

POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa – Leadership Room
Des Moines, Iowa
March 23, 2011

Voting Members Present: Dave Arens, Connie Boesen, , Mary Gesiriech, Misty Hansen, Debbie Hubbell, Ka'Meka Lowery, Becky Miles-Polka, Dave Stout, Kittie Weston-Knauer, Chaney Yeast

Voting Members Absent: Dave Discher, Mike Farrell, Terry Harrmann

Ex-Officio Members Present: Judy McCoy Davis

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Guests Present: Cathy Beck-Cross

Staff Present: Kate Bennett, Linda Dahlman, Sarah Witt

Dave Arens welcomed everyone to the Polk County Empowerment Board meeting at 8:00 Quorum was met at this time.

Year to Date Financial Statements and Audit Update:

Linda Dahlman presented the financials ending February 28, 2011 to the board.

Expenditures for the period ending February 28, 2011 were as follows:

Early Childhood

- Year to Date Receipts total \$744,818.25
- Overall spending on the budget is at 60%, which is slightly behind the anticipated expenditure rate of 67%. (due to timing)

School Ready

- Year to Date Receipts total \$2,193,144.75
- Overall spending on the budget is very close to 61%, lagging behind the anticipated expenditure rate of 67%.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

- During the first eight months of the current fiscal year, the ARRA initiative has spent on average \$5,290 monthly.
- Overall spending on the budget is at 8%

Mary Gesiriech arrived at 8:10am.

It was moved by Becky Miles-Polka and seconded by Kittie Weston-Knauer to approve the financials for the period ending January 31, 2011. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of January 2011 Minutes:

It was moved by Connie Boesen and seconded by Ka'Meka Lowery to approve the minutes of January 26, 2011. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administrative Update:

New State Requirements

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006 requires full disclosure to the public of all entities or organizations receiving federal funds beginning in federal fiscal year 2007. Based on the federal government's approach to phase-in this reporting requirement, the Department of Human Services will begin reporting federal funding that Early Childhood Iowa Area (ECIA) boards receive in state fiscal year 2012.

In response to the FFATA, ECIA boards are completing steps to get a DUNS number (9-digit identification number for a physical location of a business or organization), get an Employer Identification Number (EIN), and register on the federal Central Contractor Registry. This is a time-consuming process and many ECIA board staff are working diligently to complete this process. The Early Childhood Iowa Office and State Technical Assistance Team continue to respond to questions and provide supportive materials to help ECIA complete this process.

Website

Website construction is ongoing; staff hope to unveil the completed site mid-April.

Levels of Excellence Pilot Process:

Kate Bennett reported that four Early Childhood Iowa areas are requesting waivers. Some changes to the process include:

- Removal of the advocacy section
- Annual Report will be included once

Chaney Yeast suggested that too much of the focus is on the process and not the quality work. Judy McCoy Davis responded that while this may be true, the state needs an avenue to weed the weak areas out of the system.

Advocacy and Legislative Update:

Polk County Early Childhood Iowa staff and board members have met with several legislators and members of the governor's staff over the last few weeks. We look forward to continuing to serve as a resource for legislators and members of the governor's staff as they formulate their recommendations for early childhood.

Kate Bennett will send the legislative preschool document via email to interested parties per Cathy Beck-Cross's request.

Connie Boesen, Becky Miles Polka and Debbie Hubbell left at 8:40. Quorum was lost and the meeting was adjourned at this time.

Respectfully Submitted, Terry Harrmann, Secretary

TH:sw (3/25/11)