

POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA BOARD MEETING
United Way of Central Iowa
Des Moines, Iowa
October 26, 2011

Voting Members Present: Dave Arens, Claudia Hawkins, Natali Justiniano Pahl, Kari Lebeda Townsend, Ka'Meka Lowery, Becky Miles-Polka, Joyce Pingel, Dave Stout, Kittie Weston-Knauer

Voting Members Absent: Connie Boesen, Dave Discher, Mike Farrell, Mary Gesiriech, Terry Harrmann, Misty Hansen, Chaney Yeast

Ex-Officio Members Present: Judy McCoy Davis

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Donald Doudna

Guests Present:

Staff Present: Kate Bennett, Linda Dahlman, Ananda Subramanian, Sarah Witt

Dave Arens welcomed everyone to the Polk County Early Childhood Iowa Board meeting at 8:06 a.m. Quorum was met at this time.

Approval of September 2011 Minutes:

It was moved by Becky Miles Polka and seconded by Joyce Pingel to approve the minutes of September 2, 2011. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Statements – Quarter 1:

Linda Dahlman presented the 1st Quarter Financial Statements to the board. She reported there were no findings in the audit.

Early Childhood

- Year to Date Receipts total \$104,960.23
- Overall spending on the budget is at 9.58%

School Ready

- Year to Date Receipts total \$141,848.16
- Overall spending on the budget is practically on target at 5.33%

The finance and operations department at United Way has decided to go back to reporting exact expenditures instead of using contract amortization, which didn't prove to be effective during the audit.

Judy McCoy Davis asked if this would change anything when the mid-year report is due. Kate Bennett responded that this won't change anything.

It was moved by Joyce Pingel and seconded by Kari Lebeda Townsend to approve the 1st quarter financials. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administrative Update:

- On August 23, 2011, the Whitehouse, the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, announced the release of the highly competitive Race to the Top Early Childhood Challenge (RTT ECC) grant applications.
 - The purpose of the grants is to:
 - Strengthen infrastructure (standards, assessment, data system)
 - Support quality/accountability through Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
 - Link professional development to QRIS to build a quality workforce
 - Addresses needs of most vulnerable children
- Tammy Bormann has been hired by Iowa AEYC to coordinate the professional development activities funded by the ECAC grant. Iowa AEYC successfully facilitated a retreat for the Professional Development steering committee in July. The steering committee strategic plan was updated as a product of the retreat.
- Based on work that originated in Polk County, the State of Iowa is exploring the use Centralized intake for family support programs. Many other states have already instituted a centralized intake process to ensure that families are matched to the program that is best suited to meet their needs. It also ensures there is no duplication of services and that capacity of all programs is maintained at the highest level possible. Centralized intake also assists community partners to make referrals to family support services since it is one contact to remember and there is a uniform process for follow up with the referral source.
- Iowa was named one of six states that the Pew Charitable Trust is providing financial support and technical assistance to public education and advocacy campaigns. Pew also released a new report with five recommendations for states to improve the return on their investments:
- A discussion on Iowa's Education Transformation Blueprint, an Education Roundtable Discussion co-hosted by United Way of Central Iowa Education Leadership Initiative, Women's Leadership Connection and Polk County Early Childhood Iowa will be on November 29th, 8:00 am at Plymouth Church. Linda Fandel, Governor Branstad's Education Policy advisor will speak to the group. The focus will be on our discussion and feedback on a few components of the plan and have invited a few key individuals to make specific remarks on these topic areas
- A second advocacy opportunity is being considered. The PCECI board has been approached by the "4 R Kids" ECI area which includes, Adair, Dallas, Madison and Warren Counties to co-host an appreciation event with central Iowa legislators and service providers in the area. This will be an exciting opportunity for the providers of services to meet directly with legislators to discuss the success of ECI and also the ongoing unmet needs of the families they work with. The goal would be for legislators to hear from 2 or 3 families that have been positively impacted by ECI funding across areas of preschool, childcare and family support. The date for the event is Thursday, December 1st from 5-7 at a location convenient for all areas.
- The child care programs have just completed the first checkpoint for the new GOLD assessment and will begin pulling baseline data this week. Nine of the 17 programs are using the on-line reporting system. Post assessments using the Environmental Rating Scales will begin later this month. Ten programs have been identified to receive a post assessment. The remaining programs have either had a visit from ISU extension for their QRS renewal or have a current rating of 4 or 5 on the QRS.
- In July, First Children's Finance worked to set up the elements of the Growth Fund to serve Polk, Dallas and Warren Counties. Application forms and announcement templates were completed. First Children's Finance worked with CCR&R to set up distribution lists and the announcement process. In August, First Children's placed announcements for the Growth Fund in the Child Care Resource and Referral newsletter; announcements and applications were sent directly to centers; and email notices were sent out. In September, informational meetings were conducted by Heidi Schlueter in three locations to reach out to providers and answer their questions. Meetings were held on two different days in Ankeny, West Des Moines and Norwalk. Applications for the Growth Fund were due to be postmarked on September 30th. Several applications were received in the first round. In addition, First Children's Finance did

receive inquiries later from directors who did not realize that the opportunity applied to them. We plan to make a second announcement. Prior to making the second announcement, centers will be surveyed to learn more about why they did not apply the first time. In the second round, more direct contacts will be made by phone to help explain the benefits of the program.

PCECI Director Performance Review Discussion:

This year the director performance review was done with Survey Monkey. 13 board members participated in the online survey. Most responses were in the above average range. At the November meeting, board members will discuss compensation, and the newly awarded salary grade system United Way is using.

Becky Miles-Polka asked for ways the board can support Kate in her work.

PCECI Results Scorecard Update:

Ananda Subramanian presented on results scorecard. Results Scorecard is a web based tool that uses indicators, goals, priorities, data, trend lines, and offers period reporting. The state required performance measures have been put into scorecard and our programs are reporting on them bi-annually.

Becky Miles-Polka asked if the number of children who enter school on track includes the Des Moines Public School System. Ananda responded that no, and he has met with Linda Fandel on this issue.

Ananda reported that best practices would recommend 3-5 performance measures, not 20. Judy McCoy Davis reported that the legislators asked for more information, so we are trying to give them a menu of data. The state would like to continue to give them what they are asking for due to funding restraints.

New Business:

Judy McCoy Davis reminded the board that she will be going off the state board this spring. She asked board members to consider applying to the state board so that we are kept informed.

Old Business:

None reported

Public Comment:

None reported

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

DA:sw (11/2/11)