this as the Race to the Top grant submission)
- The ECI Congress 2012 was held on February 8 & 9th in Des Moines. Over 300 leaders from across the state attended one or both days of the event. Materials from this year's Congress will be posted on the ECI website.

Polk County ECI Updates:

- The Preschool Coach is working with partnering agencies on the Results Scorecard program. She will continue to offer training on performance measures.
- The Early Childhood Coalition Centers have completed the second checkpoint of the GOLD assessment, showing growth in all areas.

- The Polk County Health Department is expanding the role of the PCECI funded Lead Prevention Nurse Case Manager. The expanded scope of services will now include work around the 7 component areas of the healthy home checklist.
 1. Keep your home **Dry**
 2. Keep your home **Clean**
 3. Keep your home **Pest-Free**
 4. Keep your home **Safe**
 5. Keep your home **Contaminant-Free**
 6. Keep your home **Ventilated**
 7. Keep your home **Maintained**

Dave Arens shared that we have been asked to present at the Early Childhood Iowa state board meeting on Friday, March 2nd. Our data collection, the Healthy Start Empowerment program, and general information about Polk County Early Childhood Iowa will be shared at the meeting. A handout of the PowerPoint presentation staff prepared for this meeting was shared with board members. In addition, a map showing the large population in Polk County was shared.

Kate Bennett asked the board for their input on the reapplication process. The three areas discussed were Program Description, Results Accountability & Program Performance, and Other/Leveraging Funds. After discussion the board agreed to weigh the report by 55% Program Description, 30% Results Accountability & Program Performance, and 15% Other/Leveraging Funds. Approval of the reapplication process was deferred to the March 2012 meeting.

Levels of Excellence Submission and Visit:

Kate informed the group that the state will be reviewing our submission on Wednesday, April 25th from 8:00 – 10:00am at United Way. She shared the importance of this meeting with board members. At the March meeting she will share an outline with board members regarding the contents of the Levels of Excellence to review before the April 25th review.

Early Childhood Legislative Update:

Sheila Hansen, with the Child and Family Policy Center, reported that things are "status quo" right now regarding ECI funds. She thinks funding levels will remain the same as this year. She reported that education reform is moving slowly. Regarding the DHS budget proposal, there is a chance the Hawk-I outreach will be eliminated and 400 FTE's will be lost. This will result in paperwork taking much longer than it does currently.

Sarah Ramsey, Public Policy Director at United Way, shared the three priorities on the United Way policy agenda. They are:

- Establish a standard comprehensive statewide measure for school readiness
- Increase access to adult basic education and skill training through targeted investment
- Appropriate \$2 million to create a State Emergency Food Program that purchases and distributes nutritious food products

Sarah offered to add any Polk County Early Childhood Iowa board members to the distribution list for the weekly Public Policy newsletters.

John Cacciatore, Senior Vice President for PolicyWorks, reported to the board the work he has done to help strengthen home visiting programs and create a plan. The Iowa Home Visiting Campaign which has a goal of ensuring state general funds used to fund home visiting and family support programs are expended on programs that are "promising" or "evidence-based programs. This will ensure that scarce state resources are used for their highest and best purposes. He thanked the board and United Way staff for their collaboration through this process. A document outlining policy highlights for the Iowa Home Visiting Campaign was shared with the board.

New Business:

Dave Arens reported that Mike Farrell has tendered his resignation. Kate Bennett added that Dave Discher has been approved to join the Early Childhood Iowa Board. At the State level, the Polk County ECI board will provide formal approval for these at the March meeting.

Old Business:

None reported

Public Comment:

None reported

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

DA:sw (2/29/12)