

POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
June 28, 2011

Voting Members Present: Dave Arens, Dave Discher, Mary Gesiriech, Misty Hansen, Ka'Meka Lowery, Becky Miles-Polka, Chaney Yeast

Voting Members Absent: Connie Boesen, Mike Farrell, Terry Harrmann, Debbie Hubbell, Dave Stout, Kittie Weston-Knauer,

Ex-Officio Members Present: Judy McCoy Davis

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Guests Present:

Staff Present: Kate Bennett, Sarah Witt

Dave Arens welcomed everyone to the Polk County Empowerment Board meeting at 11:37a.m. Quorum was NOT met at this time.

Year to Date Financial Statements and Audit Update:

(Linda Dahlman was absent from the meeting, but provided the financial update via email.)

The May 2011 financial statements present an accrual presentation of the financial transactions which have taken place through the first nine months of fiscal year 2011.

Early Childhood

- Year to Date Receipts totaled \$993,091.00 at May 31, 2011.
- During the first eleven months of this fiscal year, the early childhood initiative has spent on average \$71,143 monthly.
- Overall spending on the budget is close to anticipated at 86% which lags the anticipated expenditure rate of 92%.

School Ready

- Year to Date Receipts total \$2,193,144.75 at May 31, 2011.
- During the first eleven months of the fiscal year, the School Ready initiative has spent on average \$206,581 monthly.
- Overall spending on the budget is close to anticipated at 85%, which lags the anticipated expenditure rate of 92%.

ARRA

- In January 2010, \$441,404 was received from the state of Iowa under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which provides for scholarships to infants and toddlers up to the age of 2 for early childhood education. An additional, \$32,148.00 was received on September 21st.
- During the first eleven months of the fiscal year, the ARRA initiative has spent on average \$5025 monthly.
- Overall spending on the budget is at 12%.

Administrative Update:

Legislative Update

The full House and Senate returned Monday, June 27th to begin the wrap up of the session. All parties indicate their intent is to have a budget in place before the next fiscal year begins on July 1st.

SF 539 includes funding for the Four Year Old Preschool Program. However, the bill reduces the amount spent on the preschool program. Currently, each preschool pupil's education is funded at 60 percent of what a public school elementary or secondary school student's is. This bill lowers it to 50 percent. The latest house omnibus bill had funding at 30 percent. The bill does increase funding for ECI preschool tuition assistance from the original proposal.

SF542 is not much different from the omnibus bill in terms of funding for child care. The original 4 million dollar cut to child care is restored. The funding for hawk-l outreach is restored in SF 542. The omnibus bill cut this funding.

Mary Gesiriech arrived at 11:05; quorum was met at this time.

SF 538 includes funding for Shared Visions. This funding was cut in half at the beginning of the year and restored with bi-partisan support.

Approval of April 2011 Minutes:

It was moved by Mary Gesiriech and seconded by Ka'Meka Lowery to approve the minutes of April 27, 2011. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fiscal Year 2012 Investment Decisions:

Based on the recommendations from the Iowa Department of Management the local ECI boards are encouraged to approve a DRAFT budget based on the worst case funding scenario. Although not finalized by the Iowa Legislature nor signed by the Governor, we were given permission to use these draft numbers to move forward with the budget approval process. When the numbers are finalized, the agreements will be amended and the budgets will be revised should that be necessary.

Staff prepared the board with a packet showing proposed funding amounts as a result of the reapplication process.

Preschool

A motion to approve the funding for Ankeny, Bondurant, Dallas Center Grimes, Des Moines Public Schools, Johnston, North Polk, Saydel, Southeast Polk, Urbandale, West Des Moines, and Woodward Granger preschool programs was moved by Chaney Yeast and seconded by Becky Miles Polka. Misty Hansen abstained from the vote due to her status as a Des Moines Public Schools employee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Child Care

A motion to approve the funding for Reach For the Stars, the Comprehensive Training Plan, Early Childhood Quality Assurance Coordinator, Childcare Center Consultant, T.E.A.C.H., and the Quality Preschool Coach was moved by Mary Gesiriech and seconded by Ka'Meka Lowery. The motion was approved unanimously.

Health

A motion to approve the funding for Polk County Mental Health Clinician, Lead Poisoning program, Smile Squad, 1st Five, and the Child Care Nurse Consultants was moved by Becky Miles Polka and seconded by Ka'Meka

Lowery. Blank Outreach Clinics and La Clinica were both placed on six month contracts. Funding amounts have been changed to reflect this. Both Dave Discher and Chaney Yeast abstained from the vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respite/Family Support

A motion to approve the funding for Youth Emergency Services Respite Nursery, Lutheran Services in Iowa Respite Options, and Visiting Nurse Services Family Support programs was moved by Becky Miles Polka and seconded by Mary Gesiriech. Dave Discher abstained from the vote due to his current position at Visiting Nurse Services. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Initiatives

Two new initiatives were considered.

The first new initiative is SUCCESS Early Childhood Family Support and Parent Engagement Initiative through the Des Moines Public Schools. This program will provide a continuum of services including intensive school and home-based family support, coordination of available human services and community resources, and connecting in-school activities to home environments through parent education and engagement. The total proposed budget is \$130,770.34. A motion to approve the funding for the SUCCESS program was moved by Becky Miles-Polka and seconded by Mary Gesiriech. Misty Hanson abstained from the vote due to her position at the Des Moines School District. The motion was approved unanimously.

The second new initiative proposed for funding from fiscal year 2011 Quality and Capacity Funding is the First Children's Finance Growth Fund, which works to increase the supply of quality child care in the Des Moines area by addressing business, quality and sustainability barriers and issues of existing eligible child care centers. The proposed budget for this program is \$50,000.00, which will come out of carry-forward funds for the first phase of a 3 year project. The board expressed interest in hearing more from a representative from First Children's Finance. A suggestion was made by Becky Miles-Polka to revisit this item and place it on the August board meeting agenda. First Children's Finance representatives will present to board members in August.

New Business:

Old Business:

Public Comment:

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 1:13pm.

DA:sw (7/5/11)